

St. Petersburg, Russia

March 20 - April 4, 2010



2010 Project Team:

9 High School Students (PA, OH, FL)
1 College Student (OH), 2 Adults (PA, CA)
3 Student Venture Staff (PA, OH, FL)
5 Student Venture Staff (St. Pete)

Our Mission:

Reaching Russian Teens for Christ

For the past nine years Student Venture has been sending short term mission projects into the city of St. Petersburg, Russia, to run a 5-day English Camp and visit classrooms in the public schools. The goal has been to build relationships with Russian teens and teachers and engage them in spiritual discussions, ultimately sharing Christ.

This 10th year was a first for the project in many ways...

- the first year that SV has a full time team of five American staff living in the city
- the first time partnering with Americans and Russians from other ministries in the city, including Young Life, and Campus Crusade's university ministry in St. Petersburg
- the first year running the English Camp at a facility we had all to ourselves

This was also a first for me. After participating in this project on my own since 2008, this year I took a team from Western PA: one young woman from my church, and three high school girls from our local Student Venture movement! (picture below)

Project Highlights

- 155 Russian students attended our 5-day English Camp, our largest camp ever!
- This was our first year partnering with other Christian ministries in St. Pete to staff our English Camp.
- More than 100 students heard the gospel, and at least 12 responded at either English Camp or at our Goodbye Party!
- Many students are attending follow-up activities and Bible studies sponsored by Student Venture and other ministries in St. Pete.

English Camp 2010



155 students attended our 5-day English Camp. Many of these students have been attending this camp for the past 10 years, and some have returned to work with us as interpreters.

To accommodate so many students, Student Venture

Western PA Student Venture Project Participants



Chelsea Empfield, Kari Randall, Rachel Rummel, Deb Lyons, Maria Deem

partnered with five other ministries in St. Petersburg, giving us a total of 55 workers, including our Russian interpreters and our team from America. It was our best camp yet!



Lives Forever Changed!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old is gone, the new is come!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Sasha sharing his testimony at the Goodbye Party



Sasha became the first Russian student to ever share his testimony at our Goodbye Party! In 2008, he came to camp hoping to party and was disappointed that the rules prohibited drinking alcohol. On the outside he looked cool, but on the inside he was depressed. As he shared his testimony he laughed as he recalled how awful his attitude was that year, and said to the audience, “You remember what I was like!” Sasha had heard about God at camp that first year and prayed, “God, if you’re real will you help me give up drinking?” By English Camp 2009, he had. When he heard about Jesus Christ that year, he became a believer and got himself connected with a local church. Since then, God has given him an incredible joy and desire to share his faith!



Your partnership made it possible!

Through your faithful prayers and financial support, you have touched the lives of these Russian teens with the precious love of Jesus. Thank you so much for your support of this ministry!

Deb Lyons, Affiliate Staff # 0623339, Western PA Student Venture
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New Believer
Lida



Lida was invited to English Camp by Sacha, one of the Student Venture staff living in St. Petersburg. Lida was placed on a waiting list for camp, and Sacha prayed for an opening. At the last minute there was a cancellation allowing Lida to attend. At camp, Lida kept hearing about God and was confused about all the talk

of having a relationship with God, so she asked many questions. During a discussion in my English class, Lida asked about the meaning of the bead bracelets (gospel bracelets) we had given each student. Her question allowed me to clearly share the gospel with the entire group of 25 girls! Lida is now a believer, attending church and Bible study, and growing in her new faith!



Bibles for Masha & Anny

Masha and Anny are two university students that I have been building relationships with for the past three years. They are both believers, however, they did not own Bibles, and therefore did not understand what it means to follow Jesus. I purchased Russian Bibles for each of them and challenged them to get involved in a Bible study and begin to live out their faith.

Das Vadanya Goodbye Party

More than 100 Russian teens attended our Goodbye Party. The evening included fun songs and games, as well as testimonies from Americans and Russian student Sasha (his story on left). A pantomime “Mask Drama” was presented, illustrating our need for Jesus beneath the happy masks we wear. Eleven students responded to the gospel and many others expressed a desire to talk more about spiritual things!

