

The Dickson Herald

Russian judge shows compassion after God enters her life

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By Patricia Lynch Kimbro - The Dickson Herald



CHARLOTTE-Before God came into her heart, Chief Justice Gulnara Belenkaya was a diehard communist atheist. But, she said God began speaking to her after a serious car accident and how she views the people who come before her in court.

Belenkaya, a born-again Christian, recently spent several days in Dickson County talking about her conversion and spoke Monday at the Charlotte Courthouse annex. As the American equivalent of a Circuit Court of Appeals judge, she said prior to her conversion she had always believed the people appearing before her were guilty. She would sentence them and then go on about her life, never giving a thought to what might happen to them in prison. But at Monday's presentation, she told of a man who she had sentenced for killing someone and after her conversion, of how she went to his cell to pray with him and tell him that God loved him.

Belenkaya spoke to the audience through an interpreter, Nikolai Panknatz, who helped her explain that her conversion to Christianity came in 1998 when she was in a serious car accident that should have killed her and her daughter. "Even the doctors couldn't understand that she survived and that bones in her skull grew back even at the age of 42, that just doesn't happen," the interpreter explained for the judge. "But the miracles didn't stop," she said, adding, "God uses methods to remove your doubts."

"I should have died. I should have terrible headached that sometime cause people to resort to suicide because of the pain. But I have no pain." This is God's glory upon me. Trust me, I am 50 and feel like 30. I have a family and house and am an associate pastor, but I never have any headaches. "I thank God because of his love and grace to me I am still on this earth," she said through her interpreter.

The judge has been speaking throughout Middle Tennessee for the past two weeks. For more information contact Rev. Stuart Martin at 931-670-1905 or Rev. Harold Witmer at 931-648-4299.

BORN AGAIN
RUSSIAN FEDERAL JUDGE
GULNARA BELENKAY