



## From the US Director

*Nasko Lazarov*

Only an hour ago I was holding our 11-month-old baby girl Anika. Before putting her back in Mommy's embrace, I could feel my child's calm, and warm feelings of thanks overtook me as I realized how blessed the Lord has made me in my fatherhood.

My heart sank, though, knowing that only a few minutes later I would head to my computer where the story of the 27-year-old mother of Stepan, Tatyana, is waiting for me.

It caused me to try to imagine the horrors of drug addiction, the life on the streets, and the baby boy whose mother was dependent on drugs, even in his infancy.

My heart kept pounding in my chest because I knew the end of the story, too. It's a story of new life - literally and spiritually, reminding us of the hope that only Christ can bring! And maybe one day, when I meet Tatyana in person, both she and I will be able to share the amazing grace of the Lord in allowing us to raise His children!

## Asbest Shelter Home: Drug-using Mothers Find New Live in Christ

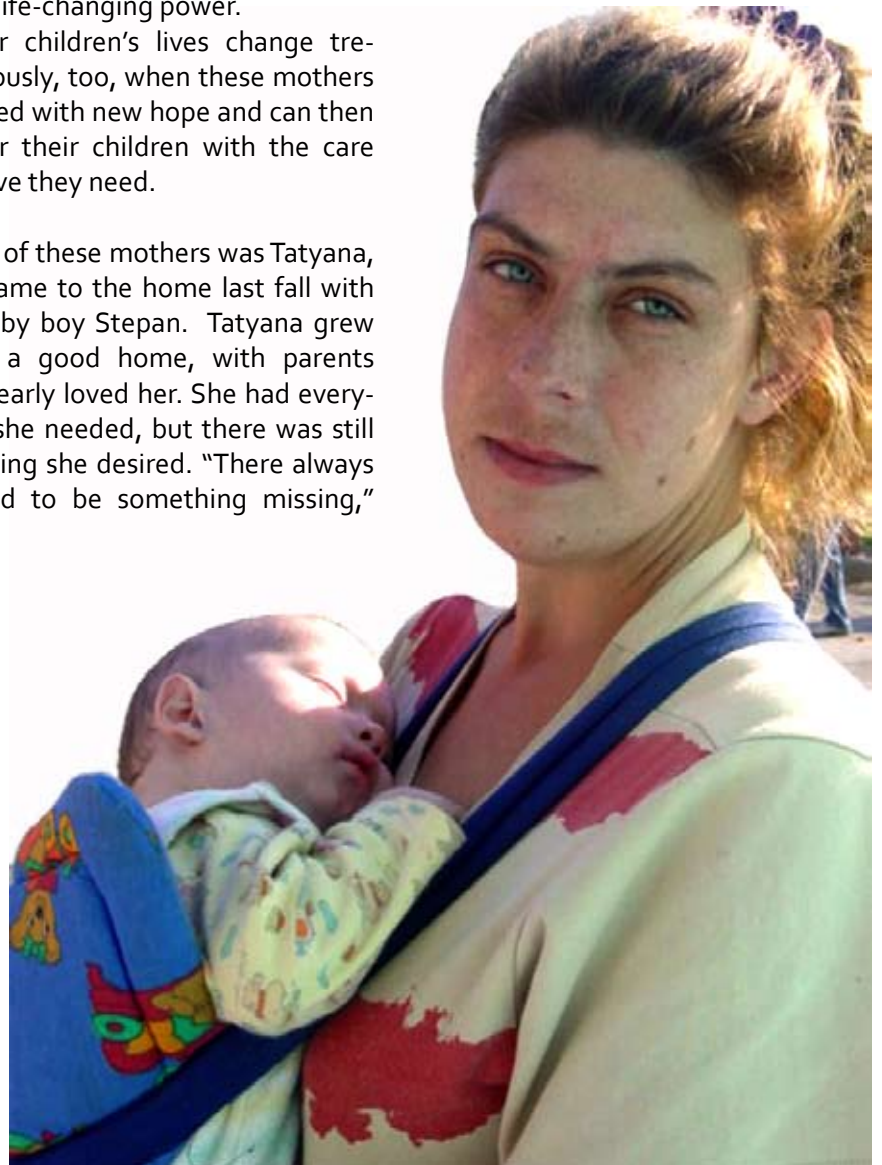
The rehabilitation home in Asbest is one of Mission Possible's four shelters in Russia. Here, mothers dependent on drugs are treated and housed, along with their children. Last year, 13 mothers were rehabilitated in this home. They were led to Christ and delivered from their addictions through God's life-changing power.

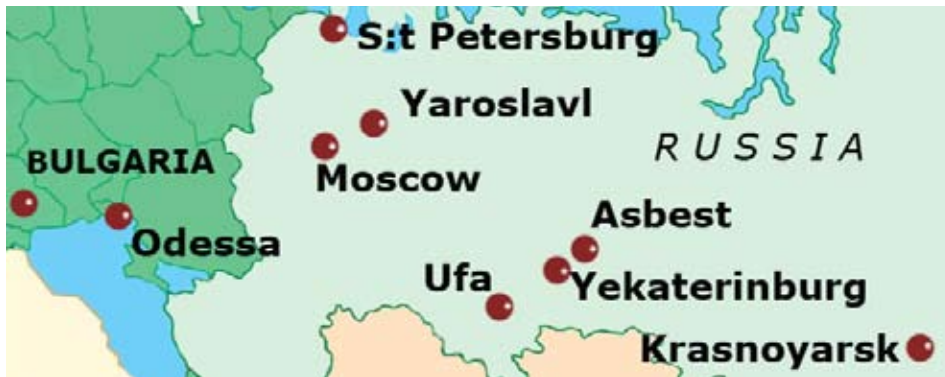
Their children's lives change tremendously, too, when these mothers are filled with new hope and can then shower their children with the care and love they need.

One of these mothers was Tatyana, who came to the home last fall with her baby boy Stepan. Tatyana grew up in a good home, with parents who dearly loved her. She had everything she needed, but there was still one thing she desired. "There always seemed to be something missing,"

says Tatyana. "A passion for adventure had tormented me since my childhood."

Friends suggested she try drugs. Before she knew it, Tatyana was falling deeper and deeper into the downward-spiral of addiction. Doing drugs





Mission Possible works in several cities in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Albania (outside of the borders of this map). Hundreds receive daily spiritual and physical help.

severed her relationship with her family, and although she felt pride in doing 'her own thing,' she never imagined the destruction her addiction could bring.

Tatyana's mother tried to intervene, but it was to no avail. Life on the streets was the consequence. Drug use led to stealing, and stealing brought Tatyana face to face with the law. She was prosecuted and sentenced to one year in prison. "In prison, I was shocked at the loneliness I felt. I understood that nobody needed me...there were no letters, no packages. I quit doing drugs while I was in prison because I couldn't get them...."

After Tatyana was released from prison, she felt a second chance had been given to her, and with that second chance, she wanted to start a family. She was able to restore her relationship with her mother, get a job, and rent her own place. It seemed as if things were stable.

Unfortunately, everything went south when Tatyana met Ivan. She soon realized that Ivan was on drugs. Before she knew it, she was dependent on drugs and stealing again.

When Tatyana found out she was pregnant, she briefly considered enrolling in a rehabilitation center. But another night of drugs erased the thought of getting help altogether. Their baby boy Stepan was born, yet even after his birth his parents continued using drugs.

One evening Tatyana was suddenly filled with feelings she had never had before. "I am the most important person in my child's life," she thought. "But what could I give him? For the first time in years I felt scared...will my son remember me as a perpetually drunk drug addict?"

The very next day Tatyana packed her things and came to the Mission Possible center in Asbest. Both mother and child were in bad condition: sick, thin, pale. At the center, a new life began for them, and they are on the road to full recovery.

To Tatyana's incredible joy, Ivan is also undergoing rehabilitation in another center. More importantly, they both attend church services, Bible studies, and prayer groups! A new Christian family is born!



Many lives have changed in the Asbest center.



Tatyana helps in taking care of children in the center.



When you join our efforts through prayer and financial support, we are able to be what God has called us to be - active agents of transformation. One life at a time, one family at a time!

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