



R U S S I A | February 9

SLAVA'S HELPING HANDS | PART 2

Slava's friendship with an old woman introduced her to Jesus.

Young Slava was new in town and was lonely. Then he saw Babushka [bah-BOOSH-kah; grandma] Masha pushing a wheelbarrow down the road. Slava ran to meet her and helped her load the wheelbarrow with bricks.

Slava learned that Babushka Masha did not have a Bible, so as they walked past his house Slava ran into the house and grabbed his mother's Bible. Then he raced to catch up to Babushka Masha.

LIFE HERE

- Children in Russia love to feel that they are part of God's church, just as children everywhere do. They enjoy helping pass out literature for evangelistic meetings, making friends for Jesus, and helping others who need their help.
- Children often can reach adults more easily than adults can, for adults will often listen to a child sharing their faith, even when they refuse to listen to another adult.

Mother's Bible

Slava did not see his mother walking toward him. But she saw him carrying her Bible. "Slava, stop!" Mother called. "Where are you going with my Bible?"

"To Babushka's!" Slava called over his shoulder. "She has never read a Bible before. She needs to read it right away!"

Mother hurried after Slava and followed him into Babushka Masha's yard. She found her son telling the woman, "You must read this book every day! It has wonderful stories in it!"

The woman looked up as Mother entered the yard. "I am Slava's mother," she explained. "Is Slava troubling you?"

Babushka smiled at Mother. "Slava is helping

me carry bricks. He told me about the Bible, and when I said I had no Bible, he brought me this one.”

Come and Visit Us

Mother smiled and assured the old woman that she could borrow the Bible for a few days. “And now that you know where we live, please come and visit Slava and me,” Mother added.

Babushka Masha did not visit Slava’s house, so Slava visited her almost every day. “Why don’t you come?” he asked her. She explained that one does not bother a busy priest, for Slava’s father was a pastor.

Every evening Slava’s mother or father read a Bible story to him from his Bible story book, and the next day Slava told Babushka the Bible story he had learned the night before. One day Babushka asked Slava, “Do you mean to tell me that every story you have told me is in this Bible?”

“Oh, yes,” Slava said.

Don’t Be Afraid

Slava and his mother often invited Babushka Masha to church, but she did not go. So when Slava invited her again, he added, “Don’t be afraid. I will sit beside you.”

Finally Babushka Masha agreed to visit the church with Slava. She liked it and continued going. Every Sabbath Slava walked to Babushka Masha’s house and held her hand as they walked to church. And always he added, “You do not have to be afraid, for I am with you.”

One day Babushka Masha asked Slava’s father if she could become a member of his church. On the day of her baptism, Slava stood beside her as she waited to be baptized. “Don’t be afraid,” he whispered as he squeezed her hand. “I’m right here.”

Boys and girls, making friends for Jesus, as Slava did, is one way to be a missionary. Another way is to bring our mission offerings every week. Let’s be missionaries this week, shall we? 🌍

SING A SONG IN RUSSIAN

Vowel sounds are pronounced as follows: *ah* as in father; *ai* as in eye; *ay* as in hay; *ee* as in bee; *eh* as in bet; *ih* as in tip; *oh* as in toe; *oo* as in boot; *uh* as in butter.

GOD IS SO GOOD (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13, or *He Is Our Song*, No. 33)

bogh nahsh tahk blahg (God is so good)
(repeat three times)

on tahk blahg kah mnyeh

yah loo) bloo eh voh (I love Him so)
(repeat three times)

on tahk blahg kah mnyeh

loo beht ohn nahs (He loves us)
(repeat three times)

on tahk blahg kah mnyeh