

#### **Episode 4 - FULL TEXT**

Hello and welcome to the fourth of our films for this year's Self-Denial Appeal.

This week I'm leaving my home in Tallinn and heading to the seaside.

My destination is The Salvation Army's Loksa camp a residential centre which hosts weekends and retreats all through the year. And this week it's kids' camp.

Children and young people have travelled here from all over Estonia.

So many have signed up this time they've had to put tents up in the garden and I am here to offer a bit of support. The leader of this week's camp is Juri. Here we have the dining tents.

This is where we eat. We only eat after we've prayed.

Not once did I ever imagine that I'd work with children, teenagers, or youth.

In my childhood, I didn't have camps. I didn't go anywhere.

And my childhood didn't go well. I ended up in a reform school and in prison, and my life went downhill.

We ask you to bless this food, the people who provided it and those who prepared it in a special way, and now we all say together, Amen.

Juri's day job is to manage the Hope House rehabilitation centre that we saw in episode two.

Some of the men who have been through that programme have had training and are volunteering here this week.

Our principle is, just because someone's been through rehab doesn't mean you should stigmatise them as an alcoholic or addict with a ruined life.

I decided get involved in children's youth, and teen camps as much as I can so that I can tell kids about the life I lived and what God does for them. So I don't have to visit them in prison later.

Each evening everyone gets together for a time of worship.

In Ecclesiastes, there is a time for everything right, there is a time to play, there is a time to eat...

Everything comes from the streets, from their homes, from the city. They arrive hardened

and you spend the whole week trying to soften their hearts, to show them that we love them, and that God loves them.

One, two, three!

I was really looking forward to this trip, and I really like it here.

Today we played sports games and ate and painted on stones.

The most enjoyable thing from here was that

I found already two friends in two days.

One of the highlights of the week is the beach games. I think camp is the place where kids truly show what's happening in their lives back in the city. There is a special atmosphere in this place, with some special people and it draws young people in.

They couldn't run these camps if the buildings weren't up to scratch. Mission support money has been used to refurbish and upgrade the accommodation here. It means Juri and his team can focus on what they do best.

The young people come from different social backgrounds.

We talk to them, and they tell us about what's happening in their lives the good things and the bad and they ask for prayers.

There's always room in our hearts for each one of them to talk, to share.

On the last night everyone heads down to the beach one last time.

My dreams and my hopes for the children is that this won't just be a once-a-year visit, year after year but that something truly shifts in their lives.

I want children to turn their hearts to God.

Next week is the last of our Self-Denial films. We'll see you then.