



Ignat Ivanov
President

“Why do you offer help and resources to sinners?”

Most people who recognize our work commend us for what we do. One lady, however, had a different opinion and scolded us: “All these youths on the street sin by breaking the sixth commandment, yet you pour help, gifts, and resources on them!”

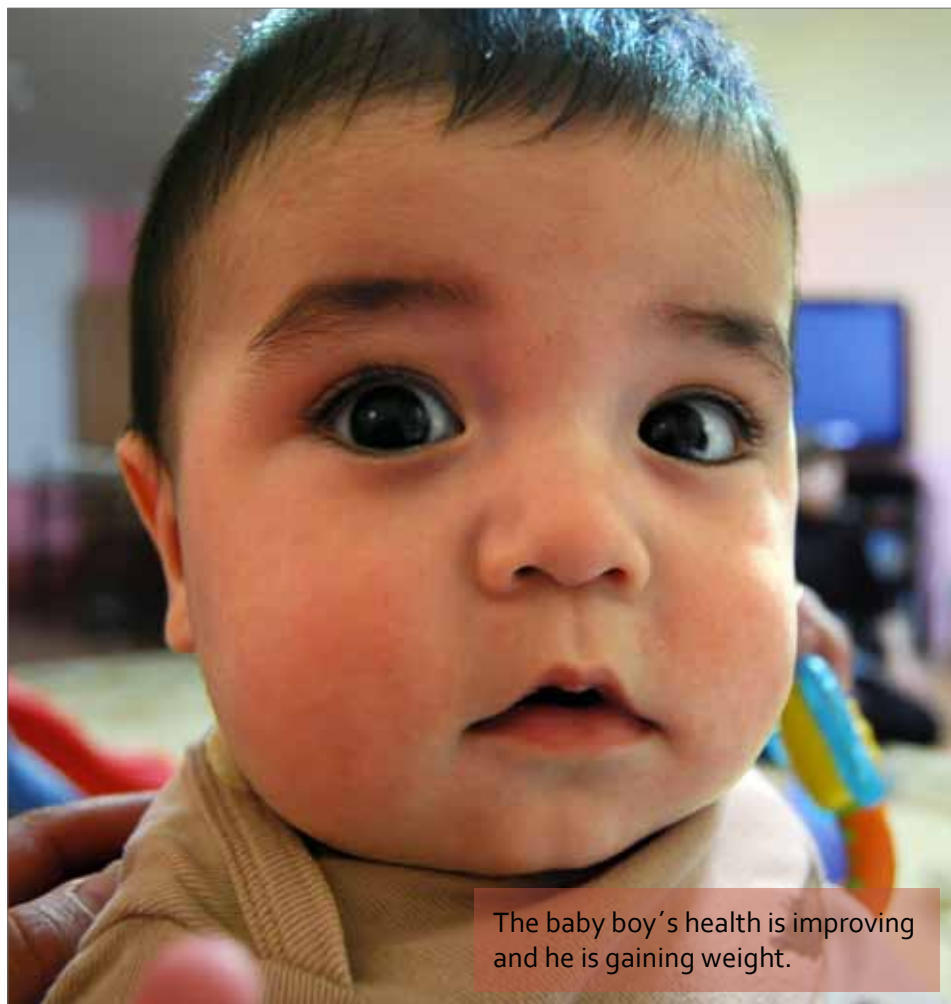
First I had to refresh my memory of the sixth commandment, which says, “Do not commit adultery.” Yes, most of the street girls prostitute themselves. All are thieves. There are also murderers amongst them. One drug-using mother threw her baby from a bridge into the river.

Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick have need. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” All children, youth, and families within the reach of our ministry hear this Gospel. Abused, oppressed, and victimized by indescribable acts, they hear that there is One who loves them and will forgive their sins, heal them from their hurtful pasts, and offer new life. They cling to these promises of hope.

Divine Appointment on the Street: Homeless Slave Girl with a Newborn Rescued

Uzbek-born Nina, now 19 years old, had been working as a slave in a coffee shop for nine years since her alcoholic mother left her with relatives and disappeared. The poor girl cleaned and did kitchen work from morning to evening without pay and without days off. She slept in a storage closet and never went to school.

When Nina was 18 years old she met a man who said he wanted to marry her and persuaded her to leave the coffee shop. It was like a door to freedom! But the outcome was quite different than she hoped. Nina became pregnant and the man left her on the street, completely empty-handed. She then found out that he



The baby boy's health is improving and he is gaining weight.

already had a wife and three children.

The desperate girl tried to find her mother, but there was no trace of her. She was able to find out where her father was in Russia and traveled to his city. But when the father saw his daughter's belly he became furious and yelled, "In my home there is no place for one like you!" Nina was left all by herself again. She managed somehow to survive until her undernourished baby boy was born. But for a young homeless mother who had no money and had never possessed any ID documents survival looked bleak.

On a cold October night some ladies were passing through a park on their way home from a church service. They saw the young mother sitting on a bench holding her tiny baby and weeping out loud. They brought her and the child to our shelter home. Fearful, Nina continued to cry unceasingly.

Badly undernourished, the sick 6-week-old was ordered to prolonged hospital care. Our team is now working on getting ID documents for Nina and her baby. The case is extremely complicated because officially they do not even exist.

Nina now lives in the shelter home and helps with housework. "When I worked in the coffee shop, nobody ever thanked me, everybody just yelled at me. You hardly know me but have been so good to me and my child, providing us with a home, food, and everything!"

Soon after coming to our home, Nina accepted Christ and now eagerly attends church. We found an Uzbek Bible which is easier for her to understand than the Russian ones.

Recently, two new children were brought to our shelter home, and to our surprise Nina said, "Let them stay in my room. I want to take care of them. They look like my own child." Indeed, the 3 and 7 year-old sisters do resemble Nina's son. We never expected her to be able to give back so soon.

Through this divinely orchestrated appointment, Nina's hopeless situation changed in a moment. Praise God!



PRAY SUPPORT PRAY SUPPORT PRAY SUPPORT

- Please pray for more divine appointments like this so that we can help desperate people and lead them to the Lord.
- Please pray for a fruitful summer season in our ministry as many children's camps are held and the work on the streets and in the shelter homes actively continues.
- Please pray for a good growing season on our Yaroslavl farm and for a great spiritual harvest as well.
- Please pray for the teaching seminars and visiting mission teams.

Mission Possible Foundation, 404 E. Gregory St., Ste.#8,
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
1.800.729.2425 - toll free; mpusa@mp.org
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