



## Ministry stories 2019

### Sasha Dudik, Ark church, Novovolynsk, Ukraine (24)

#### Greetings!

We are privileged to partner with you and experience all God's blessings through your priceless help and prayers. In our ministry there are a lot of miracles that testify how great our God is. Let me share some wonderful testimonies with you. All these people now attend "Ark" church and became a part of a big Christian family.



[WEBSITE](#)

#### Tanya's story:

"My name is Tanya and I am 42. For 20 years, I have been a drug addict. I used to live in a very good and loving family, but at some point I made a wrong decision and my life started ruining. I got into prison, then - into the psychiatric clinic, I almost got my leg amputated. All this broke me spiritually and psychologically. By the time I realized that I needed to change something, I was completely crushed, my life was a mess and I didn't see any hope in the future. But there was still a very little chance that things might turn right again and I went to Novovolynsk rehabilitation center. While being there, I had a feeling that He wasn't even changing me, He was creating a new me. He gave me everything I needed - a church "Ark" that I can grow at and serve, a new family of God's children and a loving husband. I'm so thankful for His mercy and all His gifts."



#### Marina's story:

"I was born in a dysfunctional family in the city of Dniprodzerzhynsk in 1985. When I was 15, my dad passed away, a year later - my mom. Both of them were alcoholics, so this early death wasn't unexpected. I stayed with my brother and a grandmother who tried to help us in all ways possible. However, her efforts to bring us up as



nice and hard working people were in vain. The true environment that was forming me as a person was street with its culture, gangs, bad habits and bad companies. Many times, I was close to death after another overdose of alcohol or drugs. But God was merciful to us. In 2004 I met my future husband and we started taking drugs together. By the time I was 19, I thought that I needed nothing but the drugs in my life. But what a great God we have! For all those dark days, He has been knocking to me by sending His messengers and preachers. A mother of my future husband was praying for us. Some of our friends, who had already been freed from this addiction, also were telling us about God and repentance. I saw how radically their lives changed after they had come to knowing Christ...

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...One day, I just gave up and approached my husband's mother asking her to send us to the rehabilitation center. This is how we ended up in "Ark", Novovolynsk, 1000 kilometers away from my hometown Dniprozderzhynsk. We were welcomed with warmth and love. Here, in 2009 I decided to dedicate my life to Jesus and was baptized. From the day one after the baptism, God put into my heart a desire to serve to such addicted people, one of whom I used to be. After the baptism, the church blessed us and we got married before God's face. We went through different time in our life, both victorious and challenging. I had three surgeries, but God was with me and encouraged me though the help and support of His church. Now, I work at the rehabilitation center, share my faith with the hopeless girls and women. God has also healed my husband of tuberculosis and he now serves at church. In God we became truly happy."



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Oksana's story:

"Life without God is painful and hard. You can fully realize it only after you meet Him personally. My name is Oksana and I am 51. We used to live together with my husband and never had children. Back in the days, my parents abandoned me and I was growing up as an orphan, but then I got married and we managed to get through life together. But half a year ago, my husband suddenly passed away after a stroke. I didn't even have money for the funeral, so I had to borrow some. We used to live in a rented apartment, but after my husband's death I couldn't cover the cost of it. One day, I came back home and found all my belongings packed up on the street. I was in despair. For one more week I was living in the hall of the multistore apartment building and the neighbors would help me. But it couldn't last long with no bed, no shower, just the roof above my head. Then some people recommended me to go to the church. First, I was doing whatever the Christians asked me to only for material reasons - they provided home and food for me. But later I saw their lifestyle, realized how sincere they were in helping me and got interested in what makes them be this way. This is how I got to know the Lord. In the next month, I am going to be baptized. Not only have I found shelter at the church, but also the greatest joy of being forgiven and with the Lord."



Natalia's story:

"My name is Natalia and my husband is Andrew. We are music teachers at the music college. We always knew about the Lord but never knew Him personally, until once some extraordinary events made us seek His face. My girlfriend's brother (her name is Luda) was a drug addict. As far as we were very good friends of hers, we decided to help her with this problem. So we tried out different treatment methods, but nothing seemed to help. Our "pedagogical" edifications and lectures about "true happiness" were all in vain and didn't touch either his heart or mind. Desperate and helpless, we were watching him die slowly. After some time, we got to know about "Ark" rehabilitation center, where one of our acquaintances was taking a cure and it seemed to be very successful. So we decided to take this chance. One day, Luda and I agreed to visit the "Ark" church and find out more about them. Just two of us went there without our husbands. It was an amazing service and God poured His love into our hearts. We experienced such joy that we didn't even think existed. After that day, all our lives have changed. Valeriy (Luda's once addicted brother) was completely freed from his addiction and got married. Both our family started to attend church and realized that nothing can be compared to peace and happiness that can be found in Him only."



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### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, pray for our church and the rehabilitation center to be an instrument in God's hand in leading people to His Kingdom;
- Pray for all these people to be firm in their faith;
- Ask God to bless our country in this hard time of war in the East of Ukraine.



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HART is dedicated to alleviating poverty and injustice in Eastern Europe. We work alongside local churches and ministries and give them the tools to build a better world for themselves, their communities, and their countries.

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