



## GOD'S WEAK VESSEL



January 12 | Told to *Mission* by Olga Gagloeva

**L**ife was difficult for Olga and her mother, a single parent. When Olga was 5, they moved to an area near the Black Sea, where Olga's grandmother lived.

Mother sought peace of mind in church, but again and again she was disappointed to discover that the church she was attending did not follow the Ten Commandments, which she had memorized as a child. She visited many churches, only to find that they did not teach according to the Bible.

When Olga was 9 years old, Mother found the Seventh-day Adventist church, and she soon realized that these people taught and followed the entire Bible, not just part of it. Mother joined the church, and Olga went with her.

### Teenage Rebel

But Olga did not like the church. The little congregation had only three children near Olga's age. And sometimes the children reminded Olga that she did not have a father.

Olga turned to her aunt Galena for friendship. Galena was a little older than Olga and had no time for God. The more

Olga spent time with Galena, the less she wanted to go to church with her mother.

Galena and Olga often went to discos that catered to teens. There Olga met friends who did not care that she did not have a father. In time she lost all interest in religion.

Olga's mother begged her to stay home on Friday evenings, but Olga wanted to go dancing. To avoid facing her mother, she would take her dancing clothes to school so she would not have to return home before she and Galena went out that evening.

### The Accident

One Friday morning Olga packed her dancing clothes and hurried out the door to school. She was thinking about that evening's activities as she crossed the road. Suddenly a car careened around the corner, striking Olga and throwing her into the windshield.

Olga lay on the street unconscious. Blood covered her face. The driver of a van saw the accident and stopped. Olga regained consciousness as someone lifted her into a vehicle that took her to the

hospital. She heard bits of conversation as she floated in and out of consciousness. “Lucky to be alive,” a nurse said as she wiped blood from Olga’s face.

Olga’s doctor told her that her cuts and bruises would heal quickly, but that she had a serious concussion and would have to remain in the hospital for several days. She had to lie still in bed and could not read or move about.

Hours seemed like days, and days like weeks as Olga grew increasingly bored and lonely. When she was allowed visitors, several members of her mother’s church visited her. It was so good to talk to people again! One church member gave her a book to read. Although Olga could not read it then, she kept it to read when the doctor said it was safe to read once more.

But when her visitors left, Olga was again bored and lonely. In her quiet room she did something she had never really done before—she prayed. As she prayed, she realized that God had saved her life. While grateful for this, Olga still had no interest in attending church.

At last Olga was released from the hospital and allowed to return home.

Her mother begged her to go to church and thank God for saving her life. “I’ll go sometime,” Olga promised. But when she was well enough to go out, she went dancing instead. For three months she avoided going to the church.

Then one Friday evening her mother invited her to attend a young people’s meeting being held in the pastor’s home. Olga decided to go, and to her surprise, she enjoyed it. The next day Olga went to church with her mother. She discovered that the church had grown, and now many youth attended the church. Best of all, they welcomed Olga and loved her.

---

Olga lay on the street unconscious. Blood covered her face. The driver of a van saw the accident and stopped.

---

Olga began reading her Bible again and became involved in her youth Sabbath School class and with Pathfinders. Eventually she committed her life to Christ and decided to be baptized.

In time she began teaching the youth class, even though she was younger than some of the students. Olga discovered a deep happiness she had never known before. Her joy grew when her aunt Galena began attending the church and gave her life to Christ. Then Olga’s grandmother, who had always disliked the Adventist church and had called her mother crazy for attending, began attending church. She too was baptized.

“Even though I refused to follow God,” Olga says, “He saved me from death and led me to Him. I am so happy to share my faith with other teenagers like me, to help them come to God too.” 🌐

## FAST FACTS

- Krasnodar, Olga’s home, lies near the Black Sea in southwestern Russia, a major tourist area where thousands of Russians and Europeans spend summer holidays.
- Churches in Olga’s region of southern Russia actively distribute hope-filled literature to introduce people to Christ.

---

*Olga Gagleova, 19, serves as communication and Pathfinder director, Kubano-Chernomorskaya Conference, Russia, while studying public relations.*