2022 JBF Camp Report

**Mighty Warriors**

(This is the camp report based on my personal experience)

We give thanks and praise God for allowing the 1st JBF camp in Zagreb, Croatia for August 1-5 with the title of mighty warriors based on Judges 6-7.

The reason why this conference was meaningful is that there has not been a retreat exclusively for JBF in Europe until now. Though there are the children's retreats or the Encounter for college students, there were no retreats or gatherings for adolescents aged 13-17, who became a part of the next generation. In addition, there were virtually no conferences or gatherings where the next generation in Germany and the next generation in Europe outside Germany could meet. This was the first time that the next generation of Germany and Europe outside Germany gathered together.

That is why, from the time we planned, we prayed for an extraordinary camp of 5 days 4 nights, instead of 3 days 2 nights, in a camp format where we cook together, rather than a traditional conference format.

JBF Europe started for the first time in 2021, and made a list of JBF members in Europe, and Esther Lee (Athena, Greece), Hanna Kim (Bern, Switzerland), Jonathan Jung (Heidelberg, Germany) ) and Grace (Portugal) as leaders who can take responsibility for them were appointed.

I had one to one bible study with these leaders once a month, and the leaders meet once a month with the JBF children via Zoom and had fellowship based on the words they received. We have had a meeting in this way since last October.

The camp place, “Zagreb, Croatia” was also chosen by the children.  M. Joseph and Maria Bae and their co-workers in Zagreb helped to book accommodation and supported many local tasks.

At first, 20 people were expected and planned, later 2 more people desired to attend. In total, 22 people were able to attend.

Personally, I was able to attend with two JBF children and my husband, Ham Meyer, who was on holiday.

While praying for the direction of the JBF camp, we prayed that mixed with camp and conference, it would be a time for children to personally meet Jesus and learn the word of God and prayer while having fun and free time.

I was convinced that Judges 6 and 7 is proper word for JBF camp and studied with the leaders with joy and received great grace. Because it is a story format, I thought that I could do a variety of things with these words, so instead of a special song or special order, I suggested a project for each team, such as a YouTube video about the talk or a play. At first, it seemed daunting and difficult, but after the team meeting, ideas were overflowing. The service of the local missionaries, the hard work of the leaders, and the sincere preparations for the camp seemed to go seamlessly.

Despite travelling hassles, such as cancelation of flights and necessity of extension of passports, God helped us all to arrive safely in Zagreb. We had dinner together at a guest house in Zagreb, and for the first time, everyone gathered. after dinner, everyone goes out to the city of Zagreb and goes on a tour. No explanation was needed, just walking around made everyone happy. We talked all night and had a wonderful time.

On the morning of Tuesday, August 2nd, after all preparations were made, we took a bus and departed for Poreč, which takes about 3-4 hours yet with playing games on the bus, the travel time did not feel long at all.

After lunch, everyone unpacked and went for a swim in the sea and had great time, even though some children got hurt by sea urchins and had to remove remove the sea urchin thorn.

Jonathan, one of leaders, delivered a brief and pointy message based on the Judges 6, about how cowardly Gideon was when he was called. And a YouTube video of the cowardly Gideon that was made by the team members and edited by Jonathan was very funny and interesting.

Esther of Greece prepared a Bible quiz for children. It's not a verbal quiz, but everyone accesses the website using their mobile phones, which gives scores and ranks when they answer the questions correctly. No one got bored with the quiz and they all concentrated on it.

On the second day, we listened to the message of the first half of Chapter 7 prepared by Hannah of Bern, Switzerland. She testified we might think the way of drinking water is not a big deal, but God saw the mindset and readiness of those who went to war through the way of drinking water. God sent those who would not see the glory of God back to their homes. In a sense, God invited 300 to the glorious battle, even though he alone can win.

In the afternoon, we had time to show off our talents. We all fell in love with Hakje's charm of performing stunts to music with a yo-yo, although he was 14 years old. Esther from Cologne sang alone a cappella, and some of them sang without preparation. The atmosphere, whether doing good or bad, was so gracious, I was grateful.

After swimming and free time, we had a team competition with the theme of “Love, Freedom, Gideon and Childhood”. At the beach, in the forest, and on the playground, the children scattered and gathered ideas in teams, and to express these four themes, they took pictures and uploaded them. Even high-quality pictures came out.

In the evening, we had time of praise and watching a movie.

On the third day, there was a message from Esther of Greece. She delivered a message with spiritual power that Gideon and his 300 soldiers went out with trumpets, torches, and empty jars, which seemed to have nothing to do with war, and defeated a large army of 135,000 people. She also prepared relevant games in advance to help understand the message.

After the message, we had time to ask and answer questions, and to share our thoughts on the message and on the camp. Since it was the last day, we had a party at the beach in the evening, where we shared our thoughts on the camp and expectations on the next camp.

We thank God for 2022 JBF Camp and would like to plan further camps and upgrade it based on the first experience.

(Reported by Maria Meyer)