



Trips with a Mission

Helping the Least of These



FROM THE FRONT LINES

December 2004

This is the Home that God Built



The Home

These are the parents
That live in the *home that God built*.



Father, Mother,
Dasha

This is Dasha. She was abandoned by her mother,
Who left her alone, with no one to love her.

And then there was Natasha
Whose story is so sad.

She was rescued from destitution.
Now she's happy, smiling and glad!
Now they live with their new parents,
In the *home that God built*.



Dasha



Natasha

This is Vlad, and Dima, his brother.
Their father is in prison,
Alcoholic is their mother.

No more garbage cans. No abuse from their mother.
Now they share their home with Dasha and Natasha,
And they love one another!
And they live in the *home that God built*.



Vlad



Dima

Nastya is my name.
My mother was a prostitute. I was always hungry.
Always exposed to sin and shame.
I didn't live in a nice house,
But shared my bed with rats and a mouse.
Now I live with Dasha, Natasha, Vlad and Dima.
And we live in the *home that God built*.



Timmon, the
family pet

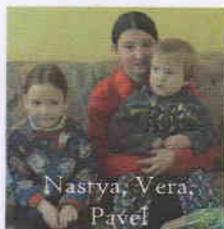


Nastya

My name is Vera - An alcoholic was my mother,
And a prostitute, too.
A single mother was she, and a lot of men - she knew.
I'm no longer in the workhouse orphanage.

I have my siblings here with me.
We are happy together,
As happy as can be!

I live with Dasha, Natasha, Vlad, Dima and Nastya, too.
And we live in the *home that God built*.



Nastya, Vera,
Pavel



Vera

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Thank You

Special thanks to our
new sponsors!

Ken & Shelley Chan

* * * * *

Thanks for renewing
your sponsorship!!!

Carl & Joan LaRoe

* * * * *

Warmest thanks to
Claudelle Hiebert
and the women's
ministries for making
hats & scarves for the
children!

* * * * *

Many thanks to **Pete
Smeal** for his time
and expertise fixing
our computer

* * * * *

Very special thanks
for our Help-a-Home
sponsors

Lucille Claridge
Kay Dickerson
Barbara Martin
Linnea Swayze

* * * * *

Thank you **Carol
Lopez** for donating
towards the costs of
our newsletter.

Sabina's Story

Sabina is 14 years old. She has lived at St. Devi's Academy for 7 years.

"I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ones to come to St. Devi's Academy. It was me, my sister, Sujata, Rebecca, Prem and Biwash. When I was small my parents left me. I stayed with my grandmother. First I was going to school but then I stopped going because father left me. Mother too. They used to fight together. Then they went and I stayed. In that time I was staying with grandma, looking after sister. Grandma used to work and I used to wash dishes at houses. At first, when I was small, my mother used to love me but I think after a while she didn't. I don't know why. I don't know what my father does. I think he used to go to office. After that he drank alcohol, then he lived at the workers. I don't know where he is. I have never seen my mother or father again. When my father and mother left, that time I was very sad. Then when I used to see all of girls like me in the streets, that time, I was feeling sad. I used to see all my friends near New Road going to school but I was not going.

When I first came here I was scared. I thought, where did I come? But Miss Devi, she loved me very much, then I didn't feel frightened. I was very happy. After 2 months time my sister came too. My sister and I are close friends. I will have burden and she'll help me. I have many friends here.

As you know, in Nepal, there is very bad person. If they see beautiful girls or young girls like me, then they take them. They taking girls to Bombay or somewhere to make offers to share them. That is very bad news. My family is poor. They used to keep me at somebody else's house to work. I used to work there washing dishes, clothes, other work. I think if I was not here, I think they can sell me. Then I have to spend my life there, being naughty girls - prostitute. They have to spend their life being prostitute. It is very bad. I think I would also be that, not only me. In this school there are many girls like me. I feel I am lucky because God is helping and that time, He sent helpers like Miss Devi and Mr. David. Plus my sponsor came. I am very happy.

I want to be a nurse. I think I will make a good nurse. I want to help the sick people and I have that experience also. When I was sick they make me well. What great I feel to doctor because when I was going to die they make me well. I want to make people happy like that when I am nurse.



Sabina in front of St. Devi's Academy

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This is my sister, Nastya, whose dad is not my dad.

Our mother knew a lot of men,
And a lot of men . . . she had.

My extended family is
Dasha, Natasha, Dima, Vlad, and the other Nastya, too -
And we live in the *home that God built*.



Pavel

Pavel is my little brother. Our dads are different,
But we have the same mother.

No more abuse from the friends of our mother.
We sleep in warm beds - Many quilts are our cover.

I have new parents who love me, and brothers and sisters, not a few.

I have learned about Jesus and how He loves me too!

We live in the *home that God built* in Belarus.



Nastya



The family who lives in the *home that God built* in Belarus



Sabina's Story - continued

I think this school is better than other school because in other schools, there is no Christian and I could not get any chance to learn about Jesus. I was first Hindu. Now I get chance to learn about God. It is good here because Miss Devi and Mr. David loves us like her own children and I feel like she is like my own mother. And then she loves us very much. It is nice because we have chance to learn music like guitar, piano and all, computer and we have to chance to read also.

When I have free time I like to draw. Sometimes I take out Bible. I have notebook. I write note, draw Bible and write about it. I study one verse and I want to explain what it means by that verse. It gives me bettering my education if I study from Bible. I have power to describe words. I sometimes sing songs, playing with sister, friends. I like to sing.

I think I feel special because I will do good jobs in future. I will not sit there quietly because I will have great job. I shall not miss that chance. I will be great person and I want to be special not ordinary.

I am very grateful for sponsor who is my American grandma. I love her very much because she give me good chance to study here. I study her photo and I am very happy if she send letter. I be happy when I study that letter. I feel she is my grandmother and I feel very happy she is writing words in English to me. Sometimes I feel like crying also. I thought that my own mother, father have forsaken me. But not her. I will not spoil my life because she has given me golden chance. I am grateful.

This story was told in Sabina's own words.

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FROM OUR OFFICE

Working in Belarus has been a challenge. It is a communist nation with many rules and red tape. Nothing can be done without the permission and scrutiny of the government. Getting the required approval from the government for each home was time consuming but jumping through the necessary legal hoops to acquire the children was extremely frustrating! There is no lack of needy children but we wanted children with the most need, the worse histories. Another important factor in the selection process was to track down siblings of the child we chose. In Belarus, the government orphanages are overflowing with children. Family members are separated because the orphanages are divided into age groups. So locating siblings wasn't always easy. But by God's grace, we have been successful!

To give an example, we were able to rejoin Vera with her younger sister, Nastya and baby brother, Pavel. Because of their ages, each child was in a different location. Vera was in the 'workhouse' orphanage; Nastya lived in the 'children's prison' orphanage; while Pavel had been abandoned at the hospital after one of his mother's boyfriends broke his leg. Gaining permission to place the girls permanently in our Home wasn't terribly difficult. That wasn't the case with Pavel. The authorities considered Pavel as nothing more than 'trash'. Due to his abusive up-bringing, lack of personal care and food, at two and one-half, he was behind in his motor and verbal skills. His mother beat him if he made a sound so he never talked or cried. Pavel was always hungry. He wasn't allowed to move about the house freely but was confined to a small area with nothing to stimulate him physically or mentally. If he dared venture out while his prostitute mother was working, he was physically abused by her or her customers. The government authorities told us we couldn't have Pavel because he was stupid, worthless and inferior!!

The authorities were completely wrong about Pavel. He only needed love, care and security. After living in our Home for 6 months, Pavel has almost caught up with his peers. He is a delightful, happy and loving child. Not only does he have a warm new home, but he has warm, loving parents, warm filling meals (and he can really eat!), as well as new brothers and sisters! The real bonus is the reuniting of the three children. They will never be separated again. Vera told the authorities recently that she can't imagine there is another family in the world as nice as hers!

Suzy Sims, Director



From our Mailbox



"Thank you so much for all your work - for giving us the opportunity to sponsor Andrew and make a difference for him. We could never do something so wonderful without all your hard work and loving care. We just received the photo of Andrew and his new sister, Angelina. We were all so happy to receive it. He is such a beautiful child!" Sincerely, Dan & Yvonne (Idaho)

"It has been my pleasure to help take care of God's children. The Lord has blessed me more than I can even think. I want to share my blessings with others. I know you feel the same way. The more I share the more God blesses me. I want to write Gopi and Rupesh a letter. They need to know I care for them. God bless you." Your brother in Christ, Carl (Michigan)

"Thank you for the mailings you send. What great and wonderful things God has done, and is doing through Trips with a Mission. God bless you. I wish you a Merry Christmas." Lucille (Colorado)