



My name is Andre and I'm 30 years old. I was born and raised in a good family in Novokuznetsk. I had one brother and was doing very well in school and sports. I went into a trade school when I was 14 and started drinking at that age. Very shortly afterwards, I started shooting up drugs. All of my friends were doing it, and at first there were no problems. We thought we had lots of fun and felt that we were independent. As time went by, I quit practicing sports and school. All of my thoughts were, "Where do I get drugs and money to buy it?" I started stealing and robbing people. I did such evil things that my own hair would stand up on my head. I was on trial in court for my crimes many times. Three times I was sentenced to prison. My parents tried very hard to help me through doctors and psychologists. They spent much money on the most modern ways to try to help me. But nothing worked - neither prison nor medicine could free me from drug addiction. People gave up hope on me long ago. It was as if they put a cross mark on me and called me "finished". The time came when I was wanted by the police for another crime. I decided to hide from the police by going into the Teen Challenge program. During my time there, however, the staff at the program introduced me to Jesus Christ. I came to my senses and understood that my whole life was wrong, including hiding from the police. I agreed with the staff and decided to surrender to the authorities at the police department. I was sentenced to five years in prison, but was released in half the time. When I was freed from prison, I went back into the Teen Challenge program where the Lord changed my life. Instead of bitter disappointment and hatred in my heart, I have God's love. Now that I've completed the program, I want to be a missionary. With deep gratitude in my heart, I want to serve the Lord Jesus Christ because He saved me from death.