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Micaiah Ministries
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Micaiah Ministries



I Didn't Really Have a Normal Childhood...

The Story of Vanya by Melissa Sylvis

Vanya is quiet, thoughtful and extremely intelligent. He is a gifted chess player and our [self-proclaimed] "Chess Champion". Really no one can beat him so it is true! I never get tired of playing chess with him though because it is in those quiet times that Vanya is willing to open up a little about his past.

that man and I would get so angry. I often used to tell myself that one day I would make him pay for the way that he had treated me. Nobody liked me there and there was nothing special about my life.

I don't like to think about my past, but I will tell you some. I didn't really have a normal childhood. I was born in a little community into a big, but very poor family. I can hardly remember my parents.

In the orphanage I met a girl and we became friends. We planned on having our family together in the future. When we both turned eighteen we were sent to Gatchina to attend vocational training. We both received scholarships and a place to live in the dormitory there.

Because we were so poor, my parents gave me away and I was put into an orphanage. The man in charge of the Orphanage was very hard on me and that was when I began to stutter. I hated

My girlfriend was a very



good student but I was always skipping classes and hanging out with all my friends who got into trouble. They got me to try drugs for the first time and also alcohol. I cannot explain it but I was more and more drawn

into the life that they lived. I started to look at my girlfriend differently and I didn't have the same feelings for her that I had before.

Because I skipped school so much I was asked to leave. That is how I ended up living on the streets. I continued the bad habits that I had learned from my friends. I moved to the city where I met other street kids. We were



They have gutted the old dining room and we are now in Russia building the new dining room and kitchen – See up-to-date pictures at

www.micaiah.org

Thank you
for making it happen!

all living in an attic together. We used drugs, sniffed, stole and committed other crimes.

The police often caught me but somehow I never ended up going to prison. Because of my past and the life that I was living, I just stopped trusting people at all. I didn't believe that anything good could happen to me. I didn't believe that there would ever be a miracle that could change my life. Every time I took drugs I prayed that I would never wake up. I didn't want to live.

My life continued on this way until one day I committed a crime and I was given the choice to either go to prison or to a Rehabilitation center. I decided to go to the Rehab but I didn't stay there for long and so I ended up on the streets again.

The police caught me and wanted to put me back into prison. They told me that there was nothing in this world that could possibly help me. But then someone mentioned Restoration House. I remembered the other kids on the streets had told me about them. The police had a phone number on a card and so they called Zhenya [one of the staff at Restoration House]

and he came to the police station. Zhenya told the police that Restoration House was ready to help me and so the police allowed me to go there to live.

Here at the House there is a very good, warm atmosphere and good workers, especially Olga.

Olga has become like a mother to me. We study the Bible together. Because of my stuttering I don't like to participate in reading out loud in the group Bible studies. So late in the evening I will go to Olga's room and she will read with me. Whenever I start to have problems reading she takes over and reads for a while. We will read back and forth and it has really helped me with my stuttering. I am so grateful that she takes so much time with me.

Sergey teaches me how to use different tools and we worked together to fix the gas room. Zhenya takes me to play soccer and he helped me to find a job.



Sasha also helps me to make plans for my future. I look forward to having my only family someday soon.

All those angry thoughts are gone and now I pray that the man who raised me in the Orphanage gets free from his own pain.

Sometimes I still have trouble expressing myself and I get a little frustrated when I cannot make my



words say what I am feeling or thinking. One night Todd sat talking with me and we talked for a long time. I really enjoyed it because not many people take the time to listen while I try to get my thoughts and my words to match. Missy encourages me to not get frustrated but to take my time because what I have to say is worth waiting to hear.

January was my very first Christmas ever and that is my favorite memory so far.

During his time at Restoration House, Vanya has gotten a steady job and works hard. He loves football [soccer] and is a huge Russian Zenit team fan. He even got his autograph and picture taken with him. He is SO excited to show it to anyone he can.

Vanya has a bright future and he looks forward to having his own home and raising his own children with the love and protection that he says he never knew until he came to live with us.

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

ITINERARY

June 11 – July 12
Nikolskoye, Russia
Be Sure to follow us at www.facebook.com/micaiahministries
No sign up required!

July 15
Smithtown Community Church
Falls Creek, PA
Pastor Harold Hills
814.771.2713

July 18-19
Bigler Full Gospel Church
Woodland, PA
Pastor Daryl Ware
814.857.5433

July 22
Brockway Church of God
Brockway, PA
Pastor David Nagle
814.265.9198

July 25
Susquehanna Revival Center
Bloomsburg, PA
Pastor Tim Zimmerman
570.784.6050

July 29
Our Fathers House
Old Forge, PA
Pastor Larry Magor
570.346.1961

August 5
River of Life Fellowship
Watertown, NY
Pastor Jesse Linstruth
315.786.1955

August 12 AM service
South Bay Chapel
Canastota, NY
Pastor Tony Paredes
805.264.7304

August 12 AM and PM services
Living Waters Fellowship
Watertown, NY
Pastor John Petit
315.782.7607

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

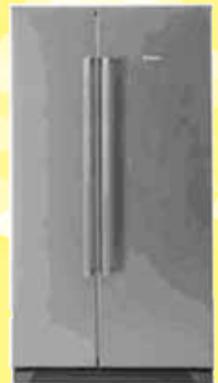
\$3000 STOVE/OVEN



\$475 EACH



\$150 SINK



\$1800



3 TABLES



\$40 EACH

4 CHAIRS



\$100 EACH

6 BENCHES



REFRIGERATOR

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