

YWAM HOCKEY UPDATE

Spring 2017



Trains, Planes, and Automobiles

On February 27th Glen and the YWAM Hockey DTS team arrived home after 2 months of hockey outreach. This was the most travelled HDTS team ever!

Northern BC: 11 days in Smithers and Moricetown

China: 17 days in Shenyang and Harbin

Russia: 30 days in Vladivostok, Perm, Nizhniy Tagil and Zelonodolsk

This was also the smallest HDTS team ever! Glen took two young men, Karl and Noah, on this outreach. Our main focus this time was doing hockey clinics for youth rather than playing games against men's teams. We did a ton of clinics - up to 4 sessions a day, throughout the 2 months. Our small team rose to the challenge with enthusiasm

and energy in each and every practice.

There was opportunity to share God's love in most places and the team did a great job communicating God's love in dressing rooms throughout the outreach.

Whenever we do outreach our hope and prayer is to make a difference in EACH of the lives of those we meet: kids, teens, coaches and parents. And, I believe that many have encountered God's love right then and there. One thing that we haven't thought much about is the ripple effect from our visits ...





The Ripple Effect ...

TANYA'S STORY

Tanya was our translator in Nizhniy Tagil in 2008, 2010 & 2012.

After working with our team on three different outreaches she became inspired to do a DTS. After her DTS she went on to complete a YWAM mid-wifery school. Tanya is now in fulltime missions with YWAM in Tajikistan. Her heart is for the people of Afghanistan.

YEKATERINBURG - Three Sports Ministry Workers

During this outreach we met one of these workers who said that 2 years ago he had heard about a Canadian hockey team who shares the gospel. He has been waiting to meet us to invite us to his city. He is thrilled that we will add his city to our next Hockey DTS outreach.

The Kushva Story

A highlight of this outreach was meeting with Pastor Misha in Kushva in February for lunch. YWAM Hockey teams have been to Kushva in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

In 2008 Misha's church was in hiding from the authorities. They met almost secretly in an abandoned building where they had refurbished one room around the back.

The authorities were looking for ways to shut his church down.

Through Sergey, a ministry worker from NT, we were invited by Misha to come to Kushva for 5 days to play hockey games against mens teams and do hockey clinics for kids. The local media covered our trip extensively as did the police and the authorities.

Here is "the rest of the story"...

Months after we left in 2008, Russian authorities told the head of the police to find any way to shut down Misha's church. The Chief of Police decided to look after the investigation himself. Misha is careful to document everything his church does and he turned all of this over. Included in the paperwork was the newspaper clipping of our visit. The police officer saw this and asked Misha if he was the one who organized our trip. When Misha said yes, the officer was surprised as he remembered our visit. He, in turn, sent all the paperwork to the authorities, noting that there was nothing wrong with the church. The authorities questioned the officer further because they had sent him to find something to close down the church. Again, the officer said that he could not find anything wrong. Because Misha was the one who brought the "Canadians" to Kushva, he had gained favor.

Several years later, the man who had ordered the original check of the church asked for a meeting with Misha. When he got to his office the first question that he asked was why Misha's church decided to follow this American religion. Misha had just taken a course in church history and was able to explain to him the origins of Protestant Christianity. After their talk the government man stood up, shook Misha's hand, and since then they have had a cordial relationship. And, the church hasn't been bothered by the authorities since.

Thank you for your love, support and interest in our ministry. Without folks like you this outreach and the ensuing ripple effects would not be possible. Stay tuned for an update about our next 6 months..

With love,
Glen & Lorrain

