

Ministry stories 2019

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Greetings!

Thank you for your constant prayers and support, which is so vital for us. In the city where we carry out our floorball ministry there were three floorball teams. After one year of our ministry, one of the other teams for some reasons fell apart and some boys joined us. It was an interesting period, for it was the first time that someone completely new joins our team. We realized that this was a good chance to preach the Gospel.



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Vlad Skibitskyi was one of the boys who started playing with us. Friendly and sincere, easy-going and sociable, he easily made new friends. Only half a year later, he already became a captain of the team, as far as he demonstrated very good leadership qualities. Besides, during our Bible discussions he was also very active, showing that Bible principles were a matter of interest, too. However, his environment didn't let him take any radical steps. So he continued living the life full of lie, selfishness and sin.



Our team has a tradition of going to Christian summer camps together. Vlad first got this opportunity when he was 15. Camp - it's always a great time for people who seek the Lord to listen to pure God's Word and try to implement it in their lives. After one of the Bible groups, Vlad prayed with a slight skepticism so that God would show him that He is real and that He cares for him. And of course, God answered his prayer.



For every player, the greatest reward is to have his own floorball stick. Vlad didn't have one and always had to borrow. The next day after Vlad's prayer, the chief coach of the camp decided to present his nice and expensive stick to one of the players. And his choice stopped on Vlad. What a great joy it was for the boy to get such a gift. Moreover, he realized that with this small event God showed him that He cares for him and loves him, that He is the One that hears our prayers and is always by our side.



Unfortunately, Vlad didn't join the church after this occasion. His faith was still too frail and weak and was more of an inner experience than something he lived out. Vlad was getting older and along with this the challenges he faced were growing bigger. One evening he called me, worried and stressed out, asking for a meeting. When I met him, he looked hopeless and tired.



He shared with me a painful story of his family. As turned out, his mother was an alcoholic. This brought his father to the point where he became very aggressive. Vlad lived in constant scandals and fighting. That evening, Vlad ran away from home not to see his dad scolding at his drunken mother. I realized what a deep trauma this boy had in his heart. We talked about God and His power to change people's hearts and minds. Vlad prayed that God would save his mother and stop her from drinking so that their family would have a chance for healing. And God performed a miracle! Vlad's mother stopped drinking for a very long period of time. It was even bigger testimony for Vlad than the story with a floorball stick. He saw that God was still listening, He cared for Him and wanted to become his hope.

After that day, we have experienced a lot of miracles on the floorball field, which were always a proof for Vlad that God existed. Finally, few months ago, Vlad repented at church and declared that he wanted to give his life to Jesus. Now, in any situation, Vlad always asks God what to do. He wants to know His will, to live according to His principles. For all of us, his life is a great example of trust. He trusts God, when he faces problems at school, or struggles with health issues. I give glory to God whenever hear Vlad telling about His spiritual experience. His story is truly a miracle!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We ask you to pay for Vlad and his entire family to come to know the Lord;
- Please, pray for our floorball team to grown into a strong Christian community;



- Pray so that this floorball ministry would be an effective tool of evangelism.
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