



## ONE MORE DOOR



February 23 | Charlotte Ishkanian

Anatoly was tired and wanted to go home, but then he saw one last house on the street.

Anatoly [ah-nah-TOH-lee] walked wearily away from the house. His feet hurt, and his shoulders drooped. When he had volunteered to give out pamphlets, he had no idea how tired he would be. He wanted to go home and rest, but he had promised to visit every home, and he had one more house to visit. He whispered a prayer and started toward the porch.

Anatoly is a teenager living in Moldova, a small country west of Russia. His church had made a challenge to visit every home in town. They formed teams and gave each team its territory. The teams would visit each home and share small booklets about God and offer the people Bible studies.

Anatoly took his responsibility seriously. He asked God to go with him as he visited the people in his territory. Then, with his booklets in hand, he eagerly knocked on the first door.

### One More House

Hours later Anatoly's shoulders slumped as he walked away from another door. He had not realized how tiring missionary work could be. He had

knocked on many doors and visited with many people. He wanted to go home and rest. But as he stepped into the street, he remembered his commitment to go to every home. He whispered another prayer as he stepped onto the wooden porch and knocked at the door. He could hear voices inside and wondered if the family had guests. But before he could leave, the door swung open and a middle-aged woman invited him in.

"Welcome," said the woman. "Come, sit down," she urged, removing some papers from a chair. "Would you like a cup of tea?" Anatoly sat down and accepted the hot drink. Several young people came to greet him. The woman, seeing the surprised look on Anatoly's face, introduced him to her 12 children. Twelve children! Anatoly was shocked.

Anatoly offered the family a book and a Bible enrollment card. The family thanked him and seemed pleased to have the booklet. They visited for a few minutes, then Anatoly stood to leave. The mother walked to the gate with him and invited him to come again.

Anatoly walked to the bus stop with a lighter step. He was glad he had gone

to that last house and decided to visit them again.

When Anatoly returned to visit the family, they seemed happy to see him. But when he tried to turn the conversation toward God, he noticed that the parents seemed cautious. They asked questions about what he believed and how his church was different from the church they belonged to. Anatoly answered their questions, quoting the Bible to support what he said. Still the parents remained reserved, but the eldest daughter, Natasha, listened eagerly to what Anatoly told them.

### Friendship Evangelism

When the church planned to hold evangelistic meetings, Anatoly invited his new friends. Natasha wanted to attend the meetings, but her parents said no. However, Anatoly was surprised to see Natasha, her brother Vania, and her sister Lena there. Anatoly greeted them and asked, “Did your parents change their mind and let you come?”

“Not exactly,” Natasha said. “We told Mother that we were going for a walk. But I have learned so much here tonight that I want to come every night. I don’t know whether my parents will allow us to go for a walk every evening.” Anatoly promised to pray that they could attend the meetings.

Natasha, Vania, and Lena did attend the meetings, but when they asked their parents to let them visit the church on Sabbath morning, their parents refused. Obediently the three teens stayed home on Sabbath, but they refused to work, which upset their parents. Natasha refused to budge. “God is God,” she said. “He is not Someone who can be worshipped once or twice a year; He must be worshipped all the time. And He must be obeyed. What He commands, we must do.”

Natasha, Vania, and Lena worked hard during the week to finish their share of family chores by Friday. They hoped that their parents would allow them to worship on Sabbath.

Natasha remained firm in her commitment to God and was baptized. Vania and Lena joined Pathfinders. The three teens were such good examples to their family that their parents stopped opposing their attendance at the Adventist church. And when the younger children asked to go to church with Natasha, Vania, and Lena, the parents agreed.

Natasha believes that one day her family will be united in worshipping God in the Adventist faith. And Anatoly is glad that he did not ignore that last house on the road. Because he was faithful, he has made new friends and introduced a family to the Savior.

Our mission offerings help provide funds for evangelism at home and around the world. Thank you for giving. 🌍

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*Anatoly Chobanu was 13 years old when he met the Moldovanu family and introduced them to Jesus. Charlotte Ishkanian is editor of Mission.*

### FAST FACTS

- Moldova lies west of Russia and is bordered by Ukraine and Romania. Its 4.5 million citizens are almost equally divided between city and rural regions.
- In 2006, almost 12,000 Adventists lived in Moldova, or one Adventist for every 383 people. Just under half the population follow Orthodox Christianity. Other Christian denominations account for about 15 percent of the population.
- This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church in the capital city, Chişinău (Kishinev).