

# NEWS



## *from the Novosibirsk SU team*

**Dear brothers and sisters, co-workers in the wonderful grace of God!**

Greetings at the beginning of a new academic year! We hope that you had a blessed summer, filled not only with work for God's glory but also with opportunities to relax and with testimonies to God's faithfulness.

The beginning of the academic year is always an anxious time as we look ahead to fresh activities and projects and wonder if we will cope, whether we will have enough energy! In Scripture there is a wonderful encouragement:

***“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished. The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command.” (I Chronicles 28: 20-21)***

These words were said by David to his son Solomon who was facing a difficult and momentous task: building God's temple. We know that David had an enormous desire to build a house for the Lord, but the Lord told him that it would not be him but his son who would do it. Nevertheless, David did a lot: he stockpiled materials and elaborated the plan, you could say that he did all the preparatory work so that his son would be able to complete the project.

Have you ever had the feeling that you are facing a task that is too big and momentous, that you do not feel competent to handle it and that you don't have support because you are not sure who will stand with you? Perhaps that is how Solomon felt as a young king at the head of a vast people, aware of what an important task lay ahead of him.

You and I are also builders: we are building the church. Many of us work in all kinds of ways for the Lord: in our families, in Sunday school, in Christian camps, in children's homes, in schools or at work, witnessing to our Lord through our words and our lives, building His kingdom. Some of us are in positions of leadership being a good leader is not easy. It's a huge responsibility. But we are not alone: following the example of King Solomon we can ask God for wisdom to lead the people and complete the task that has been entrusted to us. However, in this passage there is one more encouragement: we have a team, “every willing man skilled in any craft...” They are there, even if you don't yet see them: pray for people, invest in people, search for people! And if you have a team, thank God for the people in it, pray for them, develop them, encourage them and share your joys and problems with them.

Maybe you are one of these skilled people and you have a special gift, a talent that you can use to serve others. Be glad: you are building God's house and your labour is not in vain. Pray for wisdom for your leaders in your churches and ministries. Ask yourself whether you are willing to obey them.

Or maybe you feel that you are like David, for whom it was time to let go. Are we ready to go, entrusting the continuation of the building work to somebody else and helping them by preparing everything that is needed and passing on our experience and our knowledge of resources, ready to bless and encourage the one who will continue the job?

Whoever we are in this construction project the one who is leaving, the one who is in charge or the one who is simply doing some small but vital task may these words be an encouragement to us this year:

***“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.”***

Tanya Artemenko,  
director of SU Siberia

## The youth camp "In the beginning was the Word"

Tanya Artemenko

As planned, this year I took part in only the youth camp, where I was both director and programme coordinator. For the first time I felt that there was a camp team that fully shared responsibility. Each one of us took on a fairly large part of the programme which turned out interesting and high quality. Every day, apart from our usual camp activities, in depth Bible study and practical workshops, we had English lessons, for which Ira Tsareva and Zhenya Oberemchenko, who teach at the "Unity" school, were responsible. Each evening we had Anglo-Russian entertainment: "Eurovision" creative competitions and informative quizzes and the whole of this was organised by Sasha Tsareva who set everyone on fire with her enthusiasm and energy. During the day we tackled difficult exercises, learned how to work and communicate as a

team, got to know ourselves and one another and did problem-solving tasks. This was all the responsibility of Kostya Rybachenko, Tanya Vakhrusheva and Sasha Tsareva. I am very grateful to God for a fantastic team!

I was also very glad that there were a lot of 14-15 year old teenagers who had grown up in SU camps and were now ready for more serious youth camps and deeper Bible times. It was also good to see those who have been coming to youth camps for years. One of the important results of this camp was that five of the teenagers volunteered to go to the children's camp as helpers. And they turned out to be really good helpers it was the first time that we had no problems with the teenage helpers at the children's camp. They had a good sense of responsibility and tried to help in every way!

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## The children's camp "Desert Detectives"

*Yelena Denisenko*, the programme coordinator, writes:

*"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity..."*

I had big questions about being in camp this year. I wanted to come, but common sense told me: "you have a young child!" (my younger son was 14 months old at the time). One winter evening in the kitchen at the SU office half-joking, half seriously I was asked whether I wanted to be the programme coordinator in the children's camp. Something flashed in my brain and I answered very decisively "yes", even though a minute earlier I had expected nothing of the kind. However, all doubts left me from that moment. And now the camp is already over. It was a splendid time! There was no shortage of leaders. God brought together wonderful people, experienced leaders willing to use their talents and skills to serve the children and each other and responsive to every need. Thanks to all this the camp was interesting, fun and creative. Each morning, while the children were still asleep, we discussed the tasks for the day ahead. It always seemed to me that there was far too much to do, but, thanks to everybody's willingness to work hard, by the evening we got everything done and even managed to keep the meals



on time, which in a busy camp programme is sometimes difficult to achieve. Each morning assembly was different because each person who led it approached it in their own creative way, and the same was true of the group Bible studies. A group of teenagers helped the adults just a year ago many of them had been campers themselves and it was a joy to see them. They managed to be everywhere they were needed in the kitchen, performing sketches, leading craft groups, painting backdrops and running wide games they took on a lot and never let us down. Our kitchen workers Ritta and Tonya were great (and so was their food) and so was our medic Tatyana, who took part in the programme alongside her specific duties. Our camp director Ivan fully lived up to his responsibilities, as did Artyom, our "Jack of all trades" our driver and delivery man and at the same time our chief musician. The time flew by and both we and the children were sorry to say goodbye, which means that all that we did was worth it. Now, remembering those hot summer days (the Lord gave us real summer weather!) I want to say a big thank you once again to all those who served the Lord and the children!



## The family camp "Treasure Hunt".

*Yuliya Guselnikova*, who devised the programme, writes:

This camp was long-awaited, as I had been preparing for it for over a year. Last year we were not able to hold the camp, so I and many others were really looking forward to this year's camp. Of course I was anxious in case something prevented us again. But everything was fine: my own health and our child's condition (in April our son Grisha broke his spine), and God took away any concern that I would end up doing everything myself again. People willing to help phoned me and wrote to me. I found two good workshop leaders and a preacher. Literally in the last few days a cook and a babysitter volunteered. And my best friend from childhood, with whom I ran a Sunday school when we were teenagers, came and was my assistant. That was a real miracle and blessing, because without her I wouldn't have coped. The weather was wonderful, God kept the rain from us even though there was heavy rain all around. There was a full and interesting programme for both children and adults. The main idea of the camp was to look for the genuine treasures, to see the value of those near us, husbands, wives, children, of the kingdom of God and, of course, of the King himself... Each family that came to camp was not just a family but a royal family. The island

where they lived was full of hidden treasures that had to be found. For the whole camp there was a game, a treasure hunt for crystals, which at the end of camp were the currency at an auction. The lots were items which had a special meaning but which families were willing to give to others, for example a favourite book, a child's suit that he had grown out of or an interesting souvenir from another country.



The men really enjoyed the royal hunt. It was very amusing to watch a bunch of guys galloping around the fields and woods on home-made wooden horses with fluffy dogs on leads and plastic bows and arrows. The hunt was successful, the stag and hare were cornered and shot. My husband Artyom was the hare and it was a real surprise and a cause for great merriment for the hunters to see him with white fluffy ears on his head. Well, the hunt awakened the male passion for adventure and danger and the wives were truly proud of them. We also have good memories of the royal masked ball with dancing by candlelight.

The idea of the genuine treasures I think was a success. The Bible passages which we read contributed to this, as did the warm evening meetings and the wonderful homilies which Sergei Salnikov had prepared. At a meeting at the end of the camp we placed our crowns at the foot of the cross for there is One before whom even kings take off their crowns. I am thankful to God that he blessed us in this camp.



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## SYSM

In August the School of Young Summer Missionaries (SYSM) ran three holiday clubs in villages in Novosibirsk and Kemerovo regions. Between 12 and 70 children came every day. Praise God for the opportunity to run these holiday clubs and for the teenagers who were willing to serve the village children in this way. Please pray for the future of SYSM for a new leader, for new vision and new opportunities for ministry, so that the young people would continue to have a passion to serve the Lord in the new school year. Please pray for new places and that the children who were at the holiday clubs this year would be able to come to Sunday School.

## **We have changes in the team!**

### **SU is becoming even more a family ministry:**

on 31 May the wedding of Ivan Artemenko and Tatyana Omelchuk took place;  
on 20 June Natasha Gorshenina got married. Natasha will remain a volunteer with SU she and her husband are going as missionaries to a village in the Altai region;  
on 8 August there was the wedding of two of our volunteers Yuri Inozemtsev and Anya Kotsur;  
the Guselnikovs are expecting their second child please pray for the health of Yuliya and her unborn baby. She is taking maternity leave from November.

*Please pray for these young families, that the glory of the Lord may shine through each one of them.*

**“Many are the plans in a man's heart,  
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.” (Proverbs 19:21)**

### **Please pray for the SU team and vision for the year ahead:**

Pray for new staff and a stable team. This is a special anniversary for SU's work, please pray that God would give us wisdom and a vision of where He wants to lead us next.

### **Regular SU activities in 2009-10**

**Youth club** regular meetings of young people from different churches for fellowship and Bible reading.

Please pray for the growth in faith of these young people that they would become servants in their churches and the world. Pray for leaders for the youth club.

**English club “English for a new life”.** Please pray for the resumption of classes, for new participants and for the teacher Irina Tsareva.

Please pray for the next issue of **“The Lamp”**, for the editorial group of Tatyana Artemenko and Natasha Antsiferova and that this publication would continue to help people in their ministry and that it would encourage children's workers to share their ideas.

Please pray for the continued publication of the **family Bible readings**. Pray for Yuliya Guselnikova who is compiling the next issue and for Vladimir Sorokin who writes the notes. Please pray that this publication would unite families around the Word of God

### **Training, conferences and workshops**

**18-20 September** a workshop for Baptist Sunday School teachers in Novosibirsk

**From 31 October to 4 November** the 14th Siberian SU conference for children's and youth workers will take place in Tyumen with the theme “A new and living way”. Our guest speakers will be Andrey Cherniak from Moscow, the SU coordinator for the FSR, and Oksana Khimich, the FSR training coordinator from Kiev. Please pray for the preparation of topical themes for workshops and lectures, for all the speakers and for the resolution of all organisational and financial issues. Pray for Diana and the team in Tyumen that they will be able to complete all the local arrangements. Please pray that the conference would be a special time of renewal in ministry and walking with the Lord for all the participants.

**November:** SU workshops in Chita, a joint SU-CCI course in Novokuznetsk.

Please pray for the continued building work at the house for camps and training in Shakhtyor.

Please pray for the planning of projects for this winter: a teenage camp and Christmas holiday clubs in the villages with SYSM.

**With our prayers for you and our wishes for God's abundant blessings in the new academic year.**

**The Siberian SU team.**