

VESTNIK



Fund for Assistance to the
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
P.O. Box 272
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The mission of the Fund for Assistance is to support the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, specifically, the moral-spiritual education of youth, aid to its clergy and distribution of emergency relief to its missions.



Thank you for seeing humanity in every story -

“Saying 'Thank you' does not convey all we feel in our hearts...”

Fr Boris and Matushka Ksenia Gladyshev about how your generosity changed their lives.

A few months ago we wrote to you about an absolutely terrible situation one of our priests ended up in when he started serving in Buenos Aires.

You responded with a compassion so powerful, we can guarantee his future for the next year!

In this interview Fr Boris and Matushka Ksenia talk about what it was like to feel so loved by wonderful people they have never even met.



FfA: What was most difficult about your situation?



Saying "Thank you" does not convey all we feel in our hearts. The help we have received has been invaluable. We can now live and serve. Thank you!

Fr Boris: Our foremost goal was not to be thrown out into the street. I just want to forget that horror of expecting to be told to get out of the apartment. We had absolutely no money to pay for it. We borrowed money from everyone we could and there was nobody left.

Matushka Ksenia: Those who have moved, know how hard it is, especially if it is a far move. You lose everything and need to start from scratch. We have already been here 2 1/2 years, and we have

accumulated stuff. Someone gave us a couch and a bed... You can't up and move with this amount of things.

Every time when we would have money problems - when we would not be paid for three, four, five months in a row – there would always be a catastrophe... Someone would end up at the hospital, and barely survive... Then the money would come, and we'd start again for a couple of months. But when you know that in another month or two the cycle will restart, you

cannot relax. You cannot live, you are constantly stressed, you cannot develop as a person.

Now that we know that a sum has been collected, that people have helped us, we are so thankful! I am hoping that the energy we spent on being anxious about our situation will be spent on something more positive and productive.

FfA: How did your situation affect the parish?

Fr Boris: Parishioners could sense it. You can't be joyous, you cannot smile when you are inwardly crushed. You might not even hear someone who needs help because you are dwelling on your own situation. People need personal contact with the priest, but in this situation it just might not be possible, because you need to constantly think about where to get money to support your family.

Matushka Ksenia: We did not like to advertise our situation but after the story was published on the FfA site, we received words of

encouragement and support from different countries. We were so touched by the moral and financial support! The FfA sends us a certain sum every month, and now we can survive on this sum, and we know that it will last not just a month or two. All the money will be spent on rent and food, we don't have any other expenses. We are not planning on using the donors' money on a Mercedes (laughs).

We are hoping to stretch the money for the longest time possible, so we will keep being as frugal as we were before, we will keep buying all our food on sale.

We are so thankful for the help! Our stress levels went way down.

Fr Boris: Saying "Thank you" does not convey all we feel in our hearts. The help we have received has been invaluable. We can now live and serve. Thank you!

Matshka Ksenia: Yes, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Check out Fr Boris and Matushka Ksenia's interview on our

 and  channels!

There is so much hope for our Church, thanks to kids like this -

Juliana's Story:

how one girl raised funds for orphans in Haiti



Stories like this one warms the heart... A new generation of FFA donors is growing up caring for those who have less.

Just like any other 8 year old, Juliana from Ladysmith, BC, loves presents and parties. For her own birthday this year, she asked her mother if she could do something special.

Juliana wanted her friends to come to a party with a bigger meaning and an emphasis on someone other than herself. She

invited some of her friends to bring 12 non-perishable food items to her party, rather than a gift for her.

Once “the groceries” arrived, mother and daughter set them up in a large room, to “play store.” Each girl was given a bag, and had to “shop around” to fill their bag with the collected items. This helped divide and share the items

evenly. They later took the food to a local food bank.

Juliana also asked her friends for a donation for the orphans in Haiti. She had heard about the orphans at the Orthodox Mission in Haiti at her parish, and felt

completely Christian. Beautiful, to say the least. I feel blessed to have been a witness,” said her mother Irena.

Juliana and her friends collected \$36.11 for the orphans and



compelled to help them: “Because it would be sad not to have a mother and father.”

“The girls embraced it and what happened amongst these non-Orthodox girls, some of whom do not even belong to a Church, was

sent the money to the Fund for Assistance. What a beautiful way to teach children to care for others! Thank you, Juliana!

Watch Juliana's story
on our **YouTube Channel**
and **facebook**

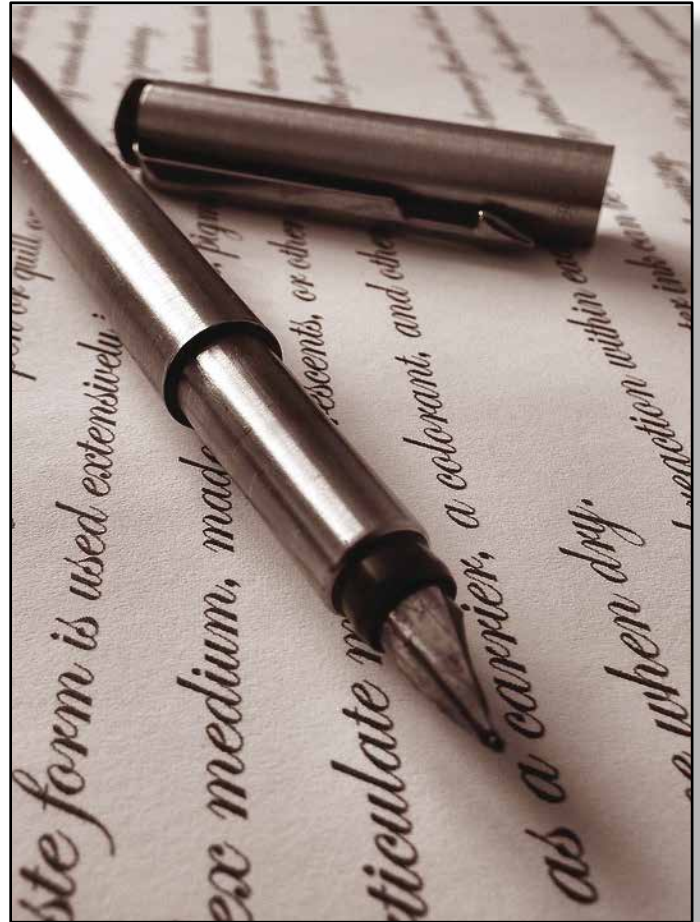
One of our favorite things is hearing from you –

You wrote to us

A few months ago you responded to an FfA survey. Unfortunately, the online survey does not let us know who wrote which comments, so we are addressing them here.

“Appeals are often a bit too emotionally strong. Needs can be stated without inflicting a guilt trip on the neurotic giver.”
- Anonymous

FfA: We apologize! On the one hand, we need to explain how someone will benefit from your gift and why the need is urgent. On the other hand, we have no desire to pressure our benefactors! (Also, we do not consider our givers to be neurotic! Just, sometimes other-worldly.)



**A 100 years from now
you could still be
helping your Church!**

Leave a gift in your Will to your favorite charity... and you will create a personal legacy that will last forever! Our informative new brochure "A Guide to Wills and Bequests" explains everything you need to know in non-technical terms. To request your free copy, please call Alena Plavsic at (917)817-2925 or email alena@fundforassistance.org

Our Promise

Your money – your decision: 100% of all donations directly fund the cause indicated by the donor. Stay updated on how your kindness supports the Church you love: subscribe to our email newsletter on our website:

fundforassistance.org



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Help us save money on paper: sign up for our e-mail updates on our website! Thank you for your support!