

## Pavel and Valentina Dmitrienko put God First

October 10, 2021

### NARRATION

Pastor Pavel and Valentina decided to put God first even through their struggles. What can we learn from their story today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Pastor Pavel and Valentina were responsible to serve a house church that required them to go over a scary trek of 9-miles to get there. This risky trip made them tired and hungry, but it was impossible to find bread on store shelves in Sukhumi, capital of Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia.

It was 1993, during an armed conflict between Georgian and Abkhaz forces that resulted in a major food shortage. There were few bakeries selling bread at night, but they were always sold out every time Valentina dared to make the risky trip.

One day, after the worship service, Maya – a church member – offered Valentina some bread, but she refused to accept it. Maya, with a generous heart, insisted and cried. So, Valentina divided the loaf into two, half for her and half for Maya.

Valentina and her husband were happy, since they had not eaten bread for over six months. She was thinking of eating it with barley soup.

On their way back home, they met an old, thin and filthy woman, begging for food, saying she was starving to death. Valentina remembered the joy Maya had experienced when she had shared the bread with her. Would they have the courage to share their blessing as well, even in such a difficult situation?

Valentina then opened her bag and shared the half loaf they had, and the old lady accepted in tears of joy.

### GRAPHICS AND CLIPS

Images related to the text and animation.

## NARRATION

CN. 02

Valentina and Pavel continued on their way home with a joyful smile on their faces. This small and unique experience was greater than their hunger. Sometimes, putting God first involves sharing what you have with others, even when resources are hard to come by.

## GRAPHICS AND CLIPS

Images related to the text and animation.

CN. 03

Pastor Pavel and Valentina put God first despite the sacrifice. Their courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us, and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As we return the tithe and our 'Promise' offering, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation