

## Ministry stories 2019

### Misha and Halya Kenyo, New Life Church, Prison ministry, Lviv, Ukraine (7)



#### Greetings!

Our church has different ministries, such as children ministry, prison ministry, gypsy ministry and some others. Our volunteers serve at schools, telling children about the Lord! All this is possible thanks to your help and prayers. Today I would like to tell you some stories from our prison ministry.

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The French have a saying: "Les mariages se font dans les cieux", which means that the marriages are arranged in Heavens. In XVI century the saying was edited and had noted that even though the marriages are arranged in Heavens, they have to be preserved on Earth. Jesus said: "What God had united, man must not divide". The most unusual marriages probably happen in prisons for lifers. We have a chance to witness such miracles, when a woman decides to dedicate her life and marry a prisoner who has no chance to be released. Just imagine, that this is a man that will never come to your home, will never ask you out for a date or coffee, will never walk you home or take your child to school. What a great courage it requires to say "yes" to such a man! Recently, at the prison we minister at, was a very special wedding ceremony. Julia is from Uman, which is 543 km away from Lviv. She became a believer 7 years ago and now struggles a lot, for her family doesn't support her choice. Volodya has been serving his sentence in Lviv for 15 years already. Few years ago, he accepted Christ and was baptized. When they first met, both of them realized that they would never have a happy life together. However, they decided to take a risk and "walk on waters". This year, they got married. The prison weddings are so different from the ones that happen in a free life... They have more sadness than joy. No Mendelssohn march, no tables full of food or joyful singing. Nevertheless, the couple radiates happiness and optimism. God creates miracles. Such wedding is a testimony of faith and faithfulness and reminds us all that love has no boundaries and together with God's mercy can liberate, even



though the person may still stay behind the bars...

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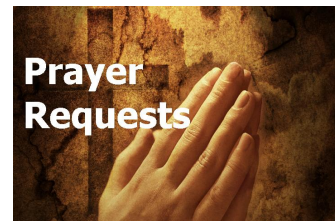
Another stunning testimony is about Viktor Mural-Sikorskyi. He didn't get this name from his parents, it was given to him by the orphanage workers when they found a little crying ball on the doorsteps of the orphanage. The boy never knew his parents, but he was growing into a very smart and clever man. Viktor succeeded in judo sports and also graduated from the faculty of philosophy. His mind and talents surprised many. However, the greatest forger, counterfeiter of his time - these are also his "accomplishments". Back in the Soviet days, for three years, Viktor had been printing counterfeit banknotes. In 1985, when government found out that they had over a million and a half fake 100-rubles banknotes, Viktor and his accomplices were arrested and would have been even killed if it hadn't been for "perestroika" and Gorbachev. The forgers got 14-year sentence. There in prison, God touched Viktor's heart. Today, he is one of the coordinators of a prison ministry in Ukraine.

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### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Join us in prayers for new believers in prison for lifers;
- Please, pray for the family of Julia and Volodya;
- Ask God to bless our ministry and give us more dedicated ministers who would want to serve the prisoners as we now do.



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