



Ministry stories 2019

Sasha and Lora Gavryliuk, Transformation church, Rivne, Ukraine (30)

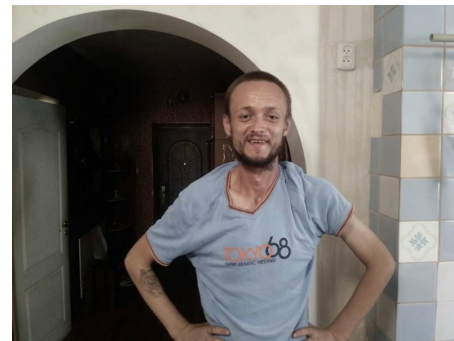
Greetings!

I am thankful to you for all the blessings that God has been pouring on us through your help and prayers! Our church stands firm on the solid foundation of faith and each day God demonstrates His greatness through different miracles, changed lives and testimonies about how He cares for His children. I am glad to share one amazing story with you and hope that it would become an encouragement for our brothers and sisters in North America.



[WEBSITE](#)

"My name is Vitalii. I was born in Shepetivka, Khmelnytsky i region and raised by my grandmother. Friends have replaced the absence of parents in my life, which had a bad influence on my character. When I was 14, I've got a criminal record. Then, I have been wanted for 3 years. As a result, the court sentenced me to 8 years in prison. And then I was added up to 12 years for a bad behavior. When I was released from prison, I started to live in Rivne city. My life hasn't changed and I continued doing business in the criminal underworld. Then I wanted to try something new, and started using drugs. After half a year being drug-addict, one day I went to a pharmacy to buy another dose of drugs. Coincidentally, next to the pharmacy door, there was a door of one protestant church, that was renting this place. Not even realizing it, I mixed up the door and found myself at the church.



I felt bad and looked miserable, but decided to listen to the sermon. Leaving in the middle of the service felt disrespectful to me, so I decided to wait until the end. After the service, the ministers came to me and asked about my life. They told me about God and His power to change my life. I was honest and told them

about my addiction, to what they suggested me to go to a rehabilitation center for drug addicts run by the Transformation Church. When I arrived there, I noticed that I wasn't feeling well, because I had high fever and whooping cough. After an hour or two, I felt even worse. The brothers from the rehabilitation center took me to the hospital. At the hospital, I was diagnosed with blood poisoning and lung abscess. I'd just been given 4 days to live. All hospitals refused to treat me because they claimed it made no sense. Eventually, one hospital agreed to accept me only because there was a doctor from Transformation Church and he insisted on having me treated. I lost a lot of weight, and I was too weak to fight for life. Despite all efforts, the doctors gave up and assured me that there is no hope for recovery. A week later, I was discharged from the hospital to the rehabilitation center, where I was supposed to wait for death.



But Our God is a God of miracles. He is much stronger than death. I was feeling better and better every day, and no doctor could explain what was going on. But I knew that I'm still alive only by His grace and love. In March, I repented and was baptized this summer. God changed my life completely and gave meaning to it. Now, I serve in Transformation Church, help at the rehabilitation center, got a good job and made lots of new friends, who also share my beliefs and support me in following Jesus. He has walked me down a very difficult yet miraculous path and finally met me at the end to call me son and give me a completely new life full of joy and happiness that can come from Him alone."



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, continue paying for our church and the ministries we carry out, for your prayers have always been a great spiritual support;
- Pray for Vitaliy to grow firm in faith and keep doing God's work among the rehabilitants.



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