

Ministry stories 2019

Oksana Voloshyn, Drohobych, Lviv region, Ukraine (22)

Greetings!

Eight years ago, I adopted Nastya, and four years later Vika became a part of our family as well. Everything started when I was a teacher of Christian ethics. I used to tell children about Christ. At the time, I thought that what I did was a very small part of what should be done - a drop of water in a large ocean. I figured if I adopted a kid, he or she will definitely attend church along with me, will be always faithful and obedient and come to believe in Jesus as I had. But in a harsh reality, it is not so easy as it seems to be. Let me tell you my story. Thank you for being by my side during this journey.



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Back at the time, one lady whom I know adopted a third kid. When she once invited me over to her home, she encouraged me to do the same. It seemed like a right time to fulfill my dream. When I took Nastya under my care, she was seven years old. But when she came to our home, it felt like all hell broke loose in the house. I was tough with her, but she wouldn't listen to me. She behaved like a wild wolf. If something was not her way, she would run away from home. I was worried, since she was still a little girl. She could take a bus and ride around the town. It was often scary for me to watch Nastya play with her dolls screaming at them and beating them up. What a tough childhood these children have. Sometimes at night she would constantly shout something and fell off the bed. When she went to school, the teacher couldn't deal with her. She even urged other children not to be friends with Nastya. During her classes, Nastya spent more time standing in the corner than sitting at the desk. It went on and on for two years. My talks with the teacher didn't help, quite the opposite - it made things even worse. So I had no choice other than sending Nastya to another school. And when she started visiting her new classes, it was quite obvious that the teacher there would relate differently to her. She found a good



approach to the girl. As it turned out, Nastya was very capable and talented young lady. She did great in math, music and was successful at pretty much everything she tried to do. Seemed like the girl were going to be okay after all. She became more calm and obedient. She started to sleep well and wasn't messing with her dolls anymore. She would give them hugs and kisses instead.

I felt huge relief seeing my little girl like that. And that feeling alone made me wonder if it was a time to adopt another girl. Besides, Nastya was really excited about having a sister. She even expressed a desire to help with the kid. But when Vika came to live with us, everything in Nastya's behavior seemed to turn upside down. She became very jealous and became quite irritated with her younger sister. Nastya wouldn't let her come close to me. She would scream and tell her that I was not her mother. She would beat her and crash some stuff in anger. Once she even tried to burn down the house. Nastya became very dangerous. Sometimes she threatened me and Vika with knives. The church tried to tame her, but all was in vain. Tough word from the police wouldn't help either. Nastya became unbearable. She stopped studying at school, said that she wouldn't attend church services, stopped praying, started to skip classes, curse and smoke with some other girls. She was angry with me, angry with God...

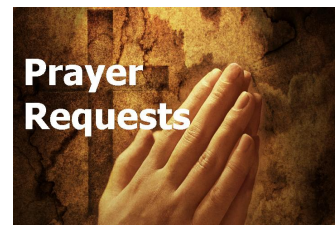


It felt like God wasn't hearing my prayers at that time. Life was really tough to me. I even considered sending the girl back to an orphanage. But my heart was bleeding. Did I adopt Nastya just to let her go a couple of years later? I didn't want to do that. I loved that little girl, and even got attached to her over the years. But life couldn't be like that anymore. I didn't want Vika to be a victim of these horrible circumstances she fell under. She didn't deserve being constantly abused by Nastya. But I couldn't just send her to any orphanage, so I made some inquiries and found out about a Christian foster home called "the Ark". Many couples there look after the children who, due to many reasons, are left without parental care. I made a call, and they agreed to accept Nastya for a while. The girl herself was willing to go. When she moved there, her behavior got much better, she wasn't so angry anymore and started attending church again. Besides, today we keep in touch with her. Very often we call her and visit her. Thank God, He heard my prayers after all and found a good solution to the problem. We keep on praying so that God soften her heart and change her mindset, so that she would live to the fullest of her potential and use her talents and skills for the Lord's glory and so that she would grow into kind and loving woman.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, continue praying for Nastya to open her heart to God;
- Ask God to give me wisdom in dealing with this situation.



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