



International Bible Society

## *My First Bible to Kyrgyz Children*

[By Pavel Novak, Director of Communications for IBS Europe]



International Bible Society – Europe

Kratka 8, 100 00 Praha 10 Czech Republic

Tel: +420 274 780 118

Fax: +420 274 780 096

[PNovak@eur.ibs.org](mailto:PNovak@eur.ibs.org)

### *I lift up my eyes to the hills ....*



There are three children living in the village at the foot of the Kyrgyz Mountains. Girls: Nurgul, Mahabat and small boy Askar [for safety reasons the names have been changed]. The village is very small so everyone knows each other. Since privacy is very limited, soon all of the villagers heard that Mr. and Mrs. N, parents of the three children, had received Jesus as their Savior. While on a visit to the father's sister in Bishkek, the parents heard the good news of Jesus and started to follow Him.

Returning to the village, the parents experienced rejection by their neighbors. The Muslim cleric tried to stir up hatred against the new believers and even demanded that all contact with them cease. "Mr. and Mrs. N- those Baptists!" neighbors pejoratively labeled them, thinking that maybe they would even sacrifice people to God! Yet everybody watched their lives, their deeds, and behavior. They observed that the family reflected the character of Jesus in all they did, and so the villagers began to become interested in this "strange religion".

Alcoholism has troubled many in the village. Children suffer because their father drinks, and in some families both parents become alcoholics. All of the money earned from the harvest is spent purchasing vodka during the following two or three months. Then the parents quarrel all the time due to lack of money. Winter extends over several months with heavy frosts and much snow, so survival is difficult.

The villagers witnessed that all changed in the "Baptist" household. They saw the family helping each other without quarrels, and spending their money wisely on food rather than alcohol or tobacco. When neighbors ignored the cleric's order and visited the house, they could sense a new atmosphere because the peace of Jesus prevails there. The three children help their parents to keep the home tidy. The father plays a guitar while the entire family sings to the Lord in praise and worship.



The daughters first met Jesus through reading My First Bible given by International Bible Society. Their faith grows stronger and deeper as they walk with Jesus each day. They would like to learn English and later study at a university in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek. Reading My First Bible, printed in three languages: Kyrgyz, Russian, and English, enables them to take the first steps in making the dream come true. The girls are encouraged both spiritually and academically by My First Bible.

*There are three children together with their parents living in the village located on a foothill of the Kyrgyz Mountains. Now that the Lord Jesus has become their Savior and Lord, they can declare with the Psalmist:*

