

March 2020

Hello family and friends,

Wow! What crazy times that we are in! We pray that you and your family are safe and well.

We are laying low here in Richmond BC, going out only for walks, bike rides and to get groceries. We are pleased that our Jesse, after his fishery job was shut down, chose to hunker down with us, as we all seek to do our part in flattening the curve of COVID-19 or the "Kelowna virus" as our 5 yr. old grandson calls it. In Saanich, Nick and Lizzy are able to work from home and provide daily adventures for Jake and Ollie. We are uncertain at this time what Lorrain's teaching role will look like after Spring Break.



Our team and some new Russian friends after our game in Nizhny Tagil.



Glen, Coach Viktor (Nizhny Tagil), and Brian

When we think about the current state of the world, it almost feels like our hockey outreach in Russia, in January, was insignificant in comparison. However, God's plans are NOT insignificant and He planned for this hockey outreach to introduce His love to those who may have never considered a relationship with Him. Our team consisted of 1 Canadian (Adam Penner), 3 Americans (Brian Peters, Erik and Ryan Johnson), 1 Swiss (Tobia Sauer), 1 Russian (Kirill) plus our Russian translator (Natasha). This is the first time that we've had a Russian player with us for the entire trip, after being with last year's team for a few weeks. One of our hopes this year was to mentor and disciple our Russian addition and were excited to see a real growth in young Kirill's faith walk. We also saw, again, how YWAM Hockey is a bridge between the local Russian churches and the hockey community. I am so thankful to have been able to return to Russia with our small, but effective team, and I was encouraged by Brian Peters' recent newsletter. I thought I would share part of it with you. Brian and his wife Venera are full-time YWAM missionaries in Perm Russia. Brian did his Hockey DTS with us in 2008, and then joined us on staff for two years.

Brian Peters' newsletter:

"Hockey tour – 2020 YWAM Hockey brought a team back this year. The team was mostly students from last year's Hockey DTS team. This year they came for only about three weeks, but it was great to see the impact that last year's trip had on them, and that they were ready to come again this year. This year we were able to go back to many of the same locations that we went to last year and follow up with many of the people that we'd made connections with. Brian was also glad to see Glen Bueckert again, the founder of YWAM hockey, who was not able to make the trip last year due to health reasons. Glen has played a big role in Brian being involved in hockey ministry and even him being here in Russia in the first place. One of the guys from this year's team, Toby, decided to stay in Perm and help Brian for another month. It was an encouragement for Brian, since for the most part he's been on his own in the hockey ministry here in Perm. Please pray for more people to come with a passion for sports ministry, especially long-term workers!"

The pandemic has put a project on hold, for now, that we have been praying about and is still very much on our hearts - a return to Camp Moira in Greece. This is the infamous refugee camp built for 3,000 that now has over 20,000 men, women and children living in uncertainty and squalor. Even though the world has now focused its attention on the pandemic, the refugee crisis is far from over. According to Euro Relief, the Greek NGO we volunteered with in Lesvos, over 2,000 people are arriving at Camp Moria *every month*. You can check out the work Euro Relief does in Camp Moria on their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/eurorelief/posts/>



(photo credit – Euro Relief Facebook page)

Please join us in prayer for those folks who find themselves in Camp Moria (and other refugee camps throughout the world) after fleeing their homes and countries because of war.

Thank you for your continued support for us – through prayer, encouragement, and financial support. God bless!

With love,

Glen & Lorrain Bueckert
Directors- YWAM Hockey

