

## AN UPDATE

## UKRAINE



Reports from Reach Out's Global Ministry astound and encourage us. Our Country Leaders are truly heroes! The price they pay to train others in the face of the incredible hardships is steep and is now compounded by the effects of Covid-19. The length of their reach is long in places like Ukraine. Their extraordinary disciple-making results from applying Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry training. Because of outreach into schools, churches, and communities, thousands of young people are following Jesus!

These are but a few of the numerous stories and pictures we have received telling of their victories and the Lord's faithfulness. Your investment gives our Ukraine team the financial capacity required to carry out this ministry. Thank you for letting God use you in such a significant and wonderful way!

Country Leader

## UKRAINE

Christina Oleksyuk



This summer, the Ukrainian team, led by Christina Oleksyuk, spent much time discipling leaders. In June, Christina reported of an outstanding session they had in 2 churches. Discipleship-driven youth ministry was the core of the session's strategy. This particular session was all about the price and outcome of being a disciple. Present at the session was Alla who had been a youth minister 13 years ago at the church, as well as Sasha, a current youth leader, who was a teenager in Alla's youth group. This team practiced street evangelism. They split into 3 groups and interviewed about 15 teens. Teams were excited about feedback and received many contacts. What really struck them were the answers to, "Who is Jesus?" The goal of this evangelistic approach was to break fear and to share the Gospel. They concluded with the challenge to engage and disciple teens around them.

In another church, Christina spoke of a different way that JFYM was helpful. She told of how God is moving in healing relationships with a pastor and his youth leaders and how the blessing of JFYM helps disciple even the leaders through this process.

She says, "We are training the churches, mentoring the leaders, and lifting up their hands during their dry seasons. I met Lena at a national conference and I felt immediately connected. She is living in a suburb near Dnipro. In her small town, there are lots of drug and alcohol addicted young people. She has so much passion for them and wants to take them out of this darkness. So, I decided to visit her, talk with her, and pray for her. I love to invest in youth leaders because when they are encouraged and lifted up, they can reach many young people. Afterwards, I received a call from her. She was so thankful, inspired, and grew stronger through discussing conflict she was facing. Lena even mentioned that she is able to continue the race because of our support and being there for her!"

Last month, our Ukrainian team had kids signed up for camp, leaders prepared, and a location secured. Just a couple of days before camp was to start, the location cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. The team prayed, and within 24 yours, the team secured a new location. They praised God that the team was able to host a camp where teens were encouraged, ministered to, challenged, and SAVED!

This month Christina is launching an online webinar to help encourage, train, and network youth pastors in Ukraine. This fall, she was also invited to lead a camp for teens in Israel. Your investment in Ukraine allows leaders like Christina to minister in so many needed ways. Thank you for partnering with us!

