



International Bible Society

The Word of God to Youth

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The Morning That Changed My Life Forever

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts ...”

[Hebrews 3:7 NIV]



That morning was the same as ever: grab a bite to eat, pack all needed supplies into a bag and hurry to Kislovodsk railway station crowded with commuters. Daily Mikhail traveled to school by train. It was Friday, the last work day of the week. The train was slowly leaving the station and nobody expected that this day would be the last day of life for forty-two people. It was 7:30 when the morning train, traveling to Mineralnye Vody northwest of the Chechen border, experienced an explosion which claimed lives and injured passengers. Most of the victims were students traveling to colleges in the nearby town of Pyatigorsk. The blast derailed the train and unspeakable chaos ensued. Wounded people

moaned from pain and billowing smoke made the whole situation even more frightening. “I’ve survived,” realized Mikhail, as rescue workers came.

Mikhail was born and grew up in Dagestan. His family life left a lot to be desired. Mikhail’s mother tried to improve the whole situation by reading her Bible, but Mikhail did not care too much about what his mother read. They moved to Northern Caucasus, Russia when he was fourteen. Mikhail’s mother started to attend church services in a local evangelical church, but Mikhail was not interested in church. Once he was given a piece of Scripture distributed by International Bible Society. The book intrigued Mikhail, and he realized it was the truth. After having read the Scripture he thought about serious issues: “What is the meaning of my life?” and “do I really need to receive Jesus?” But time went on and friends, hobbies and other interests took Mikhail’s attention away from dealing deeply with such serious questions.

The same train route had been hit by an explosion three months earlier, killing six people and wounding dozens of others. Mikhail was on the train that day, but he wasn’t as close to the detonation and therefore was uninjured. Now, three months later, Mikhail smelled the explosive and was surrounded by smoke. “I am so close to the blast but not injured! This can’t be by chance,” flashed through Mikhail’s mind in those first moments.



“I am not going to wait for a third attack,” said Mikhail after it was all over. “God has saved my life for second time. Jesus loves me, I have read it in the Scripture given to me by IBS, and I need to give my life to Jesus.” Very soon after the event he confessed Jesus to be his Savior. He continues to give thanks to God for preserving his life.

Mikhail as a new believer states, “From the time I’ve confessed Jesus to be my Savior I ask Him for protection every day. I am joining the Psalmist in his prayer: ‘I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from depths of the grave’ [Psalm 86:12-13 NIV]”

Every day is unique and considered to be God’s gift to Mikhail now. “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” [Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV]



Thanks to those of you who have contributed financially so that people such as Mikhail in Northern Caucasus, Russia may receive God’s Word from International Bible Society.

International Bible Society is focused on reaching the next generation for Christ, with special emphasis on youth and their families.