

PORTRAITS OF FAITH

Skaidrīte is one of the happiest people I have ever met. Her life seems picture perfect. But as a child she lived with her alcoholic mother, who was incapable of caring for her and her sister. Skaidrīte held her sister's hand as she died of starvation. Starting at age eight, Skaidrīte lived in a series of foster homes. She was kicked, beaten, and forbidden to pray. She was treated like a slave. Over the years, she contemplated suicide.

Years later, searching for hope, Skaidrīte entered an LDS meetinghouse.

LESLIE NILSSON, PHOTOGRAPHER

Skaidrīte Bokuma

Kurzeme Region, Latvia

A sister missionary greeted me and smiled. I thought she was an angel. Since that day my life has changed. It has been 17 years now, and all thoughts of ending my life have vanished. Today, I am positive. When I have burdens, I put them on God. I have learned to rely on Him for everything. Life is beautiful for me.

See more about Skaidrīte's journey from tragedy to faith at lds.org/go/41740.

Learn how to recognize and help those who may be considering suicide at lds.org/go/41738.



