

'Good news is for everyone!'

That was the topic of our spring seminar that took place last weekend in March. It attracted 34 people, our volunteers and others that are participating in work with children and youth in their parent churches.

Lectures of Emlyn Williams reminded us and challenged us to think about the *News* that is *Good* for foreigners (Luke 7: 1-10), sad people (Luke 7: 11-17), sinners (Luke 7:36-50). I want to thank Emlyn for his message which encouraged us to serve responsibly, with God's help, in our tasks and projects this summer.

Between June and August SU Serbia has organized 10 different activities: two children camps (age between 6-11 years old), two teenage camps, two camps for Roma children, we attended International Teen Games in Slovakia; also we took part in international workshop of sketch for teenagers with disabilities (three day activity that was organized as a part of traditional event 'Summer festival in Vrsac'). There are two more seminars that we are planning to do till the end of the year.

We are very thankful for opportunity to share *Good news* among people and to help churches in their work and Christian way of education and raising children and youth. Work of SU is well known in whole Serbia thanks to twelve years of continuous work with teenagers in camps, seminars and similar activities. SU is training new teams that are already capable to organize and realize camps.



One more thing that makes me full of joy is number of young people that are willing to participate in SU as volunteers. Thanks God for Maria, Anja i Tanya! I want to mention their work because they were volunteers for the first time in our children's camp 'Desert detectives' this summer. They were very happy to serve children although the work in camp is not easy. During that week they were evoke memories from their first camp as participants seven years before with the same theme. It is incredible to see how God prepares His workers by giving them a chance to feel the blessing of being camper first. Now, all grown, they can serve to others knowing how important can be camp experience for children.

When I look back on all those gatherings and activities in 2011 I realize that without your prayers and financial support, that could not be possible to realize. That's why I want to thank God and all of you who helped us in any way.

As from the early beginnings, you are known by God. You can feel yourself forgotten, unimportant in the eyes of others and also in your own eyes.

But for God it was important to create you. Your are planned by Him, not by human beings. You are created by Him, that is what the Bible says. That means: with care and love.

That is something to be proud of.

The Bible verse: Psalm 139:16



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help SU Serbia is able to attend international seminars of SU and can be productive in organization of winter teenage camps, monthly meetings of children, orphans and youth, weekly meetings for teenagers with disabilities, and spring teen conferences.

Special thanks to Netherlands SU for their project that encouraged teenagers with disabilities and other people in Serbia. Book with short messages "Uitdaging" (Challenge) was illustrated by works of children and youth with disabilities, members of club "Challenge".

They and their parents, friend and relatives, were amazed by fact that there are people in this world that only because God's love want to help them. A

as you can see this is real testimony for non Christian people.

God bless you all for your effort and help in creating and developing SU Serbia.

Olga Dega, National leader



VOLUNTERS

My name is *Milana Šikanja*. So far I had opportunity to work with students and teenagers within my parent church and Christian organizations. Although I was working with children for several years so far, this camp in Titel was my first involvement in children's camp.

Now, after the camp ended, the children are accompanied, when I look back I can say that my impressions are more than positive. During the preparation for the camp I was delighted how program and materials for the camp were very creative and prepared to the last detail, which we easily adapted to our children and our working conditions. Thanks to the professional and experienced leaders, during the camp, it was exactly specified what was whose duty, which helped that the camp and team were functioning in a very good way. I was also thrilled that the team was composed of very young people who were completely committed to serving children. The fact that team consisted of mostly teenagers made an atmosphere more cheerful and fun, both for children and teachers.

After all, I am grateful to God for giving us strength, joy, protection and a great blessing. With great joy I'm waiting the next year and new camps.



We have had more than 1000 participants on our activities this year. We thank God together with *Dejan Balan*: *“Like every year I had a great time on the camp, mostly because of the good company and of course great organization. So every year I say that this was the best camp I participated, meaning that you can never be bored. Simply speaking, I enjoy and I am very happy and grateful because I met all these people, for hanging out with them and that really fulfills me. And of course, I look forward to the next camp and if everything goes well we will countinue to hang out and have a great time.”*



My name is *Daniel Blata* and I come from Canada. This last summer I had the privilege of working with Scripture Union and its organization of many camps in Serbia. Throughout my two months stay in Serbia and Slovakia, I was able to volunteer for three days at Alibunar children's camp, spend a whole week at Teen Games in Slovakia, and catch a glimpse of a day at Vrsac children's camp. Alibunar and Vrsac children's camps showed me just how much Scripture Union Serbia is dedicated to serving children. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces was priceless. Scripture Union plants the seed and allows God to water it. It may be possible that a few years down the road when the children are facing hardships, they will remember what they learned at a camp such as Alibunar or Vrsac. Interaction and time spent with the kids and teaching them about Jesus was something that will stay with me for a long time. Teen Games in Slovakia was another camp I was able to attend. I came on as a helper, but because of the shortage of boys, I became a participant. Spending time with young people only a few years younger than me was a blessing. I was able to communicate with them not only during times of Bible study, but on the sports field as well, the time when emotions truly came out. I viewed my role at Teen Games as both a participant and helper. I witnessed teamwork both on and off the field in group activities and sports, friendships being made, and young individuals growing closer to God. All three camps helped me gain a better understanding for what it means to be a servant leader. Each and every leader volunteering for Scripture Union had a passion and a desire for these kids to not only have a good time at the camp, but to them, growing closer to God was most important. Scripture Union is full of servant leaders, leaders who are willing to sacrifice themselves for God's work, so more can know of his loving grace and the sacrifice he made for us. Summer 2011 has been a summer full of memories and friendships that will be remembered forever because of the things I have seen and experienced while volunteering and helping with Scripture Union. Thank you! Matthew 20:25-28

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www.susrbija.org**

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Prayer request for SU Serbia:

1. Belgrade

Pray for SU activities and more volunteers in capital city of Serbia.

2. SU Activities

Children and teen Camps, Holliday's clubs, teen conference, work with Roma's children and disable teens . Pray for new city Zrenjanin.

3. Reading Bible and e100 in Serbia

Pray for the action to encourage people of all ages in Serbia to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer

4. SU Vision

Pray for SU Comity and their tasks during next year.

MEMORY

Teen conference Another year..another gathering and another fellowship. With this short message I want to say why do I participate on this gatherings and meetings. The answer is simple. In the first place is God. Year after year I come to these camps with goal to hear some new stories from some new people that will make my relationship with God stronger. But after that, also to see some old friends and naturally to make new ones. Our God is the main reason why we are gathered in this camps and meetings, and we are aware of it. *Marija Djekic*

Teengames 2011 This camp was a wonderful experience. The whole program was really very nice organized. Sports were interesting and some games were even more interesting that we played inside because of the rain. I met many new people, and most importantly, I formed stronger relationship with God. And I had a great time at camp. We have gained a lot of medals, thank to our capable coaches. Worship was fantastic... It ended very quickly, I can't wait until the next year. Thank you leaders for endurnig us. *Tanja Vrbanec*

I am not a believer but I feel that I have learned a lot about Christianity. experience because I met a lot of incredible people from different countries. Stefan Cikara



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