



MOTHER, LET'S GO!

A child's insistence changes his mother's life.

FAST FACTS

- Kazakhstan [KAH-zahk-stahn] lies south of Russia in Central Asia.
- Kazakhstan is dry with little rain; two thirds of the territory is desert. Summers are hot, and winters are cold, with temperatures falling well below freezing. During the winter most of the country is covered in snow.
- More than 15 million people live in Kazakhstan, most of whom are Muslim. Only a few hundred are Seventh-day Adventists.
- Most villagers live in brick homes with electricity, but without running water. Most city dwellers live in small apartments built during Communist times.

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Today's story comes from the country of Kazakhstan [KAH-zahk-stahn]. *[Locate Kazakhstan on a map.]*

Pastor Alexander stood at the door of the meeting hall to greet the people who had come to the evangelistic meetings that evening. A woman and her young son walked up. The pastor shook her hand as she said something unusual. "I don't believe in God. My son, Sergey [SEHR-gay], begged me to bring him, so I came." Then she walked away.

The next night Pastor Alexander scanned the auditorium and found the woman and her son sitting toward the back. He smiled, hoping they would see him. And after the sermon, he watched for them to so he could thank them for coming back.

Sergey and his mother returned every night. Pastor Alexander noticed that Sergey's mother was writing something as he spoke. Was she writing letters to friends? Drawing pictures to avoid listening? After

the meeting he saw the notebook she carried and realized that she was taking notes on his sermons. Once again he smiled and thanked her for coming.

The Invitation

One evening Pastor Alexander stopped Sergey and asked, “What made you want to come to these meetings?”

“One day a lady and her son were standing in the street, and the boy gave me an invitation to come,” Sergey said. “The lectures sounded interesting, and I asked my mother to bring me, but she said the lectures were about religion, and she did not want to know about religion because she did not believe in God.

“I really wanted to come and learn more about God, so I felt bad that my mom did not want to go. I decided to ask Mother every evening to please go with me to the lectures. Finally she agreed to take me to just one meeting.

“I liked that first meeting so much! The songs made me feel happy, and the pictures you showed were so interesting. I begged my mother to come the next night, and she has brought me every night.” Sergey looked at his mother and smiled, and Pastor Alexander thought he could see just the smallest smile on Sergey’s mother’s face as well.

Prayer Changes Hearts

The next day Pastor Alexander told the church members about Sergey and his mother. The church members prayed that God would speak to Sergey’s mother and convince her that God is real and alive and that He loves her.

Night after night Sergey and his mother came to the meetings, and Pastor Alexander could see her taking

notes. Then one night the pastor invited the people to give their hearts to God. Many people stood, saying they wanted to accept Jesus as their Savior. And among them were Sergey and his mother! How happy Pastor Alexander was to see Sergey and his mother give their lives to God.

The new believers studied the Bible with church members for several weeks. When it was time for the first baptism, Sergey’s mother was ready to be baptized. The new believers were baptized in a large river.

The Little Missionary

After the baptism, Pastor Alexander found Sergey and told him, “Thank you for bringing your mother to the meetings, son. Because of you, she has found Jesus and has started a new life. Soon you will be old enough to be baptized too, but already you are a missionary for Jesus, because you brought your mother to hear about Him.”

Sergey’s face broke into a big smile. “Really?” he said happily. “I like being a missionary!”

Boys and girls, God wants us all to be missionaries. We can invite our neighbors, our friends, our aunts and uncles and cousins to learn about God. We can invite them to special programs at church or to our homes. We can pray for them and tell them that Jesus loves them. And if we cheerfully obey our parents and our teachers, others will see that our lives are different and will want to know why we are happy. Then we can tell them, “It’s Jesus! He makes the difference in me!”

Let’s all try to be a missionary this coming week. 🌍

Choose an activity from pages 31-34.