



Little Boy Rescued from a Basement

“I will stay here forever”

Oleg Kalyakin
Odessa ministry leader



One of Mission Possible’s seven shelter homes is located in Odessa, Ukraine, on the Black Sea. It can house eight children. During its first two years in operation, the home has helped many children off the street and has placed them with local Christian foster families.

Five-year-old Sasha is the newest resident. This is Sasha’s story told by Oleg Kalyakin, Mission Possible’s Odessa ministry leader.

An old second-hand jacket, a dirty hat, a messy face, and startled eyes – that is what we saw when five-year-old Sasha came to our shelter home. He was holding his mother’s hand as they looked around the home, and we heard him whisper, “Mummy, may I stay here? May I?”

A few years ago his family, which

included his mother, a sister, and the mother’s boyfriend, came to Odessa from another city to earn money for Sasha’s surgery, as they told us. The little boy had a heart condition that required immediate attention.

The street sweeping that the adults did was not enough to provide for the family. The family’s living ac-



Sasha had become an independent survivor who found food and shelter in harsh winter.

Now in our shelter home he can be just a little child.

Saving just one child like Sasha would be a sufficient reason for this ministry - and there are many of them.



commodations were not suitable for dogs, let alone people. It was a windowless basement with its "sewage system" right in the middle of the room, the walls covered with mold, and the only furniture consisted of two decrepit beds. The smell of alcohol was potent. That was what Sasha knew as home.

From early in the morning until late into the evening the boy was left alone. The local vendors had soft hearts for little Sasha and always tried to spare some sort of morsel for him. Sasha's eyes lit up as he remembered the times someone would give him a sweet roll or an apple. He says the best treat he ever had was a fish that his mom found in a garbage can and then fried.

Soon after our street team found Sasha he came to live at our shelter.

"Oh, wow!" he often exclaimed as he reveled in his bed's clean sheets, "I will stay here forever!"

He doesn't want to remember his former home and relatives. He even refuses to talk to his mom on the phone, shutting his ears and screaming, "I don't want to talk to her." Of course, this kind of reaction must have some grounds.

After we had taken Sasha to the hospital to check his heart we found that he doesn't have any major need anymore. There is only a small scar left from his surgery and the doctors declared him healthy!

Even though Sasha is still very young his behavior and conversations remind us that he has had many difficult life experiences already.

Sasha endured so much in his five years. His experiences forced him to become independent and a strong survivor. But today the Lord has given Sasha the opportunity to get his carefree childhood back where he can play happily with the other children, always have enough to eat, and be warm and protected during the harsh winters. Today he is a happy boy that can sleep sweetly in a clean warm bed cradling his own teddy bear in his little arms.



Oleg Kalyakin and Sasha at the door of the basement.



PRAY SUPPORT PRAY SUPPORT PRAY SUPPORT

- Please pray that our workers would continue to find needy children like Sasha and serve as hands for the Lord to help them.
- Pray for protection and spiritual and physical stamina for our 75 local workers in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Albania.
- Pray for God's miracles in the lives of children and families.

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