



## Ministry stories 2019

### Vladimir Dodon and his family, "Viata Nuova" Rehabilitation Center, Moldova (86)

#### Greetings!

Greeting from Moldova! We are privileged to have you as our partners and brothers and sisters in Christ! Our ministry grows and we would like to share some miraculous testimonies with you from our rehabilitants. May God bless you and protect you in all you do!



[WEBSITE](#)

"My name is Yura. I am 34 years old. At the age of 17 I went to prison for the use of drugs. The next 17 years of my life were spent in jail. Occasionally I was released, but it wasn't long before my lifestyle bought me a ticket to prison again. Gradually, drugs had become an integral part of my life. I could not imagine changing this order of things.

During my last term, I started visiting groups for prisoners organized by an organization "Positive Initiative". There I met some volunteers who were the first to tell me about God. Their eyes were shining as they talked about Him. I began to wonder what it was that made them so passionate about what they were saying. I have always referred to faith with some caution. I believed there was some Higher Power, either the Universe, or God, but never dared to go as far as to decide for myself what or who exactly I believed in. Although there were multiple times when some inexplicable forces dragged me out of total darkness, I always figured this was only my merit. I also believed that everything that ever happened to me was my destiny. I thought that fate is calculated by the Universe to the smallest details. Sometimes, staring at the stars, I wondered why the Universe had prepared a fate for me like this. My life seemed to be a total mess for about 33 years, until I got on the rehabilitation program in prison. I have had so many questions I did not know the answers to. For a long time, I resisted and refused to believe in something that was beyond my understanding of what life was about. But then my friend Slavik Lift managed to change my perspective. His past life was full of darkness and dirt, but when I saw him as a completely different person, I was



shocked. He was a cheerful man with bright eyes, preaching the Gospel with such an inspiration and power in his voice that it suddenly came to me that everything that I ever truly wanted was to have such fire inside of me as he did. I knew that I needed to abandon my old way of thinking and believe. Then, for the first time in my life, I began to read the Bible and receive answers to what really bothered my soul. Slowly, I began to understand how dark were the places I had been in before. When I prayed to God asking for forgiveness, my tears began to flow down my face for the first time in many years.

After my release, I decided to continue rehabilitation in the "Positive initiative" therapeutic community in Berezki. I started visiting church with the guys and repented publically. Later, I decided to stay in town to serve at the rehab center. Now my life is filled with meaning and joy. I like what I do and I have big plans for the future. I thank God for all that I have, and trust in Him alone."

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"My name is Valeria. I am a 26 years old mother of two children.

I was born in a wealthy family. When I was a child, my parents provided me with everything I needed and wanted. But they never told me about God. At least, I don't remember a time when they did. My addiction to drugs was a consequence of my bad decisions. Now that I know that God changed me and I genuinely seek



His will for my life, I can fully understand why. My life was far from perfect, or, to sound more accurate, I was far from perfect. I started using drugs at the age of 15. I was laying low and sometimes it felt like death was something to long for. Often strangers that I met made a considerable impact on my way of thinking. For example, one woman in a bus took a seat beside me. We had a casual conversation but at some point she started to talk about God, and that's what got me wondering about my faith. Paradoxically, the person who revealed to me what Bible really says was my ex-husband. He shared his testimonies with me, told me about God. However, the fact that his life did not correspond to the one he talked about was alarming me. After all, using drugs and living with God at the same time is impossible. It is written: "faith without deeds is dead". I left him, we no longer live together. After that, I put God and the Bible in the box and began trying to change something by myself. But things only got worse. I came to the point when I felt a complete emptiness inside, my own choices led me to a dead end. I was drifting away. I didn't believe in anything. I felt like I didn't live, just existed. But God's plan was great! Miraculously He pulled me out of this pit. I got to rehab. There I met people who genuinely loved God. I heard the guys tell their testimonies about how God saved their lives and radically changed them. I began to pray with them and attend church. God has become an integral part of my life. I finally stepped into a relationship with Him. He showed me what it really means to be a Christian and I made a covenant with Him. Now every day I live is blessed."

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"My name is Maksym. I am 20. For most of my adult life I was enslaved by alcohol and drugs. I fell into this hell at the age of 10. About a year ago, I weighed 50 kg, I could not speak, I could not walk. One day, laying on my bed, I suddenly

heard a voice seeming to come out of nowhere. It said: "GO HOME". After this incident, I admitted that I was in a trap I couldn't find the way out of. I turned for help to an organization "Positive Initiative". On October 23, I got on the rehabilitation program. There I met one guy who asked me if I could pray with him. I agreed, and as we prayed together I really liked it how genuinely he spoke with God asking Him to save the guys on rehabilitation program. So I started



to pray for them as well. I prayed for about a month and didn't receive a single answer, read the Bible and did not understand it. One day, I decided that I wouldn't pray anymore, and it was that evening that all the guys I prayed for witnessed about positive changes in their lives. I had no doubt that it was God's answer to me. And from that day on I began to pray daily. God often gave me answers in my dreams. Once I had a dream that I had to go to church and tell about my past, and in that dream I said to myself: "Why do I need this? Who cares?" Everything in me resisted! When I went to church the next day, I felt freedom. I tried to listen to the voice of God. Since my childhood I was afraid to speak in public. Because of my voice I was always ashamed of speaking up, especially of talking about personal issues. But that day, God told me: "I love you," the fear suddenly disappeared and I began to tell my testimony.

Now, when I read the Bible, God shows His truth to me. I graduated from ABC Bible School, visit church, was baptized. God shows me the difference between who I was before and who I am know. I am so happy that I came to God! I like to live according to His will. Thank you God for the strength that You give me every day. Amen!"

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### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We ask you to pray for our ministry and all the rehabilitants to accept Jesus and find liberation and joy in knowing Him;
- Please, pray for me as I carry out this ministry and for my family that is a big blessing and support for me.



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