



International Bible Society

Ministry in Russian Orphanages

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



International Bible Society – Europe

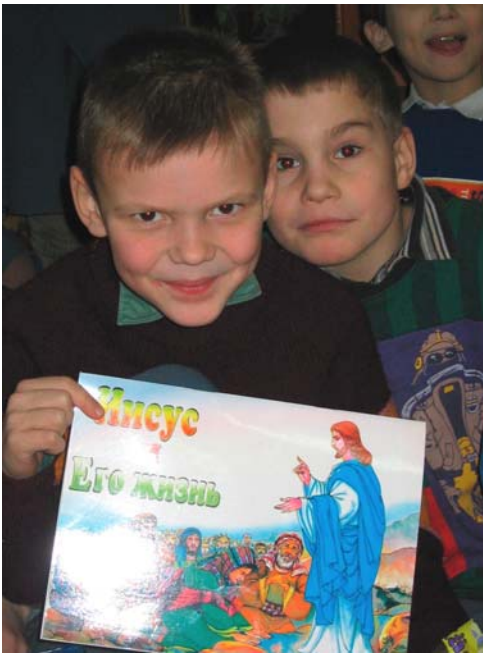
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Separated Siblings connected through the ministry of International Bible Society



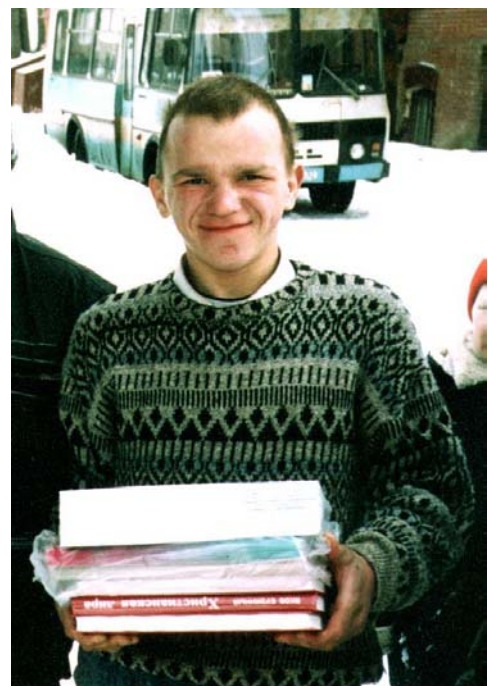
“Our Father which art in heaven” ... many children pray the Lord’s Prayer almost every night before going to the bed, while their parents hold their hands. After the “amen” is spoken, they give a kiss to the dear children and tuck them into bed. Leaving the room, a parent often says, “God bless you and have pleasant dreams.”

“Our Father which art in heaven” ... other children are also praying every night before going to the bed, but sadly, they probably do not know the Lord’s Prayer, and they do not have parents to hold their hands, to give a kiss after “amen” is said because they are orphans. And do they have pleasant dreams as they sleep? Although these are abandoned children, the orphans are not all alone because they have a heavenly Father. “A father to the fatherless, defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.” [Psalm 68:5 NIV]. They need God and His Word to give them grace, comfort, hope and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Anyone who works among orphans hears almost incredible and very sad stories. Actually the life of orphans is challenging, but sometimes they can experience that they matter to someone. The Russian IBS outreach team is trying to bring hope to orphans by giving them copies of Jesus and His life as well as other literature.

Recently we traveled to a small town located in the Nizhegorodskaja region of Russia, and visited the orphanage school. We met the director of the school at the front door. She was very surprised to meet us, and at first did not want to grant permission to distribute the books. Suspiciously, carefully, the director reviewed the books. Soon she decided that these books were good gifts for the orphans, and allowed us to come in.

The children were very cheerful and snatched up the books with enthusiasm. Attentively they listened to a Bible story. We also arranged a meeting with the teachers and workers. All of them appreciated receiving the gift of a parallel New Testament [easy to read IBS translation/synodal translation].



We sat at a table with the educators and children together, drinking tea and talking about our ministry. They expressed that they appreciate IBS Russia's gift of giving the Bible in a readable, understandable form.

The next place we intended to visit that day was Poshatovo. We asked for advice about how to reach that facility by car. Suddenly one boy jumped up and said, "My sister lives there!" The lonely brother, Kolia Starikov, begged us to take him there to visit his sister, but the teachers would not let him go. He began to cry, asking us to at least deliver a letter to his sister Yulia, whom he had not seen for a long time.

The drive to Poshatovo took about three hours. The orphanage itself was surrounded by a very beautiful forest. Poshatovo is a well-known and large orphanage with workshops, a greenhouse and farm. As the orphans learn life-time skills while working, they also develop self-respect and dignity.



The director welcomed us when we arrived and happily accepted the books we brought to distribute. We asked him about Yulia Starikova and he sent for her immediately. We passed on the letter sent by her brother Kolia. She dissolved into tears as she read the letter. We explained to Yulia how we found her and how much her brother missed her. Yulia asked us for a Bible, and promised that whenever she is reading it, she will remember to us with thankfulness.

Because of our ministry of giving God's Word to orphans, we were also able to tie two sibling hearts together. Please pray that Kolia, Yulia as well as all of the orphans, teachers and workers who received God's Word that day in Russia will continue to read and learn about Jesus. May many come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. May the orphans know and experience God, their heavenly Father's personal love for them.