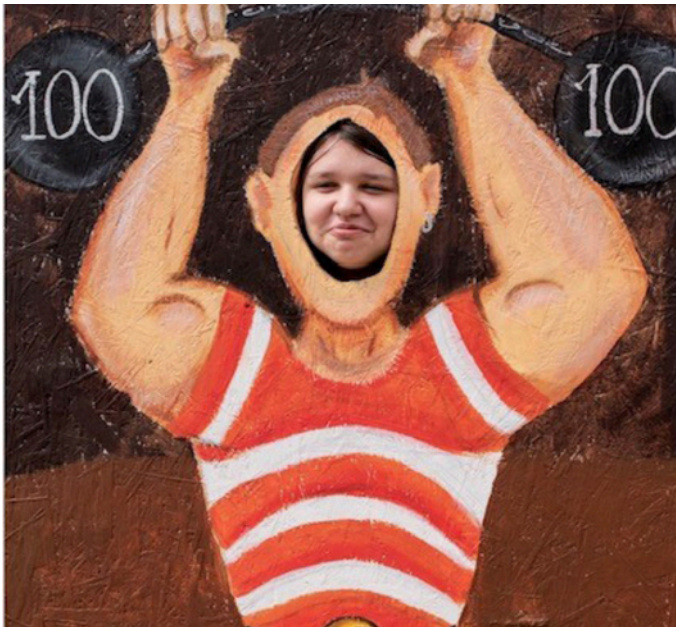


How do camps change young lives for good? In Odesa, Ukraine, 13-year-old Kay arrived at camp a very insecure teenager. “Kay has diabetes and must take insulin every day,” writes Alyona, who works for Heritage Ukraine. “That has added to her deep sense of isolation and low self-esteem. She often felt unworthy, unaccepted and unable to see her own value. At camp, we explored the theme of being different yet united, stronger together with God and one another – and something began to change in Kay. She embraced this message deeply and personally. It helped her to overcome her emotional pain and see herself in a new light. By the end of three days, Kay was transformed. Her face radiated confidence and peace as she came to understand her inner beauty and her worth in God’s eyes.”



Kay was transformed at camp

Three days to change a life. As Alyona says, this is a powerful reminder of how God can heal hearts and bring hope, even in such a short time. Of course, these three days take months of planning. Volunteers give their time, supporters like you in the UK decide to contribute and Blythswood gathers resources and sends them out. Your donations paid for the food for over 100 children at Kay’s camp. Together, we change young lives for good.

Let me tell you about Eniko. Camp changed the way she talks. Aggressive speech was all she heard at home. She thought bad language made her cool. It was the other children in her dorm at camp – children younger than her – who pointed out that her words weren’t acceptable. Eniko went home with a new understanding of how she can be kind or unkind with her words and how choosing the right words affects not just the people around her, but herself. Csilla directs the Bonus Pastor Foundation, which runs this camp for children from homes affected by alcohol addiction in Romania. She’s hoping the change will reach Eniko’s parents, too.



The other children at camp helped Eniko to change the way she talks

And then there’s Matty. Unemployment and inflation in Bulgaria have forced his parents to work abroad, leaving the eight-year-old to be brought up by his grandmother. He is typical of many children around Europe whose parents have to make difficult choices to provide for their family. For Matty, camp was the first time he’d ever been on holiday. And the first time he’d seen the sea! He enjoyed swimming so much that the leaders had a hard time getting him out of the water. Needless to say, he wants to go again this summer.

A work party of volunteers from Northern Ireland had improved the campsite so that campers like Matty could enjoy a holiday in comfort and safety, and have the opportunity to share in evenings of singing and to hear stories of lives changed forever by the Good News of Jesus.

For others like Marinela, camp is a time to relax and to learn. At Talita Kum (TK) she is helped with school work and is on track to be the first in her family to complete secondary education. TK camp takes that learning to another level. A sporty teenager, Marinela enjoyed trekking in the Carpathian Mountains. And the talks from Adrian on the Nicæan creed introduced her to Jesus, the eternal Son of God. In these few days, she learned of an eternal plan which includes her – and which comes to bear on her life through a summer camp planned, funded and led by volunteers from Scotland.

Yes, Christian camps can change lives **for good** and **forever**. Those precious three days, five days or a week take months of prayer, planning and administration. Year after year, young people from disadvantaged areas enjoy a great time at camp, and are exposed to the gospel in a way they never were before.

Easter is over. Three days changed the world, three days that changed me. They too were planned; the Eternal Son came into the world and at just the right time he died and rose again. A gift for camps from you today can change young lives for good. Pray it may be part of a bigger plan to change a life forever.



Camp is a time to relax and to learn



Ly Ross

Jeremy Ross
Chief Executive



Text CAMPS to 70470 to donate £10

Texts cost £10 plus standard network rate. You must be 16+ and have the bill payer's permission. UK mobiles only. Donations are taken from your mobile bill or deducted from your credit. Some services may be unavailable on certain tariffs or plans. You can still donate through blythswood.org/camp-appeal/ or by using the QR code.



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