



My friend Isa

Little Kyrgyz boy becomes a man after God's own heart

They became friends when Musa [the name is changed] was only seven, and from that time on they were inseparable. None of his relatives could believe that the friendship of a young boy could be so strong and close. They thought that he would tire of the new friendship, but in the course of time they could see, with displeasure, that the friendship became even stronger. They were still together. Musa would not let anyone discourage him or stop his friendship with his new friend.



“You disgrace the family because of your new friend,” the older brother yelled at the boy. “We have our own good historical traditions which do not need any changes!” The brother was visibly upset and losing his self-control, “Are you going to keep your friendship?” he asked threateningly. “Yes, Isa [Jesus] is my best friend and I am not going to abandon him,” Musa

replied, fearing that he would get a sound beating. “If you insist on being a Christian, you are never to darken the door of my house,” said the older brother curtly and then he threw Musa out of his house. Gradually, other family members learned of the child’s interest in Jesus Christ and also banished him from their midst.

One can hardly conceive of the troubles that Musa faced. For years the child endured the scorn and rejection of his family, by holding on to his new friend, Isa, for strength. [“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1, NIV] Never did Musa respond to the scorn, the outbursts, or the ridicule with anger or malice. Young seven-year-old Musa had been asked to count the cost of his faith and he did well.

Over the years, the boy grew in his knowledge of God and in his love of Christ. In the streets he would correct children when he heard them cursing. He would aid the elderly. He would boldly share the gospel with his friends. Musa faithfully invited non-believing friends to accompany him to Sunday school. This boy



became known throughout the village for his kindness and his love. Musa was recognized as a leader whom everyone liked.

All the while, Musa's relatives watched the boy, observing his behavior. Now, many years later, Musa is not only permitted, but even encouraged to play with his cousins. The aunts and uncles have seen his loving behavior and feel that Musa is a positive influence on the children. The older brother, who once banished the young child from his presence, visits with Musa to ask questions about "this Jesus of his."

Musa is twelve years old now. He is a strong, sturdy young man, whose face reflects the joy of the Lord. Like David, Musa has had to face a giant: opposition to his faith. So it is no wonder that he is a boy who has chosen the story of David and Goliath as his favorite narrative after having read the **My First Bible** given to him by International Bible Society. It was no accident that Musa was attracted to the life of David. Like David, Musa has become a mighty man of God at a very young age. Musa, a twelve-year-old Kyrgyz boy, is a young man after God's own heart. [1 Samuel 13:14, NIV]

"If a church has youth, the church has a future. If we want a good future for Kyrgyzstan, we must preach to and reach the children," said pastor of one small, rural church. The pastor is absolutely right.



After all, this is the vision statement of International Bible Society:
Changing the hearts of today's generation to change tomorrow's world
By providing the Word of God to Kyrgyz children, we are striving to fulfill this vision.
The work has just begun, and much more work remains.
Therefore, please join us in prayer for Musa, the other children, as well as
all of Kyrgyzstan to become a "nation after God's own heart..."