



Mission Partners International

September 2011



Dear Friend,

Why would a child leave his or her home and parents to live on the street? It is hard for us to imagine but there are parents who so neglect and abuse their children that the kids feel there is no choice. If they do not get out of that abusive home they may starve, be beaten, or made to do things no child should be forced to suffer.

So, to be safe, the child runs away from all he or she has ever known. Far too many children in Ukraine fear life at home more than life on the street. Abandoned buildings and alleyways become their shelter, dirty, ragged clothes their only possessions and dumpsters their source of food. The rule of the street becomes the new law and sniffing glue the only way to escape the gnawing hurt of abandonment.

The children who find a place in a state institution with caring staff, clean rooms and enough food are the fortunate ones. They are given the basics of life and grow up despite the setbacks of their childhood. Some orphans never get over the stigma of their past. Others adjust better. But the hurt of neglect will always remain with them and the future appears very dark with little hope for a happy, successful life.

There is only one solution for children who have been hurt in this way. Jesus is their only hope to heal the hurts of the past and to feel the love they long for. But how will they hear if no one tells them? And who will go? It is not glamorous work. It takes perseverance, patience and commitment that can only come from the Lord.

Mission Partners is thrilled to have Anya Bronnikova teaming up with us to reach orphan children with the Gospel. Anya's commitment is to regularly go into state orphanages and teach children about God, the Bible and how to live a Christian lifestyle. Anya's love and compassion shows through in every visit. Trust is not easily won, especially in the teenagers, but over time Anya has earned their respect.

As you will read in the testimony of Nadia on the back, Anya's labour with the kids is paying off. One by one they are seeing the truth of the Gospel and their cold hearts are melting with the warmth of God's love for them.

Anya depends on our prayers and support to continue her work. She cannot do it alone. She needs monthly support, transportation and supplies. Please consider making as generous a gift as you can this month to help Anya reach more hurting children. Together we can change the future of these orphans from darkness to light.



God Bless You,

Founder and Executive Director

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Changing lives with the

GOSPEL!



Nadia in Ukraine

Nadia ...

My name is Nadezhda, Nadia for short. I am 16 years old. I live and go to school at the orphanage-boarding school for children with mental disabilities. I came here because my parents are alcoholics.

In our family there are seven children. I had a very difficult childhood. When my parents drank they were irresponsible and neglected me and my brothers and sisters. In the village where we lived our neighbors did not like us because our parents were alcoholics and often stole from them. We raised ourselves and looked out for one another. Many times there was nothing to eat in the house but my parents did not seem to care that we were starving. Often we had to beg for food. So the authorities were called in and my parents were deprived of their parental rights. My eldest brother, even though he was still only a teenager, took charge of the rest of us and went to work to feed us younger children.

But my brother could only do so much and there were six little ones he had to care for. He could not earn enough money to feed us all and keep us together. When I was seven years old I was brought to the orphanage. I really wanted the staff and the teachers to love me, so I tried to study well, be active and an exemplary student.

When Anya came to the orphanage she told us that God loves us just as we are. I liked the idea of that. Anya herself was different, not like other adults whom I know. I wanted to be like her. I started to believe in God. I look forward every week to when Anya comes to the orphanage to visit us. She brings us hope.

Anya tells us to ask God about our needs. God can turn all the bad that happened in our life for good. I have an older sister Tanya. I always had a bad relationship with her. As Anya encouraged me, I began to pray for my sister. For two years I prayed for God to change Tanya's heart. And God did a miracle - it has changed. Tanya not only changed her attitude towards me but she now wants to me to come and live with her after I finish school. For these two years God has done more for me than in the rest of my life without Him.



Anya with orphan girl



Anya teaches at an orphanage