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EMPOWERED THROUGH LOVE: God and Family

A child in need and suffering at the hands of neglectful parents is a circumstance most of humanity finds deplorable. A child enduring the experience has little hope and finds it impossible to imagine a bright future. However, "*with God all things are possible*" and a young girl named Tatiana is living testimony of God's grace and provision – for He turned an unimaginable circumstance into extraordinary faith and a beautiful ministry.

Removed from her home and placed in a Russian orphanage, Tatiana and her three brothers found themselves without basic necessities like clean toothbrushes, proper clothing, nutritious food, or even a toy for play. At the age of 6, Tatiana was adopted by a couple in the United States. Knowing only Russian, living in a new country, and separated from her brothers who still lived in a Russian orphanage, Tatiana was angry. Two ways of managing her pain emerged: persistent prayer and drawing. Tatiana prayed every night that she would be reunited with her brothers. During the day she would draw a picture that focused on family members and was her way of feeling close to them. Tatiana created cards and drew things she had remembered from Russia.

Tatiana's prayers were answered! Soon all of her brothers were adopted by her new parents. Tatiana began selling her Russian cards. She used the money to buy clothes and toys and then shipped them to the Russian orphanage where she once lived. She wanted the children still living there to have things she did not have as an orphan.

Today Tatiana is involved with her church, LWML, and school activities. She hopes to do well in gymnastics and one day study medicine. Tatiana endured circumstances that few of us understand, but through it all her faith in God never wavered.



If you have a story you would like to share, please see the Teen Light Article Guidelines available on the Teen Leader Resource Page.