



## SEEKING HUNGRY HEARTS

February 16 | Told to *Mission* by Valentina Ilyevich

Valya is a literature evangelist in Moldova [mohl-DOH-vah], a small country west of Ukraine. As with most literature evangelists, Valya has many stories to tell of how God has blessed her work.

### The Changed Husband

Once while working in an unentered area, Valya met a Christian woman who was married to a cruel and angry unbeliever. Valya visited their home often, speaking kindly to them and praying with them. Within a few weeks she saw this cruel husband give his life to God and ask to study the Bible.

When Valya returned to the area several weeks later, she found that this husband had invited friends and neighbors to his home to worship and study the Bible together. In time he was baptized, the first convert in this area. Today some 30 Adventists worship in a little church there.

### Heart for the Sick

Valya has a heart for those who are sick—especially those suffering from cancer. It was during her own battle with cancer several years ago that she gave her life to Christ. She remembers the pain

and fear she felt while going through cancer treatment, and she yearns to bring hope to others who suffer. She encourages cancer patients and gives them literature and small books to read.

One young man, only 25 years old, had been told he had just weeks to live. His young wife stayed with him in the hospital, caring for him and feeding him. Valya prayed with the couple and promised to ask the church to pray as well. The young man began to eat again and gained strength. His cancer went into remission for several years, during which time the husband and wife prepared for baptism.

### Don't Touch Those Books!

One hot summer day Valya decided to visit the hospital. At least she would be out of the sun. She visited each patient, praying for them and encouraging them. She gave literature to those who would read it, but no one wanted to buy a book. Normally she sold many books in the hospital, especially books on prayer and healthful living. But this day she sold nothing.

As she prepared to leave the hospital, she saw some patients sitting on the patio. She joined them and began talking to them about healthful living. But as she pulled

out a book, a woman patient interrupted her and told the others, “Don’t touch these books. These are not our literature.” One by one the patients returned to their rooms, leaving Valya alone with the woman who had spoken so abruptly.

As Valya pondered what she could say to this woman, the woman said, “Do you have time to talk to me?”

Valya nodded and listened as the woman, Galina, poured out her story. She adored her husband, but recently he had left her. Now she struggled to raise their three children alone. She had become ill and faced surgery. “I am going to be operated on,” she said, “and I may die. But my husband doesn’t come to visit me.”

When Galina finished talking, she said, “You have books to sell. I want to buy some.” Valya, surprised at her request, showed her the books on living a healthful life and finding God through prayer. Galina bought more books that day than Valya would have expected to sell to all the patients she had visited.

Valya returned to visit Galina and to pray for her upcoming surgery. She asked God to bring Galina peace. During one of the visits, Galina read some poems she had written for her husband. As Valya listened, she prayed that Galina would fall in love with Jesus and write love poems to God such as those she had written to her husband.

A few days after Galina’s scheduled surgery, Valya returned to visit Galina, but found that she had left the hospital already. Valya called to see how she was, and Galina invited Valya to her home.

Valya lived far and could not visit often, so she asked the local church elder to visit Galina. The elder visited her and started studying the Bible with her. Galina started inviting her friends to her home to study the Bible with the elder, and they formed

a small group to study the Bible together. The elder invited Galina and her friends to attend evangelistic meetings being held in the area. Galina and some of her friends went, and Galina was baptized. She became the first woman in her area to become an Adventist.

Galina continues to write poems, but now she writes about the love she has found in God.

Your mission offerings help lay workers such as Valya and other volunteers to enter new territories throughout the Euro-Asia Division in search of souls hungry for God’s love.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church in Chişinău, capital city of Moldova. Thank you. 🌍

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*Valentina Ilyevich is a literature evangelist in Moldova.*

## FAST FACTS

- Moldova lies west of Russia and is bordered by Ukraine and Romania. Population is 4.5 million. Chişinău (Kishinev), Moldova’s capital, has 1 million people.
- Almost half the people in Moldova are Orthodox Christians. Almost 12,000 Adventists live in Moldova; that’s one Adventist for every 383 people.

## OPPORTUNITY

- Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help to build a new church in Chişinău, capital city of Moldova.