

Does a pair of boots really make a difference?

This is a story of a family living in the Ukraine, a family consisting of a single mother and her three children. Natasha, the mother, was dying of cancer and the family was extremely poor, relying totally on help from people in the area. On December 25th, early in the morning, the mother passed away, leaving the children alone to be placed into separate orphanages.

As soon as the government found out that their mother died, the children were going to be institutionalized. Nadya, the Christian social worker who had been caring for the family, went to the officials and fought so that the children could temporarily live with their aunt until funding was available to provide them with an apartment.

The children had barely enough food and clothing to survive. One of the children, Victoria, really wanted a pair of regular shoes and winter boots, because the winter season was fast approaching. Another, Victor, was in need of a winter jacket. The social worker told them that they should pray and ask God to send them these gifts, so the children began to pray every day for a jacket and shoes. The social worker was quite concerned that she had suggested they should pray, because they were praying with so much confidence that it wasn't a matter of 'if' but of 'when'.



Nadya, the Children, Mother and Aunt

I had an opportunity to collect clothing from people around the lower mainland to ship overseas to poorer areas of the Ukraine. I was able to collect 10 parcels worth of quality clothing. The parcels had been shipped months before the passing of the children's mother. When it finally arrived in the eastern part of the Ukraine, there happened to be one pair of winter boots and one pair of regular shoes.



The arrival of the Parcels

Upon opening one of the boxes, the social worker saw two pairs of shoes. She could not believe it! The very next day she took the shoes to see if they would fit the girl, and when the girl tried the shoes, they fit perfectly.

An American man heard the story of these three children and sent \$200 to take the children shopping for clothing that they needed. The boy was able to buy the winter jacket that he had been praying for.

The children's aunt had been listening to their prayers about these pieces of clothing. She was cynical of the children going to Sunday school and praying. When she saw these gifts that the children had been praying for, she was surprised that people here in Canada would consider sending things to them. It scared the Aunt that the girl received the winter boots she was praying for and that \$200 was donated for these kids. God's provision through these people caused her to start attending church to find out about Jesus. She knew that there was a God who was looking out for these children. She overcame her addiction to alcohol and recently became a born again Christian.

- Mary Martz

My life was impacted by the single mother and her three children living in the Ukraine (in the story above). I was the person who sent the boots and shoes! It touched me deeply to realize that God had used the things I gave as a direct answer to someone else's prayers. As a result, I joined a team that went to the Ukraine to distribute food and clothing to widows and orphans who were in need. I was so blessed and excited to be able to visit Victoria and her family.

- Ruthanne Wartman



Ruthanne and the Family