



Macedonia district summer camp for children 2022



***“Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.”***

***~ Psalms 127:3***

**“Oh Moni, they are so happy!”** I was sitting on my bed in the girls’ dorm room engrossed in my preparations for the next large group session when my concentration was interrupted by the beautiful sound of five girls trying to remember the lyrics to “Who’s the King of the Jungle?” They were gathered on two top bunkbeds smiling and laughing and doing a fairly good job of recalling the song from the previous two days. I turned to Simona who was resting on her lower bunkbed to share with her my joy that we decided to have a children’s camp.

There has not been a camp for children on our district for many years so Simona, Dejan and I decided to make it a priority for this year. While planning, we were hoping at least fifteen children would attend. We had no idea God would gift us with 39 children ages six to twelve! I am beyond thankful for the awesome team of volunteers who helped us put on a four-day three-night camp from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Gevgelija, North Macedonia.

The theme for our camp was “Авантура во џунглата” (Adventure in the Jungle) and we talked about the things that can help us navigate a real jungle as well as the jungle of life. The children were divided into six groups, each with their own color and jungle animal.

Every morning, we started with some calisthenics and then a brief devotional. Georgi, one of our leaders, led the children in the Lord’s prayer with some meaningful hand motions each morning.







After breakfast, we had our large group sessions where we sang songs, had our lesson and prayed together. Then we had a jungle adventure and a discussion of the lesson in small groups. We had outdoor games as well as free time for swimming and time for crafts. In the evenings we sang, danced and played indoor games together and on the last night we had a campfire.

On the first morning, we talked about how having a map can really help us navigate the jungle so we don't get lost and how God has given us a map for our lives called the Bible. Each group was given a treasure map to follow to find three eggs hidden somewhere around the camp. In each egg was a treasure that we can find in the Bible along with a verse. Once a group found all their eggs, they could go to a quiet place to open them and discuss the treasures inside: Truth, wisdom, and hope.



*Trying not to get clipped with clothespins! Click [here](#) to watch.*

On the second day we learned how a compass can help guide us in the jungle and how God gives us the Holy Spirit to guide our lives. The groups then had to use a compass to find their eggs before they could gather to discuss three things the

Holy Spirit helps us with: understanding God's message, having joy and peace inside, and feeling God's love for us.

On the last day we discussed how having good companions can help us survive our jungle adventure and how God gives us loving companions through our church family. The groups then went around asking us adults if we were part of God's family and if we had an egg for them. We learned that other members of God's family can give us good advice, comfort us, and pray for us. The group leaders told me that the children had a lot of fun searching for the eggs and discussing questions like, "Why is it important to get good advice?" and, "Do you know anyone who always tells the truth?"

The children's camp was a lot of work, especially preparing and hiding all those eggs! But the joy on the children's faces and the knowledge that they were creating meaningful, positive memories about their church family made it all worth it and more.

In Him,

*Jennifer Moore*

### ***A light for our path***

The verse for our camp was Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" so in one of our craft sessions we made flashlights with our verse on them.





# *Special addendum*

*more images from our children's camp*

August 14, 2022



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*I hope you enjoy these extra glimpses into our children's camp!*



*Simona and Jennifer ready for a jungle adventure*





*Worship time! (He's Got the Whole World in His Hands)*



*Who's the King of the Jungle? (Click the photo to find out)*





*During our first craft time, we made jungle masks*



*Here we are in our masks 🐼*





*During our second craft time, we made flashlights with our verse, Psalm 119:105*





*Groups competing to pass the most water from the front to the back during outdoor games*



*Camper depositing water in her team's bucket during the sponge relay race*





*Unfortunately, all our small group leaders got bit by “venomous snakes” and had to be wrapped quickly and tightly with high quality toilet paper so they could survive a trip to the hospital!*





Thankfully, the leaders were very good sports about this ☺



Simona's group memorized our Bible verse with hand motions. [Click to watch them recite it!](#)

