



Church themed craft projects from the Macedonia district youth camp 2022



***“The life and fellowship of the church is to be a foretaste of life in the Kingdom of God.”***

***~ George Eldon Lad***

**“Don’t forget to make yourself.”** The gentle whisper took me off-guard as I was trying to figure out which member of my church family I should make next. It was during our arts and crafts time at camp, and we were making tongue-depressor people to remind us to pray for different people in the church. I had already made Pastor Laze, Simona, and Simona’s sister, Hristina – three people who play important roles in the church and who have shown me great love, acceptance and support over the past six years. I supposed it couldn’t hurt to make myself too.

This summer, the Commission for Work with Children and Youth put on a youth camp in Bela Voda, Berovo from July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Eleven young people and five adult volunteers came together for five days of fun, fellowship and learning about God’s vision and purpose for the church. Our Bible verse for the camp came from Psalm 122:1 where King David says, “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’” And our theme for the camp was “Потребна ми е црквата” (I need the church).

We started every morning of the camp with group calisthenics and a short devotion. After a hearty breakfast, we gathered in the meeting room for worship and a lesson from Pastor Dejan Vasilev. Dejan gave us four challenging and inspiring messages detailing how it is God who created the church, that it is God who calls us to join His church, the reasons we need the church, and what it means to be a part of the church. After each lesson we divided up into small groups to discuss the lesson from the day.

Pastor Dejan Vasilev teaching about the church



After a relaxing snack break, we gathered to play outdoor games. What fellowship we had playing games passing ping pong balls using spoons, stacking cups, racing while stepping on cardboard and even competing in a good old fashioned potato sack race! I am so thankful for these young people and the adult volunteers who were willing to let their guard down and engage in some crazy games!



Click the photo to watch the ping pong ball race!

Along with free time to swim, go for a hike or just hang out, we had evening programs where we fellowshiped together with games and other team building activities. On the last night, we shared testimonies and made smores. One of my favorite memories from the camp was when we all went stargazing. The activity was optional, but the whole camp ended up on the hill oohing and aahing whenever we saw a shooting star!



Worship time! Click the photo to watch our camp movie.

Every day after lunch we had a craft workshop. On the first day, we made paper models of a church building to remind ourselves of the blessing we have to be able to gather in a building together for church services. Without these buildings it would be difficult to do many of the activities we engage in as a church family.

On the second day, we made tongue-depressor people representing individuals who are important to us in our church family or in the life of the church. We talked about how the church is really the people and thanked God for the many people who serve in our churches.

On the last day, we decorated prayer cups so we could keep our tongue-depressor people in one place and be reminded to pray for the members of our church family they represent. Those who finished early were encouraged to continue making people we want to pray for. I was pondering who to make next when I received the suggestion to make myself. I took it as a gentle reminder from the Lord that I, too, am an important part of the church and worth covering with my prayers.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you know that you are an important part of God's family and worthy of prayer. I encourage you to pray a prayer for yourself. I just prayed for you.

In Him,

*Jennifer Moore*

### ***A sweet sized fellowship***

Those of us on the Commission were disheartened when only eleven young people signed up for the camp this year, but the deep conversations and intimate fellowship that developed over the course of the camp seemed to make our size just perfect.

