

# Siberia Update

## New Teen Challenge Facility

We want to thank God for the court victory in the lawsuit against the Teen Challenge ministry! As you know, starting in February of this year, we came under heavy attack from the local prosecutor's office. Over a period of six months, there were more than 20 intense inspections. The people who went against us did not hide their intentions but openly shared that they want to close the program. There were several court cases, and God gave us a victory each time!

In addition, God has blessed us with a new property for this vital ministry. We prayed for a long time to purchase a former communist youth camp, and miraculously the price was reduced over 50% this summer. For the first time, Teen Challenge Siberia now owns its own facility! We want to thank our dear friends in Canada who contributed abundantly to help purchase these buildings! What an incredible spiritual breakthrough. The dorm building can house up to 240 people. The second building has a spacious kitchen facility with all the necessary equipment, two large dining rooms, a gymnasium and many rooms for offices. We're overwhelmed with thanksgiving to God for His goodness!



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## Prison Ministry



Another recent highlight is the completion of a children's playground in a women's prison. This winter volunteers from our church visited children whose mothers are incarcerated and presented them with Children's Bibles and toys from their mother. However, this prison has almost 100 children under the age of three that have been born while their mothers

were imprisoned. These poor children live behind bars with their mothers and had neither toys nor outdoor recreation. As an act of kindness, the prison ministry (called Freedom) from our church, raised money and organized a project to build a modern playground for these children.



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Amazingly, the founder of this prison ministry, on the left, is a Teen Challenge Siberia graduate who had been incarcerated four times and served 10 years in prison before the age of 30. This playground is an incredible witness of God's love to all the women, children and officials at the prison.





# Youth Evangelism

Our congregation is involved with many evangelistic outreaches, but it's especially exciting to see how the youth love to share with people! Below are some pictures of a typical Sunday afternoon between services.



## Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray that God would send teams to come help us renovate the new facility for Teen Challenge. Much work needs to be done, and we wholeheartedly welcome work teams!
2. This summer we lost the court case concerning the usage of the parking lot around the church. We had much evidence that our neighbor set up an illegal paid parking lot, but their lawyer was somehow able to deceive the judge to believe that everyone parks for free. Please pray for us as we appeal to a higher court. It is essential for us to win this agreement in order to start the construction of our roof. As the battle continues, please pray and believe with us for a victory.
3. Two of the thieves who stole money in February from the orphan, Artom, showed up in church this past Sunday to threaten the same orphan to give them another \$2,000. We were able to reach out to them, invite them to the youth services and even fed them lunch in church. Please pray for God's protection over the orphans, that the criminals would turn to Christ, and that God would stop this corruption of stealing from orphans throughout the country.

Thank you again for your prayers! We thank God for you.  
With Christ's love,  
Ilya and Janet