



## Ukrainian-Austrian Teens Camp 2025

Quarter II Issue 1 September 1st, 2025

## By Jake Haskew

This July brought together 55 teenagers from Ukraine, Austria, and Poland at REVIKA Camp in the Czech Republic for a week that exceeded our expectations. Under the theme "You are a tone in God's melody," these young people discovered they are each essential parts of something much greater than themselves.

The camp ran from July 20-26 and included participants from Vienna, Kyiv, Krakow, Graz, Klagenfurt, and Poysdorf. After several venue changes and date adjustments, God provided the perfect location at REVIKA, which accommodated our group of 77 total participants (including 22 adult leaders).

Each day centered around the theme "You are a tone in God's melody," with Ephesians 2:10 as our memory verse, exploring how every person has unique worth and purpose in God's plan. The teens engaged in small group discussions, worship in multiple languages, morning

sports, and evening activities. All materials were provided in both English and Russian, ensuring everyone could fully participate regardless of their primary language.

One of the most meaningful aspects was watching Austrian and Ukrainian teens connect despite language barriers, united by their shared faith. The Ukrainian participants especially valued the peaceful environment—they were able to sleep without concern for air raid sirens. The lesson on "Listening to God" resonated particularly well, with many teens expressing that it gave them practical ways to hear God's voice in their daily lives.

By week's end, we witnessed genuine friendships forming across cultural lines. Teens exchanged contact information, several requested ongoing spiritual mentorship, and each participant left with a bilingual study booklet to continue their spiritual journey at home. The final day brought many tears—not just of farewell, but of recognition that these connections

would continue beyond camp. The impact of this camp extends far beyond one week in July. These young people returned to their communities understanding that whether they're in Vienna or Kyiv, in times of peace or uncertainty, they each have an essential voice in God's greater melody. Churches from all participating cities are already discussing continued collaboration, and preliminary planning for next summer's camp has begun.

Thanks to all our supporters, your partnership enabled young people from very different circumstances to discover their common identity in Christ and their individual worth in God's plan. We're grateful for your continued support as we build bridges across borders through faith.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10

## Location Update

By Jake Haskew

We're thrilled to announce that after months of diligent searching and viewing multiple properties, we've found our new church home! The facility is ideally located in Vienna's 9th district, right at the border of the 1st district, with exceptional public transportation access and just a 5-minute walk from the main University of Vienna campus. This ground-floor space comfortably accommodates 40+ people and will undergo renovations to meet our needs. While we'll need to build a kitchen, this gives us the opportunity to design it specifically for our fellowship meals and university ministry. This central location represents a significant upgrade from our current arrangement and perfectly aligns with our vision of establishing a visible presence in central Vienna. We're currently in the final stages of contract preparation and look forward to sharing more details about our move-in timeline soon!

