

## Chapter 23

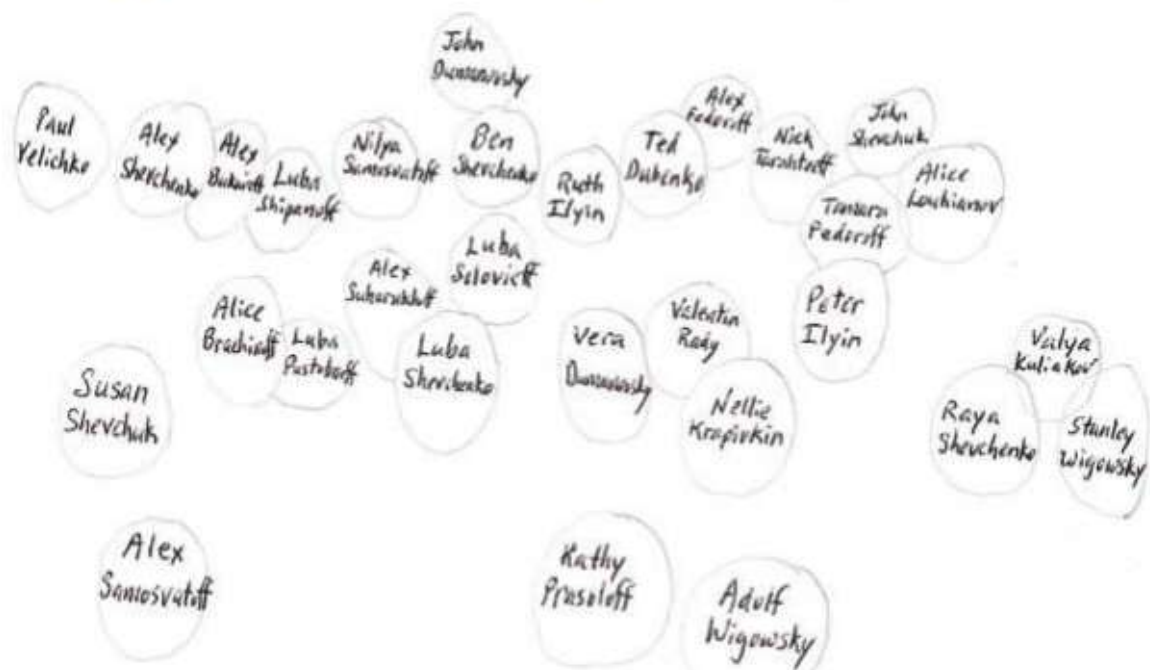
Rufina (Ruth) Ilyin Shevchuk

Руфина ( Руфь) К. Шевчук





Youth Group at the Geary St. Church on Geary & 4<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco, California.



Ruth is at top row, between Ben Shevchenko and Ted Dubenko.



Top photo: Tamara Fedoroff, Nilka Samosvatoff, Nida Lokteff, Nelly Krapivkin, Ruth Ilyin (16), Valya Pustobaeff, \_



Bottom photo: **Water baptism (1958)** by Rev. A.E. Shevchenko; Stanley Wigowsky and Peter Ilyin (Ruth's brother), Nick Tarahteeff is behind Stanley. [San Francisco Bay]



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<https://www.glorytogodsongs.com> › about

## ABOUT - Glory to God Songs

I was born in China and accepted Jesus into my heart when I was five years old in a Sunday School Class of Sister Affa in Shanghai, China. My heart fell in love ...



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## Glory to God Songs

Rufina Shevchuk. If you have the heart to translate these songs into other languages and distribute for the glory of God free of charge, you have my full ...

About Me

Poems

Contact



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<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/9+God's+...> PDF

## 9+God's+Carpet.pdf

With-out yarn or fan - cy weaves, but with flo-wers and glo-rious leaves, With the warmth of sun rays light.  
"EYE HAS NOT SEEN... THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS.



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## There's my Heavenly Father

Rufina R.Shevchuk. )))))! 7)))\$)))))))). Page 2. / loves me this I know. For your Bi - ble tells me so. loves me this I know. For the. Bi - ble tells me so.



Legacy.com

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/vera-ilyi...>

## Vera Ilyin Obituary - Death Notice and Service Information

Beloved mother of Paul, Peter Ilyin, Rufina Shevchuk, Lily Romanoff, Nida Cardenas, Alex and John Ilyin.  
Grandmother of 15, great-grandmother of 17. Evening ...

[CHILDREN — Glory to God Songs](#) 86 songs

<https://www.glorytogodsongs.com/kids>

[ADULTS — Glory to God Songs](#) 33 songs



Photo courtesy of Kathy (Krapivkin) Samuelson – flower girl in the picture; Pete's was Boris Prasoloff, and maid of honor was Pete's sister, Ruth.

Ruth is standing beside her future husband (right) Aaron Shevchuk



Ruth Shevchuk's webpage was a delightful discovery for me. Her insightful songs and poems are truly spiritually inspired. What a blessing! I share samples of her work here for the reader.

<https://www.glorytogodsongs.com/>

**I give these songs to all of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Most of all thanks to the Living God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

***Rufina Shevchuk***

**If you have the heart to translate these songs into other languages and distribute for the glory of God free of charge, you have my full permission to do so. The Lord will help you.**

**GOD BLESS YOU! SONGS FOR CHILDREN FROM 3 TO 103 YEARS OLD.**

All songs and poems placed on this website are hereby given to the entire world for free. Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give." You are welcome to copy, multiply And distribute but **ONLY FREE OF CHARGE. SALE OF THESE SONGS AND POEMS ARE PROHIBITED.** For those wishing to translate these songs and poems into languages other than English, Russian or Ukranian, **PLEASE** be extremely vigilant that the translations are grammatically and Scripturally correct because the Word of God says,

**"CURSED IS HE WHO DOES THE WORK OF THE LORD CARELESSLY...". Jer. 48:10a**

I welcome you to continue revisiting this Site as new songs and poems will continue to be added in several languages. Please share **GLORYTOGODSONGS.COM** with your friends, family and congregations. Stay tuned for upcoming extras like videos, Poem, Song, Cards and more!

God's humble servant,

Sister Rufina

## **MY SIMPLY STORY**

**Songs for Children from 3 to 103!**

**Glory To God! I dedicate these songs and poems to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I love Him! Also, all of these songs and poems in the Name of Jesus are dedicated to the Orphans of this world.**

**I was born in China and accepted Jesus into my heart when I was five years old in a Sunday School Class of Sister Affa in Shanghai, China. My heart fell in love with Jesus, and I am following Him ever since studying His Holy Word.**

**At the age of 16, the Great Lord baptized me with The Holy Spirit, and I took Water Baptism In the Pacific Ocean by San Francisco, California. I worship the Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — the Three in One. Jesus, who promised never to leave nor forsake me unto the end of time, is my Savior, Lord and King. I trust Him and continue following Him.**

**Ever since I was a small child, I loved music and always wondered how people can write songs. I never even allowed myself to entertain the idea of writing them. Growing up, I took voice lessons, sang in the choir, solos, etc.**

**Then, it just happened! Every life has its difficulties and tragedies, and I am no exception. In my adult life, faced with the unbearable sorrow of betrayals, I would wake up at night. Unable to sleep and not wanting to wake up my beloved husband, I would go into another room, open the window curtain and gazing at the stars I would just weep and pray for at least an hour. This went on for several weeks.**

**One night after weeping and praying, I felt totally exhausted, so I just stood in silence admiring the stars. Suddenly, I started singing a joyous children's song with words and melody I never heard before! I quickly took pen and paper and wrote down the words. My heart was so filled with love, joy and peace. When I got up in the morning and began reading the words, I started singing the melody I sang at night GLORY TO GOD!**

**From that night on, I would eagerly go to the same spot to pray and would get a song, sometimes two. I was awe struck at what was happening. Almost all the songs the Lord gave me came as dictation — words and melody. Next morning when I read the words, I knew the melody. So, I would go the piano, which my Dad bought me in 1958 for \$25.00, peck out the melody and write it down.**

**I cannot take credit for these songs. I simply wrote them down. It is a flight of joy to do this — just to be a pencil in God's Hand. All glory, honor and praise belong to Him.**

Looking at God's wondrous creation, I am ecstatic and thankful to Him for giving me joyful and comforting songs and poems in the most difficult times of my life. He continues giving me both songs and poems for children and adults. They come both in English and Russian languages and I translate them almost simultaneously.

He also gave me the privilege of translating many Traditional (Public Domain) songs from English into Russian and Russian into English. I am amazed how simply yet deeply and beautifully these songs express God's love to us.

<https://www.glorytogodsongs.com/>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My heartfelt thanks to my beloved and faithful husband and friend. We were married for 51 years. The Lord called him home in 2015.

Many thanks to my daughter Svetlana (Lana), her children Cassie and Anthony, My son Victor and his wife Elaine. Without their help, I would not have been able to accomplish this assignment.

Many thanks to Sister Tanya Georgiev, wife of Pastor Yuri Georgiev of Russian Gospel Temple in San Francisco, California; Choir Director of Russian Gospel Temple Brother Mikhail Muha and his wife Olga; Professor of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine Rostyslav Bilosevich together with his wife Olga and Poetess Olga Puhalski.

Thank you to Brother Oleg Yanishen, Editor, who placed these songs and poems on the Website and everyone, who helped me with this assignment. Many thanks and blessings to Brother Benjamin Delevan, first contributor, who encouraged me to pursue this assignment.

God bless you all not only abundantly but beyond your comprehension.

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**МОЯ ПРОСТАЯ ИСТОРИЯ (Russian "My Simple Story")**

**СЛАВА БОГУ**

*Песни для детей от 3-трех до 103-трёх лет*

*Посвящаю эти песни и поэмы моему Господу и Спасителю Иисусу Христу. Люблю его. Так-же, все эти песни и поэмы посвящаю Сиротам всего мира и во имя Господа Иисуса Христа.*

*Родилась я в Китае и приняла Иисуса в своё сердце когда мне было пять лет в воскресной школе сестры Аффы Васильевны Шанхай, Китай. Моё сердце полюбило Иисуса и с тех пор я следую за Ним, изучая Его Святое Слово.*

*В 16 лет Господь крестил меня Духом Святым и я приняла Водное Крещение в море около Сан-Франциско, Калифорния. Я поклоняюсь Святой Троице – Отцу, Сыну и Святому Духу. Иисус обещал быть со мной до скончания века. Он мой Спаситель, мой Царь и мой Бог. Я верю Ему и продолжаю идти за Ним.*

*С малых лет, я любила музыку и всегда удивлялась как люди могут писать песни. Я никогда себе даже не позволяла думать, что я могла бы их писать. В юности я изучала голос пения, пела в хору, соло, и т.д.*

*И вдруг случилось! Каждая жизнь имеет трудности и трагедии. И когда у меня случились невыносимые скорби о предательстве и не могла спать, я вставала ночью и не желая тревожить моего возлюбленного мужа, уходила в другую комнату, открывала шторы и смотря на звёзды, я плакала и молилась больше часу. Это продолжалось несколько недель.*

*Однажды переутомившись от долгого рыдания и молитвы, я стояла в тишине люблюсь звёздами. Вдруг я начала петь радостную детскую песню. Я никогда не слыхала ни эту песню ни мелодию. Я быстро взяла бумагу и ручку и записала слова. Моё сердце было переполнено любовью, радостью и необычайного мира. Когда я встала утром и начала смотреть на слова, я сразу начала петь ту мелодию, которую я пела ночью.*

*С тех пор, я вставала ночью и ходила на то же место молиться и получала одну песню или две. Я была в недоумении, что со мной происходит. Почти все песни Господь мне давал как диктант – слова и мелодию. Утром, когда я читала слова, я знала мелодию песни. Я подходила к пианино, который мне купил мой папа в 1958-м году за 25 долларов, выбивала мелодию и записывала её.*

*Я не могу брать кредит за эти песни. Я просто записывала их. Это была необыкновенная радость – просто быть карандашом в руке Бога. Смотря на чудесную природу Господа Бога, я восхищаюсь и благодарю Его, что Он мне даёт радостные и утешительные песни и поэмы в самых трудных временах моей жизни. Господь продолжает давать мне песни и поэмы для детей и взрослых. Они приходят на Русском и Английском языках и получаю переводы почти сразу. Он также дал мне привилегию переводить Традиционные (Народные) песни с Русского на Английский и с Английского на Русский.*

*Я торжественно удивляюсь как просто и в то же время глубоко и прекрасно эти песни выражают любовь Бога к нам.*



**GOD BLESS YOU! SONGS FOR CHILDREN  
FROM 3 TO 103 YEARS OLD.**

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## FOR CHILDREN

-



Song 1 - God Sees Everything / Бог  
видно всё / Бачить Бог усе  
Music & Lyrics by Rufina R. Shevchuk

PIANO  
TRACK

SHEET  
MUSIC

НОТЫ  
- РУС

НОТЫ  
- УКР



Song 2 - Giraffe / Жирафа / Жирафа  
Music & Lyrics by Rufina R. Shevchuk

<https://www.glorytogodsongs.com/kids>

'... YOU UNDERSTAND MY THOUGHTS AFAR OFF."

Psalm 139:2

God sees everything



1. Peo-ple on-ly see your face, But God sees your heart. Peo-ple on-ly hear your words, But God hears your thoughts.  
2. So think on-ly all good words And do on-ly all good works, Then you hap-pi-ly will sing, "God sees e-very-thing!"

Chorus

God can see eve-ry-thing. God can hear eve-ry-thing. No one e-ver a-ny-where Hid from Him a-ny-thing.

God can see eve-ry-thing. God can hear eve-ry-thing. No one e-ver a-ny-where Hid from Him a-ny-thing.

Rufina R. Shevchuk



## POEMS

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ДАВЛЕНИЕ И ТЕРПЕНИЕ

VIEW

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ВЕРА ЖЕ ЕСТЬ УВЕРЕННОСТЬ

VIEW

<https://www.glorytogodsongs.com/poems>



«ВЕРА ЖЕ ЕСТЬ... УВЕРЕННОСТЬ В НЕВИДИМОМ». Ев. 11:1

### **ВЕРА ЖЕ ЕСТЬ УВЕРЕННОСТЬ**

Гусеница имеет веру, что она скоро  
Будет летать - не останется такой.  
И то, что мы называем её, «концом»,  
Она называет, «Бабочкой».

Её вера является уверенностью  
Того, что она теперь не видит.  
Через веру, она знает кем она будет.  
И что теперь не видит то увидит.

Но теперь, она только ползёт  
По стволу, по ветке, по листу.  
И...ох!.. как медленно идёт...  
Ей кажется вся жизнь её так и пройдёт.

В моментах трудных вопиет,  
«Ах, как долго я должна ждать?  
И зачем мне медленно ползать?  
Почему я сразу не могу летать?»

Она тихо сплетает свой нежный кокон,  
Спокойно спит и не вздыхает.  
Когда ж проснётся, расправит крылья  
И летает...и летает...и летает.

Руфина ( Руфь) К. Шевчук



( БОГ )... ТВОРИТ. ЧУДЕСА ВЕЛИКИЕ... Псалом 135:4

### **КАК НА КРЫЛЬЯХ ОРЁЛ**

Как на крыльях орёл  
Поднимись над землёй,  
И получишь в душе  
Сладкий мир и покой.

Посмотри-ка ты вниз  
И уверишься сам  
Как там мелочно всё  
И не нужное нам.

А взгляни в небеса -  
Нет конца чудеса!  
Вечный Бог, наш Отец,  
Всё творит, творит Сам!

Для кого Он творит?  
Для Себя и для нас  
Так прелестно, прекрасно,  
Что не видел наш глас.

Ни на ум ни на мысли  
Никогда не приходило нам  
Как чудесно Господь  
Всё творит для нас там.

Наши мысли по сравнению  
Божьим мыслям таковы:  
Бога мысли как воды в морях,  
А наши - как капля воды.

Вознесём Ему славу за всё,  
Ведь Он наш любящий Творец,  
Творит с любовью прекрасное нам -  
Наш Бог, Спаситель и Любящий Отец!

Руфина ( Руфь ) К. Шевчук



FOR ADULTS



Song 1 - Orphan Child / Сирота  
Music & Lyrics by Rufina Shevchuk

PIANO  
TRACK

SHEET  
MUSIC

НОТЫ • РУС



Song 2 - Sweetest Baby Jesus / Иисус Младенец  
Music & Lyrics by Rufina Shevchuk

<https://www.glorytogodsongs.com/adults>

# "THE LORD WATCHES OVER THE FATHERLESS."

Psalm 146:9

## Orphan child



By - my win- dow here I sit, As I look un - to the street, and there walks with man-ners mild Or - phan

Child, Or-phan Child. As my eyes where filld with tears, I prayed, "Lord, how ma-ny fears Suf - fers here this Or - phan Child, lone-ly

Or-phan Child I in - vi - ted the child in, and I said, "Be - live with-in, Our God loves you, so do I, So do

I, so do I." Then I gave him food and drink, feed the Or - phan child, he blinked. Then from joy, he gent-ly smiled, lone-ly

Or - phan Child. Then I told the Or - phan child God from hea-ven sent His Son. So, he liste-ned to each word and ac -

Rufina R. Shevchuk

## Orphan child (2)

cep-ted Christ as Lord, Or-phan gent-ly said and smiled, I'm no lon-ger or-phan child. God is Fa-ther and my mo-ther, I'm no

lon - ger or - phan child.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "cep-ted Christ as Lord, Or-phan gent-ly said and smiled, I'm no lon-ger or-phan child. God is Fa-ther and my mo-ther, I'm no". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: "lon - ger or - phan child." and the piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

"EYE HAS NOT SEEN... THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS  
PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

1 Cor. 2:9

### God's carpet



1. With-out yam or fan-cy weaves, but with flo-wers and glo-rious leaves, With the warmth of sun rays light.

The sun weaved a car-pet bright. From the vil-lage to lake's shores, A de-light-ful car-pet rolls, From the vil-lage to lake's shores,

A de-light-ful car-pet rolls.

2. With the warmth of sun ray's light  
The sun weaved a carpet bright.  
Multicolored flowers might  
Fill my heart with sheer delight,  
(Chase away my grief so far  
That I gaze upon a star. -2)

3. If such carpet on this earth  
Brings forth so much beauty, mirth.  
How will heaven's carpet be  
Growing there eternally?  
(Flowers soft as velvet air  
Grow on heaven's carpet there. -2)

4. Heaven's carpets always stay.  
Flowers never fade away,  
Soft and colorful and bright  
Without sun, and there's no night,  
(We'll forever live up there  
On those carpets soft as air. -2)

5. God Prepared for us place  
In the Heaven's glorious space.  
Eye has never seen such fine,  
Glorious beauty, so divine!  
(There, we'll see the Son of God.  
Who has saved us with His Blood. -2)

6. To His Love we will bow down.  
At His feet we will fall down.  
"Alleluia!" we shall praise  
As each voice with joy we'll raise.  
(We'll forever praise and sing  
On God's carpet to our King. -2)

Rufina R. Shevchuk

"...GOD... CALLED THE EARTH FROM THE RISING  
OF THE SUN TO ITS GOING DOWN."

*Psalm 50:1*

The Horizon



1.1 look at the dawn, the ho - ri - zon is gree - ting where hea - ven and earth are so si - len - tly  
2.1 stand on my knees, yet my heart smi - les, gree - ting, with such awe - some joy, with God my soul is

mee - ting. It seems hea - ven's smi - ling at earth, gent - ly fa - cing. It seems as though hea - ven and earth are  
mee - ting. I'm bur - sting with joy, how my heart sings, re - jo - ces! It seems I am hea - ring these hea - ven - ly

em - bra - cing. And seems that my heart from wi - thin me is lea - ping, un - to that ho - ri - zon with joy stret - ches, wee - ping.  
vol - ces. Then sud - den - ly all the ho - ri - zon is so bright. I see the sun kis - sing the earth with its sun - light.

My bo - dy in hum - ble awe slow - ly is knee - ling. I feel how the hea - ven and earth here are fee - ling.  
I can - not des - cribe how my soul is de - ligh - ting, I'm humb - led and praise God. His love's so in vi - ting.

## The Horizon (2)

And sud-den-ly, I hear a fa - mi-liar voice, al - though what I hear is not an earth-ly voice. It's gent - ly ref-

re - shing like rain in the spring. My heart knows this ho - ly voice, and my soul sings.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. The piano part consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

"...МАЄМО БУДІВЛЮ ВІД БОГА НА НЕБІ,  
ДІМ НЕРУКОТВОРНИЙ ТА ВІЧНИЙ."

2Кор. 5:1



В краю далеким

1. В кра - ю да - ле - ким за о - ке - а - ном, В од - но - му шта - ті А - ме - ри - ки, Донь -

ка і ма - ти в двох про - жи - ва - ли. В ми - рі та зго - ді во - ни бу - ли.

2. Маленькі доні мама сказала,  
Що є дорога на небеса.  
Що буде радість там безконечна,  
Буде не тлінна вічна краса.

3. Але так сталося: через хворобу  
Мама до Господа відійшла.  
Маленька донька осеротіла,  
І залишилась в світі одна.

4. Якось на думку прийшло дитині:  
"Піду до мами на небеса.  
Там радість буде у тій країні,  
Буде не тлінна вічна краса.

5. І ось збрала вона всі речі,  
Сама добралася на вокзал.  
Зайшла у поїзд, спокійно сіла.  
На перешкоді ніхто не став.

6. Як рушив поїзд, ввійшов кондуктор,  
В людей квитки він перевіряв.  
І, як ведеться, дитя сирітку  
Він про квиточок теж запитав.

7. "Куди ти їдеш, мила дівчатко?  
І де домівка рідна твоя?  
Де твоя мама, скажи спочатку.  
Квиточок бачити хочу я."

8. "Рідного дому тут я не маю.  
Іду до мами на небеса.  
Там буде вічна радість без краю,  
Де є нетлінна вічна краса."

9. "Звідки відомо стало для тебе,  
Що є дорога на небеса?"  
"Мені це мама все розказала,  
Коли живою вона була."

Автор невідомий, Укр. Переклад Ольга Пухальська

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1a86c4ae55090001e4f823/t/67e5f40d77bb8d11f40a221d/1743123478462/34+There+Is+A+Country+UKR.pdf>

“...МЫ ИМЕЕМ ОТ БОГА ЖИЛИЩЕ НА НЕБЕСАХ...  
ДОМ... ВЕЧНЫЙ”

2Кор. 5:1

В стране далёкой



В стра - не да - лё - кой за о - ке - а - ном, В од - ном из шта - тов А - ме - ри - ки, Жи -

ла мать с доч - ко - ю о - ди - но - кой И дни их ра - дост - но про - тек - ли.

2. Малютке дочке Мать говорила,  
Что есть дорога на небеса  
Где радость будет уж бесконечна,  
Забыты горе и вся тоска.

3. Но вот случилось, мать заболела  
И с миром к Господу отошла.  
Малютка дочка осиротела,  
Осталась в мире она одна.

4. И вот пришло что-то ей на мысли,  
"Поеду к маме на небеса,  
Где радость будет уж бесконечна,  
Забыты горе и вся тоска".

5. И вот собрала она все вещи  
И в путь отправилась на вокзал,  
Зайдя в тот поезд, спокойно села -  
Никто ей в этом не помешал.

6. Но вдруг заходит в вагон Кондуктор  
И стал билетки проверять.  
Он подошёл так-же и к малютке  
Велел билетик ей показать:

7. "Куда ты едешь моя малютка?  
И где твой дом родной, скажи?  
И где твоя родная мама?  
И где билетик твой, покажи"?

8. "Родного дома у меня здесь нету,  
Я еду к маме на небеса,  
Где радость будет уж бесконечно,  
Забыты горе и вся тоска".

9. "Откуда это ты всё узнала,  
Что есть дорога на небеса"?  
"Мне это мама всё рассказала,  
Когда ещё на земле была".

Народная

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1a86c4ae55090001e4f823/t/65655c70333b464338ef9bd7/1742698483071/34+There+Is+A+Country+RUS.jpg>

## Vera Ilyin Obituary

ILYIN, Vera E. - In Tracy, CA Nov. 24, 2005. Beloved mother of Paul, Peter Ilyin, **Rufina Shevchuk**, Lily Romanoff, Nida Cardenas, Alex and John Ilyin. Grandmother of 15, great-grandmother of 17. Evening services on Monday, Nov. 28th at 7:00 PM, and Funeral on Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 2005 10:00 AM at the Evergreen Mortuary of McAvoy O'Hara Co., Geary Blvd. at 10th Ave. San Francisco, CA. Interment at the Russian Sectarian Cemetery.

McAvoy-O'Hara Co. (415) 668-0077

Published by San Francisco Chronicle on Nov. 27, 2005.

[Vera Efrem Shevchenko Ilyin \(1915-2005\) - Find a...](#)

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/52986600/vera\\_efrem-ilyin](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/52986600/vera_efrem-ilyin)

**Ruth (Ilyin) Shevchuk's parents**



(funeral of Vera Ilyin)

**Vera Efrem Shevchenko Ilyin (1915-2005)**

**Birth** 11 Mar 1915

It isn't known where Vera was born. She married Kiril Kalenevich Ilyin (1913-1991).

**Death** 23 Nov 2005 (aged 90)

Tracy, San Joaquin County, California, USA

**Burial** [Russian Sectarian Cemetery](#)

Colma, San Mateo County, California, USA **Plot** Row S, Plot 04 **Memorial ID** 52986600

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## Family Members

### Parents



Efrem A Shevchenko 1881–1963



Anna T *Ionko* Shevchenko 1887–1972

### Spouse



[Kiril Kalenevich Ilyin](#) 1913–1991

### Siblings



[Alexander Efremovich Shevchenko](#) 1913–1990

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23627142/alexander\\_efremovich-shevchenko](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23627142/alexander_efremovich-shevchenko)

### Alexander Efremovich Shevchenko

**Birth** 26 Oct 1913

Odessa, Odesa Raion, Odeska, Ukraine

**Death** 23 Dec 1990 (aged 77)

San Francisco, San Francisco County, California, USA

**Burial** [Russian Sectarian Cemetery](#)

Colma, San Mateo County, California, USA **Plot** Row S, Plot 17 **Memorial ID** 23627142

From the San Francisco Chronicle, Monday, December 24, 1990, page B6:

SHEVCHENKO, Alexander E., Rev. – Suddenly in San Francisco, December 22, 1990; dearly beloved husband of Ekaterina Shevchenko; loving father of Benjamin, Alex, Luba, Peter, Raissa, Nick and Naida; loving grandfather of 27 and great-grandfather of three; also survived by many relatives and friends; Senior Pastor of the Russian Gospel Temple for 26 years. Alex married Ekaterina Vodopyanov in 1937 in Shanghai, China

Source: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/4993509/person/-1513139514>

Evening services Wednesday, 7 p.m. and funeral services Thursday, 10 a.m. at Russian Gospel Temple, 2233 17th Street. Donations may be made to the Russian Refugee Resettlement Fund, 2233 17th St., San Francisco.

<https://sfgospelchurch.com/year/slavic-immigrants-from-china/>  
**Slavic Immigrants from China**

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**BONUS:**

Rufina (Ruth) Shevchuk's mother – **Vera Ilyin** – wrote a booklet of her life story. It is written in Russian: <https://wigowsky.com/RGT/Church/Verallyin1.pdf>

I was able to obtain a copy of it, thanks to Sarah (Dumanovsky) Prasoloff.

I translated the booklet into English: <https://wigowsky.com/RGT/Church/Verallyin.pdf>

Here is an excerpt from the translation into English:



**A Brief Description of Guidance by the Holy Spirit (A True Story)  
Vera Ilyina**

«Теперь, когда вспомнишь об этом, все это кажется страшным сном. » (Now that I think about it, it all seems like a bad dream.) p.25  
«Если только подумать, кажется, что такая жизнь невыносима, но все мы пережили и остались живы и слава Богу!» (If you just think about it, it seems such a life is unbearable, but we all survived and remained alive, thank God!) p. 29

If I was to characterize what I just finished reading (i.e. Vera Ilyin's life story), I would say it's like Vera speaking from "beyond the grave" and reviewing her life's experiences like scenes from a movie, a vast panorama spanning some thirty years, from the exodus leaving god-forsaken Soviet Union (i.e. "Egypt") to the wondering in the wilderness of China, to the foreign land of Paraguay, and finally arriving in the "promised land" of America. It was an epic journey, full of adventure, trials and tribulations, but always under the guidance of God's providential hand and merciful deliverance, as foretold time after time by prophetic utterances from the wise "Comforter", as abbreviated by the writer in Church Slavonic fashion, Д.С. (Дух Святой, Holy Spirit)

Sometimes, what Vera sees as she reminisces about her life appears to her like scary dreams (nightmares) that she experienced. Sometimes, she recalls vividly a vision that she experienced of things to come. Sometimes, she relives an experience of spiritual joy brought on by a visitation by the Holy Spirit.

Vera frequently inserts her overwhelming belief that everything happened according to God's plan, which is a way of saying that it was all "divine providence" (or God's will). She is thankful throughout her life story that, even when there is fear or trepidation as events unfold, she knows everything is always under God's control.

There is a scripture that comes to mind as I think about how Vera depended wholeheartedly on her heavenly Father each step of her journey: "Suffer (allow) the children to come to me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Such a child-like faith in the guidance of God and His Holy Spirit is what makes Vera's life a testimony of a realization on the soul level that we are always holding onto the hand of the Master (or Savior), who never lets us down.



# **A Brief Description of Guidance by the Holy Spirit (A True Story)**

**Vera Ilyina**

**[translated into English by Paul J. Wigowsky]**

## **PROLOGUE**

**My sincere desire through this short account is to remind, that is, to place within the memory of especially believers those incidents, when they experienced in their lives a close connection to God. This is what in our 20<sup>th</sup> century is considered to be some kind of foolishness and implausible.**

**This is even not part of the understanding of certain believers, those who claim to hold full gospel teachings. Yes, in truth, God led us, was concerned about us, responded to us as children, not according to our merits, but according to His great mercy towards us and according to his promises. We were children in the spiritual sense, not knowing and not learning God's Word. Therefore, dear readers, do not be astonished that God miraculously guided us, delivering us from disasters on this earth. For somewhere it is written: "May you be worthy to escape all these disasters." (Luke 21:36)**

**And now, remembering all the mercies of the Lord, I do not find that we stumbled or wavered, for the Lord provided us through his great love for us, as the Father does good things for his little children. Now, as decades of years have passed of our following the Evangelical path, we have become mature in understanding. So now the Lord desires, and he expects from us, for us to put an effort, in order to stand firm, so that we can escape the terror and troubles that are coming to this earth. And all this is available on the condition that all believers, especially those who previously tasted the gift of grace, they should remember and seek their "first love." Remember, when the Lord called us, we burned with love for the Lord and for each other, neither**

counting time nor distance. And even though all this has passed, the past should not be discarded into oblivion.

Now, for the sake our souls, and for the sake of the young generation, and for the salvation of many more souls, we need to humble ourselves before God, and seek his holy instruction, and not be silent, not forgetting him, but to turn our attention to the word of God, where it is written in the prophet Joel 1:3: "Tell your children about it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation." /Psalm 78:6-7/ "That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God and not forget the works of God." Remember your first love!

#### **REMEMBER (poem)**

Remember, my brother, the days of your youth,  
Remember that thirst and desire for Christ.

Life's troubles were easily vanquished,  
The heart always reached towards the heights.

How you prayed for others so earnestly,  
And hungered to tell them God's word.

Now, my brother, you chase after vain pursuits.

And your heart does not burn with blessedness.

There's no longer a desire to work for the Lord,  
And to help unfortunate people in their despair.

For they suffer in this world like in a prison,  
And they have no strength to rise, to stand.

Their hearts are weary, hungry, and poor,  
Desire drives them, words have dried out.

Give them bread, drive away their need,  
Where are you, servants of Christ, asleep?

How many unfortunate people are in this world,  
How many suffer under the weight of sin!

Sleepest thou, my brother, drowning in idleness  
And you hear not the call for the labor at hand.

My brother! Sister! O! Time to awaken!

Soon the Savior will return to earth.

Let's start from the heart to work for the Lord,

May ther Savior find us at labor in his field.

**X X X**

**My homeland was Ukraine: Kherson Province, which once was known in common parlance as the “Gold Mine.” Village B. Our village had about 100 houses. Prosperous people, of course, were the smallest part: some were poor simply from misfortune, illness, or some kind of loss in life. Others were always poor because they were lazy and loved to sleep a lot. People who loved to work always got up at dawn and worked till dusk. These always had what they needed. Of course, their life differed from life in America as the east differs from the west.**

**The houses were mostly built from clay bricks, the roofs were covered with straw, wheat or rye, and sometimes even reeds. It was rare to see houses covered in iron or zinc, for this would be considered to be wealthy. There was no comfort inside the house, for the floors were for the most part of earth. In winter, the floors were covered with straw. There was no knowledge of carpets, even though some had makeshift carpets, but only for the walls. Fresh straw from the fields was brought in two or three times a week; the old straw was burned in the oven, for everyone had a Russian stove built in their living room, and it warmed the room where everyone lived, especially during the winter.**

**This stove was used mainly for baking bread, and also for heating. In winter, food was prepared in the stove for the entire family for the whole day. Actually, this living room served as a kitchen, a dining room, a bakery, and a laundry, and also a bedroom. In the evening, it was lit up with kerosene lanterns, or with a wick in a bowl of oil, so that it flickered on the table. In other words, not every household had a kerosene lantern, and about electricity there was no thought of that. The entire population of the village was engaged in farming, with the exception of several elderly. Everyone planted a garden for themselves. Everyone mostly had their own horses, pigs, sheep, and chickens, which was the extent of the entire household.**

**In winter, women busied themselves with the weaving of hemp yarn (nowadays known by the name “marijuana”), from the fibers of which they made threads. Then at the end of winter, in this living room, they set up a loom on which they wove from threads fibers for clothing and towels. And those who had their own sheep, sheared them and used the wool, made thread for outerwear materials such as jackets, trousers, burkas, etc. Women did the main part of this work. Men were busy with the cows and farm animals, but during winter they had plenty**

of free time. The population in the village was religious, mostly from the Orthodox Christians, who religiously observed Sundays, and also many minor holydays; then there were the major holydays, like Christmas, Easter, and Holy Trinity. Part of the population observed the holydays with reverence, but most people spent the holidays drinking and partying more.

My parents also were Orthodox Christians. Especially our mother, who loved the Orthodox church and all of the rituals. She always lit candles in front of many holy images in the church.

Of course, with the changes that occurred with the authorities of the land, much changed for the worse. They started to close down churches, changing them into clubs and museums; they started to arrest the priests and place them in prisons or send them to labor camps. It needs to be said that there were priests who started to live an unholy life (non-exemplary), which made many parishioners become very disillusioned. Even our mother started to doubt the existence of God, having observed such unchristian behavior of senior clergy, who in her eyes were considered almost saintly people. And then, in connection with this disillusionment, she left the church and prayers and instead began to attend the village club and even took us there. In those days, these clubs tried to spread ungodly propaganda as much as they could, with enticing talk in order to dissuade the people from religion and God. And this propaganda made such an effect on my mother that she lived three years without God, without faith, without any conviction, giving herself completely over to the temptations of the world.

But Glory to Merciful God! Who placed on us his great Mercy! /As written in the Prophet Isaiah 65:1/ "I am found by them that did not seek me; I am revealed to them that did not ask about me."

This happened in Ukraine in the 1920s. At that time, the Lord poured out a great spiritual awakening. That is when the Holy Spirit sent brothers Voronaev and Koltovich from America to Ukraine in a miraculous way with great signs. Especially, the news spread about the baptism of the Holy Spirit as it happened in the Bible on the Day of Pentecost. This was truly the birth of the church in the 20<sup>th</sup> century! The preaching of the Gospel spread with enormous success, since the preaching of the Gospel was accompanied with signs and wonders, people were speaking in new tongues, miracles happened, demons were cast out, and the gift of prophecy was manifested. Many souls turned to the Lord, and they entered into a covenant with the Lord

through water baptism. Many were also baptized in the Holy Spirit with the manifestation of speaking in tongues.

This was a great miraculous latter-day rain, which poured out abundantly and within a brief period of time resulted in many congregations and churches, in which the number of worshippers reached 17,000 souls.

For this we give Praise and Glory to the Lord! At that same time, the Lord sent an awakening (revival) also to our neighboring village K., where within a short time an entire congregation was formed, the majority of which were baptized with the holy Spirit with manifestation of speaking in tongues (new languages), and besides that, the Lord poured out in some the gift of prophecy. In all of this, it was the great mercy of the Lord. The gift of prophecy was particularly useful for us, as a guiding principle in our lives, for we were like newborn children, knowing little about the Holy Scripture. Then the following words were revealed through prophecy: “Children, the path to China is before you.” Of course, it was hard to imagine this at the time since our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers were old settlers in Ukraine and lived from generation to generation without leaving their native land.

But now, Merciful God prepared something better for us beforehand, not because we were better than others, but because of his great mercy towards us. It seems that the Lord in his mercy saw that we were weaker than others, that we would not be able to withstand the trials and tribulations that befell many believers for their faith in the name of Christ – prisons, separations, and many forms of persecution and experiences. Thus, the Lord gave us strength to trust his holy revelation. At that same time another prophecy was revealed to us, that great trouble was coming to Ukraine: “The sword, pestilence, famine, and bloodshed,” therefore, we needed to leave our native nests (homes).

Our first journey was to the Ural region, which was 2,000 kilometers from where we lived in Ukraine. And thanks to God that He helped us trust in the voice of His Holy Spirit and successfully sell our homes and all of our possessions. Those who did not trust and leave, in a short while lost their estates and were forced from their homes, and some were even exiled to Siberia. Those who trusted in the voice of the Holy Spirit left Ukraine in the year 1928, at the beginning of spring, just when barley was beginning to ripen, while the other grains were still green. For this prophecy was foretold in the spring: “Children, don’t sow anything, for you won’t be able to harvest it.” And so, it happened.

**We managed to leave Ukraine by railroad, having hired freight cars, as the migrants took almost all of their belongings with them. And thus, we left our earthly homeland forever.**

**FAREWELL UKRAINE (poem)**

**Farewell Ukraine, farewell forever!  
For us you were our native land.  
There my golden childhood remains:  
There the sky is azure, always blue.  
I want to remember and praise  
Thee, my Lord, for that call,  
Which with your sovereign power  
You lured me on the path to Christ!  
Oh! In whom can I find that love and knowledge.  
Only in you – my Christ!  
Praise thee, our Lord, for that calling!  
You shielded us from terrible persecutions and storms.  
Farewell, Ukraine, yet I don't grieve,  
I only praise Jesus, who opened the way for us.  
He knew, there would be war, bloodshed, and famine,  
And so, God in advance protected us from disasters.  
Yes, I can't forget my early years,  
How we left the country in train cars.  
Cherry orchards, Ukrainian poplar trees,  
Seemed to bow as they bid us farewell.  
We never again saw our orchards and trees,  
But we will always stay faithful to God,  
Who like a father will protect us,  
Will save us from horrors and troubles on earth.**

**11-20-1977 by Vera Ilyin**