



Mission Partners International

January, 2011

Prayer! Oh, how we need it and rely on it! It is the backbone of our ministry. How many times have I been in a tight spot overseas yet felt the prayers of those back home lifting up my name before the Lord? The first time I arrived in Moscow not knowing a soul, God arranged for church officials to meet me at the airport. One time on a train with no money and no ticket, God miraculously intervened on my behalf. These times of deliverance and many others were only due to the fact that people in Canada were praying for me.

I have never seen a greater emphasis on prayer than in the former Soviet Union. There is nowhere I would rather be than with brothers and sisters who know how to pray! Having come though years of atheistic teaching, being able to publically declare a faith and dependence in God, is freedom indeed.

It is our joy to include our new prayer book with this newsletter as our gift to you in 2011.

In it you will find 31 different people in different ministries - one for each day of the month. Many of our Canadian supporters find this little prayer booklet ideal for their daily devotions. Others carry it in their Bible or purse and use it for prayer meetings, cell groups, etc.

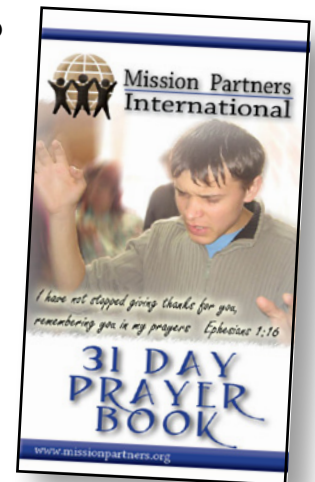
When we show this prayer booklet to those overseas, they are amazed that Canadians would care enough to pray for them. They look for the page with their photo on it and know to expect extraordinary ministry and special answers to prayer on that day.

Let's start the New Year on a footing of prayer. We are facing some challenges this year as some doors could soon be closing. We need to make a strong ministry presence there while we can. Your prayers and financial gifts in 2010 have changed lives – the elderly have been fed, kids have been rescued and so many people, young and old, have come to know Jesus for the very first time. **Your gift right now will help MPI start this year on a strong foundation.** Your support will enable MPI to continue helping lonely seniors, abandoned children and pioneer pastors in 2011. In these harsh winter months, your gifts are more important than ever.

God bless you,

Ron Garrison

Founder and Executive Director



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MY TESTIMONY



I had a happy childhood with many friends. In school, I was the best in my class and excelled in soccer. As a teenager when my girlfriend broke up with me, I decided to drown my sorrow in vodka. But vodka didn't help me feel better. A friend offered me marihuana saying, "You are going to feel 100% better." I did feel better but the next morning the problems were back. So I ran out to get more drugs. After a while marihuana was not strong enough. Then I was offered heroin. I was told, "You are not a man until you try it." So I tried it.

Once my mom saw the signs of shooting drugs on my arms and asked me what it was. I screamed at her, "I am a drug addict." She had a stroke right on the spot and died. I had no tears for her. Then my grandpa died and left me an inheritance. For a short time I didn't take any drugs. I bought furniture, expensive clothes and put some money aside to start a business. One day a friend came by and offered me drugs. I refused. He said, "Use drugs this one last time and then quit." I took the drugs.

A few months later, I woke up one morning terribly hungry and in withdrawal. I looked around for something to sell for food, but everything was gone. To afford more drugs, I was forced to become a criminal. I stole money from my dad and if he didn't have any, I beat him up. One morning, I didn't hear anything from his room. He had died during the night. I didn't cry for him.

The following three years I wanted to die but couldn't. I would stand in my empty apartment and watch young people walk by on the street below. I wanted to cry. I was 27 and my life was finished. My body was rotting and I weighed only 88 pounds. I didn't need anyone and nobody wanted me. At that moment I cried out, "If there is anybody who can help me, please help."

Suddenly I heard a knock on the door. Two former friends were there. They said, "Jenya, Jesus loves you and He can help you finish with drugs forever." Crazy! They prayed for me. I decided to go to "New Life Drug Rehab Centre". When I got to the centre I was shocked to see 100 drug addicts living together not using drugs or drinking. At that time I was taking 2 grams of heroin per shot so I was worried about withdrawal. The workers at the centre told me, "We will pray that you don't have withdrawal." I thought they were delirious but they were right – I had no withdrawal.

I tried to prove that there is no God and that people who believe in Him were crazy. But they all kept smiling and I could see they were enjoying life. One week later, standing behind the barn I said, "Listen God, if You exist, prove it – change my life." And He did!

It's been 6 years now. I don't drink, smoke or take drugs. It's like Jesus took away my soiled heart and gave me a new one. Now I can cry, love and enjoy the sunshine. After my life was changed, I promised God to serve Him. When my rehabilitation was over, I went to work at the centre. I got married and six months ago my wife gave birth to the most beautiful little girl in the world. I am so happy. I know now that God can always give you a way out of difficult situations. All you have to do is ask Him.

Jenya

