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Roma

I always want to know more about the residents at Restoration House and all the more when I have an encounter with any of them such as the one I had with Roma in September.

During our 30 year Celebration of Micaiah Ministries we asked Roma to help us transport luggage to the hotel where our American guests would be spending their final night – the Holiday Inn.

Some of the guests had commented during the trip that they were hungry for a steak dinner and since they were the ones paying the bill I was willing to accommodate them. Soon after check-in we made our way to the dining room which had elegant modern décor.

As I was getting the guests settled in for their fine dining experience I noticed that Olga and Roma were not with us. I was told that they had decided to wait in the lobby for us until we were ready to make our way to the Celebration. Of course I immediately made my way to the lobby to escort them to dinner with us.

After some fervent persuasion Roma was reluctantly sitting at a table with a fine linen tablecloth and napkins, china, long stemmed glasses and silver flatware. As I sat at my table I noticed that Roma was not eating and sat with his head hanging down. When I inquired about what was wrong he said “I don’t belong here...I’m not dressed good enough and I don’t belong in a place like this.”



Of course he was dressed good enough in his new shirt from America and recently purchased new pants and shoes. It was not his appearance but rather how he saw himself inwardly.

He asked, “What if someone tells me to leave Uncle Kent?” As I wrapped my arms around him and told him that he should tell anyone who comments to just come and talk to me, I could not help but wonder what has caused him to have such a low opinion of himself and what can we do to help change it.

I asked Roma to write about himself and this is a portion of that writing:



Happy New Year!
С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ!

I will bless you with a future filled with hope
--a future of success, not of suffering.
Jeremiah 29:11 (CTV)



Valentina, Madina, Olia, Roma

I was born in a village called "Dipkun" Russia. At that time many young people were coming here for what was called - "Big Construction". My mom wasn't an exception and there she met my dad. Then me and my brother were born.

We also had a brother Andrey and a sister Galya from my mom's first marriage. When I was five their relatives took them to Germany so that's why I didn't really see them.

When I went to school we didn't really have a need for anything. Mom was always working because she wanted to give us all the best. Father was unemployed but everything was good anyway. I was a good student at school. The teachers praised me. I was too young to see any problems.

In 1999 father moved to Saint Petersburg where he was working. He liked the city very much. Another reason for moving there was that the village became poor and there was no work or educational opportunities and it was very far away from the central part of Russia. Many factories got bankrupted, people didn't get paid and that's why people were trying to leave that area and go to the closest major cities.

I liked Saint Petersburg. I began

to study there and everything was fine at the beginning. But then father began to drink alcohol and my mom had a difficult time.

We didn't have our own apartment so we had to rent it. But then things got even worse. My dad got missing, my mom was borrowing

money to pay for room and since it was very expensive and my mom couldn't afford it she decided to send us to an Orthodox shelter so that she could make some money.

It turned out that she had to be on the streets herself and she didn't want us to be there. But later authorities deprived her parental rights and we were sent to several different orphanages.

In the orphanages we were doing whatever we wanted and nobody cared. I began to do boxing but at the same time I was drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, doing drugs. When I turned eighteen I started living with my mother again but we had hard time, we were always in need. I decided to go to a rehab center which a friend of mine told me about. My mom also went with me. We didn't have any other option at that time and so we decided to go there.



Roma at Youth Camp

I was living on a social flat and I was working but then I disappointed the workers of that social flat and I was out of that place and going to be on the street. At that moment I got a phone call from Olia (worker from Restoration House) who offered me to come to their summer camp

After camp I asked if I could stay at restoration house. I was accepted right away. I saw a different side of life there - life with God in joy without alcohol. I saw brother's love, father's love, real love not the one that this world offers.

Roma is a fine young man with so much potential. He is like so many who simply need someone to love, nurture and encourage him. You make it possible.

Roma is now attending school and doing very well. We spoke recently via SKYPE and talked about God's plans for his life and how he might best pursue his destiny. He looked right into the camera and said with his best English, "If father help me, I will."

Together, we ARE making a difference... Together, we ARE reaching the world for Jesus!

At the rehab center I met Jesus, I refused from my old life but in half a year I left the rehab and started my old life.



Roma Speaking at 30th Celebration

ITINERARY

January 1-12 Nikolskoye, Russia

January 15
Life in Christ Fellowship
Eagar, AZ
Pastor Luke Gallagher
928.333.5284

January 22
Living Faith Christian Center
Snowflake, AZ
Pastor Larry Pryzbylski
928.536.2722

January 26
Pentecostal Church of God
Holbrook, AZ
Pastor Jerry Keams
928.386.5479

January 29
Canyon Day Assembly of God
Canyon Day, AZ
Pastor Marvin Begay
928.338.4577

February 1 & 5
Faith Bible Chapel
Page, AZ
Pastor Manny Parks
928.645.3012

February 8
Richfield Assembly of God
Richfield, UT
Pastor Willard Coleman
435.896.6464

To Schedule Meetings in your area call: 918.645.6519
E-mail: Micaiahmin@aol.com

www.micaiah.org

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R e s t o u r s e n t i o n



Staff at Restoration House take supplies to kids on the street twice a week. Together, we ARE making a difference!

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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