

Grandma's Cross

by Deborah Vasilenko Flores, 2016



Young Debbie loved looking through her grandmother's jewelry box. On every visit, after greeting Grandma and Grandpa with the customary hugs and kisses, she would go to the jewelry box in Grandma's bedroom.

There was one piece of jewelry in particular that always caught her attention. It was a bronze Russian Orthodox cross with the figure of a crucified Jesus on it. The design of the cross was very unique. She had never seen anything like it.

On one of her visits, Grandma took notice of her fascination with the cross. In her broken English she said, "You like? You have." Debbie was so excited! She regretted, however, that she didn't have a necklace chain. So, she put it in her own jewelry box for safe keeping and longed for the day she would be able to put it on a chain and wear it.

It seemed like forever, but one day, her mother presented her with the perfect necklace chain. Once again she was very excited. Finally she would be able to wear the cherished cross. Carefully, she slipped it through the chain. As she brought it up around her neck, she experienced something very unusual. She had a very strange and uncomfortable feeling in her heart. It was as if something was repelling her from wearing the crucifix.

Debbie was bewildered. "I have been waiting so long to be able to wear this cross," she said, "so why do I have these very bad feelings?" A still, yet firm voice answered her saying, "I am not dead. I am alive." She stood in awed silence. She looked at the cross with the figure of the crucified Christ. Jesus had died. He was crucified on a cross. But that wasn't the end of the story. He rose on the third day and later ascended into heaven. He had conquered sin and death for everyone who would put their faith in Him.

Forty some years later, she still keeps her grandmother's cross as a special memory. Through it she has learned without a doubt that God is not dead. Her Savior lives and He lives in her, and in everyone who believes in Him.