



Ministry stories 2019

Mihail Safonov, Mariupol, Zaporizzhya region, Ukraine (127)

Greetings!

For two years, our church has been feeding the poor and homeless people who are going through difficult life situations. Our city is located 120 km away from the war zone where shooting still continues. Providing that, the number of refugees and homeless people in our city has rapidly jumped up. Many of such people come to our free dinners twice a week. The volunteers from our church try to assist them and help psychologically, spiritually. You are also a part of this ministry, for if it wasn't for your help, we wouldn't be able to reach these people! May God bless you richly!



[WEBSITE](#)

I want to share with you a story of one man Volodymyr. He is 36 and he has been fleeing from the shooting and bombing in his home village and ended up on the street. His wife died when the artillery shell hit their house. She couldn't get into the basement before the bomb blew the house up, and got stuck under the rubble. Volodymyr and his wife were an ordinary family of unbelievers who didn't have children.

After the tragedy, Volodymyr got into the hospital with heavy wounding. When he completed the treatment, he realized that he had no house to come back to, and what is even worse, no one alive to share his grief with... He took a train and headed to Mariupol city.



In the city he didn't see why he should start a new life... No hope and no motivation made Volodymyr bitter, disappointed and ... always drunk. He lived in a basement like a vagrant, even though he used to work as a nurse and could find a job if he only wanted to... However, the personal loss and his destroyed house were

unsurpassable obstacles. The memories and hatred poisoned his present life.



Once he visited one of our free dinners at the church. The ministers were preaching about Jesus and prayed over the man. When he came back the next time, he himself asked for a prayer. The brothers suggested him that he reconcile with God and forgive those who killed his wife. It wasn't easy... Volodymyr couldn't forget the terrible scenes of that day... But something inside was telling him it was the only way to gain peace. Today he remembers that life changing dinner at church with gratitude: "Back in the days, I thought the most terrifying fear is to sit in the basement of your house, as if paralyzed, and just wait, hoping that the missile would not hit your shelter... But then I realized that there is nothing worse than the life without Christ, no greater fear than the fear of hell."



Starting from that day in the church, Volodymyr has decided to accept Jesus and change his life. He found an inner power to forgive those who killed his wife and finally got a job. After three months, he even got promoted. Today, Volodymyr is a blessed brother who takes an active part in church ministry and earnestly studies the Bible. God has changed and rebuilt his destroyed life, so that now he can help such people as himself to recover from losses and the nightmares of the war.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, pray that the war in Ukraine would come to end and that there would be no more killing, suffering and desolation;
- Ask God to bless our ministry and give us wisdom in serving those people who attend our dinners;
- Pray for Volodymyr to grow in his knowledge of God.



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