



## Dima & Anya Murkin

Evelina, Sophia

**Valencia, Spain**

### Birthday

Dima - July 10, 1980

Anya - February 24, 1986

Evelina - October 29, 2014

Sophia - December 18, 2019

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### Personal Background

Dima: In my youth I had to face the reality of the spiritual world—meeting a man possessed by demons, hearing the manifestation of demons in him, trying to help him, watching the exorcism and him being set free from demons. It was deeply influenced by the experience of repentance before God and a revival to a new life in Christ. The next one to leave an indelible mark in my life was a four-year experience in Seminary, studying theology and biblical languages. Also, cross-cultural missionary experiences influenced me— a short missionary trip to Tatarstan in Russia (2010), serving in an evangelistic camp for Muslims in the Netherlands (2013) and longterm mission in Balta, Odessa Region, Ukraine (2010-2020). These were significant experiences in the sphere of my marriage, being a parent, and pastoring as well. In 2020, our family moved to Spain.

Anya: I was born again when I was 25. It was a surprise to me because I began going to church and repented at the age of 11. I am married to the best person in the world and we have a lovely daughter. Before becoming focused on ministry, I traveled and enjoyed a music profession—having studied it for 17 years. Leaving that lifestyle was a hard change for me. Moving to a village was difficult as I am pretty much an urban person. It has been really new experience and God is changing me through it.

### Conversion Experience

Dima: I grew up in a family where Orthodox faith was welcomed. I was baptized in infancy and grew up with the knowledge that God exists. At the age of 16, I (and a friend), met a man possessed by demons. We tried to help him for a long time and then took him to an Orthodox monastery to be freed from the demons. This experience strongly influenced my faith in God. But it wasn't until one evening at home, during the winter of 2005 (at the age of 24) that I came to the futility of my existence—I was so miserable and frustrated and had lost my friends. God called me to read the New Testament that night and I repented, recognizing Jesus as Lord and Savior. After that, some acquaintances invited me to church where I was born again and a few months later I was baptized in water.

Anya: My parents are not Christians but they raised me based on Christian morals. When I was a little girl, Bible stories were very interesting to me. As a child I heard about Jesus Christ and tried to reach God by doing deeds—but I was losing. I wanted to be a good girl but I had a wild stubborn and spoiled nature. In 1997 when I was 11 years old, one of my friends told me about repentance and that I couldn't be with God without Him in my heart. I'd never heard about this before and it was difficult for me to accept. Two months later, I went to a church service (with my brother) at a Baptist church he had begun visiting. At that service I made a decision to follow God and repented. My life changed and I began to serve God.

For many years that was the whole story of my conversion. But I was concerned because I felt that nothing had really changed inside of me. I had followed God and served Him in different ways. I deeply loved Bible study and prayer. I saw God's work in my life. I saw answers to my prayers. But I didn't see a change in my nature. In 2011 some problems came into my life and I was confused and frustrated.

My spiritual life and ministry seemed empty, fruitless, and useless to me. One evening I just fell on my knees, cried and asked God, "Lord, what do You want from me? What should I do?" Immediately God answered, "Love." I needed His love to love Him and people around me. I understood that I couldn't love. And I didn't know what I could do to be able to love. And I just said, "God, give me your love and make me new." And then I went to sleep. I still remember that evening very clearly as nothing like that had ever happened to me before. I woke up that next morning, a different person than I was before. God had made something new in my heart and in my mind. I believe that it was the most significant experience in my life.

### **Ministry Focus**

Being in Spain, we managed to visit some major cities. Setting up in Valencia and joining the community in Valencia, we see that there is a special need for new groups and churches in the vicinity of Valencia. This region is very densely populated by Russian-speaking emigrants. But there are almost no Slavic evangelical churches. This is a serious challenge and need.

Now we see two directions where we would like to start organizing new groups. These are two towns close to Valencia (Sagunto and Castellón) where some members of the church from Valencia live. We want God to guide us and give us grace to do it. We are seeing how God sends us on the way various people with whom we should work, who just need the real, genuine Gospel.

We also see the need to support and grow the already existing church in Barcelona, where we go several times a month. There is a team that forms the strategy for the development of this church. The plans to develop here also ministry of small groups as well.

### **Greatest Hopes in Ministry**

- to build a strategy to reach unbelievers in this culture
- to start new christian community and to definite a place for meeting
- To expand the circle of acquaintances in these two locations (Sigunto and Castellón)
- We also hope for prayer support and that others, who are interested in this ministry, to serve alongside us (with prayer and finances).

### **Prayer Requests**

1. For our learning Spanish and our adaptation in the new culture
2. For starting organizing new groups near Valencia (Sagunto, Castellón)
3. For wisdom and grace in our ministry
4. For fundraising and finances support for our family and ministry

### **How to donate**

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For online or Electronic Funds Withdrawal (EFT) giving visit: [www.im-usa.org/donate](http://www.im-usa.org/donate). All donations are tax deductible.

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Thank you! God bless richly your family and your church!