



September 1st 2022

Thank you everyone for your support in prayer and in giving. Ukraine has not yet perished (this is the first line of the Ukrainian national anthem) and we give thanks that the resolve of the Ukrainian people, including our friends and ministry partners, is as strong as ever.

Saving lives and giving hope

Our partners are saving lives by taking supplies including medication to people trapped in villages on the front line. DHM funds, donated by you, bought the food and medicines you can see in the pictures here.

We asked our partner, Pastor Aleksei what more we could do to help. He replied: *'Concerning needs, unfortunately, they practically never cease around here. Presently, my family and part of the church team here are serving Vinnytsia where there is a huge number of displaced persons in simple need of groceries, hygiene products, and medicines....Another of our means of service is support for people in the occupied zones. Part of our church is there, the guys who bring aid and do anything else that is possible...it is hard to find any kind of work right now ...therefore the level of need just grows greater and greater.*



Please pray for:

- ◆ Pastor Aleksei and his team as they deliver these essential supplies and medications and support people in Vinnytsia and in the occupied zones (where they are always closely watched by Russian soldiers.)
- ◆ The many pastors and partners who are travelling around Ukraine handing out supplies and sharing the love of God.
- ◆ Our partners, including Pastor Sasha, who regularly take supplies into the fighting areas and risk their lives.
- ◆ The suffering of all of Ukraine, the tragic deaths of innocent Ukrainians, and for the families of the thousands of young Russian soldiers who have died after participating in this pointless and tragic war.

'...and when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God' 2 Cor 9.11

Pray for Andrei and Oksana

Please pray for Andrei and the church in Nikopol. Nikopol is just the other side of the river from the Russian occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is in the news right now. Russia has been shelling Nikopol from the nuclear plant. Andrei is regional team leader for DHM and known personally to all those who been on mission trips to Ukraine with DHM. Andrei writes:

Dear friends!

We thank the Lord for His mercy to us! Thank you for your prayers and support. Because of the shelling at night we are in hiding, and during the day we continue to work. Our church distributes humanitarian aid to all those in need. The brothers help rebuild houses after shelling. Your donations have become for some who suffered from the war, the only help in this tragic time. We also pray for you and thank God for everything you do for Ukraine.

God bless you.

DHM has sent additional funds to Andrei which will enable his church to fix roofs and repair more properties ready for winter.

Please pray for:

- ◆ The Russians to leave Ukraine.
- ◆ For protection for Andrei and his wife Oksana as they offer support, practical help and encouragement to people.
- ◆ All in Nikopol and the many other cities being shelled.
- ◆ Wisdom for Andrei in offering humanitarian aid.
- ◆ For the elderly who can so easily be forgotten and overlooked

The photograph shows Pastor Andrei and his wife Oksana (with Bob) in the basement where they spend their nights.



On August 24th Ukrainian Independence Day, Joshua Searle, DHM's founder wrote:

'We reaffirm our commitment to our brave Ukrainian partners who are resisting the Russian invasion with weapons that are far more powerful than tanks, guns and warships: namely with the weapons of prayer, solidarity and compassion.

Against the weapon of prayer, Putin's armies—for all their formidable appearance of strength—haven't got a chance.'

Read Joshua's reflection in full in The Baptist Times:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/641943/_Standing_in.aspx

Pray for Pastor Maksim from Kryvyi Rih

Please pray for Pastor Maksim and his church in Kryvyi Rih. He wrote to DHM '*..there are 12 church members at present. Each week in our church there is a Christian club for children called 'Veselka' (rainbow) . There are 30—40 children who attend. Each summer we have a Christian children's camp for 60 children, We need to build a shelter, because there is no place in the church grounds to get out of the sun or rain. Each year we have been putting up a piece of canvas but it gets torn. This year we planned to put up a shelter but finances won't reach that far. So if you have the desire and the possibility, we would be very grateful for your help.'* Needless to say, we have the desire and have donated the cost of the materials needed to build the shelter.

'Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven's lights' James 1.17

Pastor Alexander

Many of you have been waiting for more news of Pastor Alexander and no-one will be surprised to hear that he is expanding his ministry to lead services on-line and recording short sermons for members of his church—that is the disabled community in Kyiv and those who are refugees with him in Sweden. He has requested an iPad so that he can minister to more people on-line.

Thank you for all of you who have been praying for him. His rehab progress has been extremely good and, although he is mostly in a wheelchair, he does well on crutches, which nobody expected. The doctor who operated and predicted that he would never walk again now claps his hand and exclaims (in English) 'Good job! Good job!' Pastor Alexander needs a lot of help to get around but he is able to move slowly with some assistance. Sadly, it seems that his feet will never completely heal, but he remains hopeful that he will be able to walk again.

Please pray:

- ◆ For the complete healing of Pastor Alexander's feet and legs and that he will walk again.
- ◆ For Pastor Alexander's ministry to the Ukrainian disabled community and that he will reach many people through his on-line sermons and services.
- ◆ For this lovely family who, like so many refugees, long to go home to Ukraine. For many, 'home' is no longer there. Please pray for 'God's perfect peace' for Alexander and his family over decisions about the future.
- ◆ That Alexander's wife, Yulia, will get the dental care she needs free of charge (it is very expensive in Sweden).
- ◆ That his children will receive the documentation they need from Ukraine.



Pastor Serhii and all at Salvation Baptist Church in Poltava



DHM supports our local partner, Serhii, and his team at Salvation Baptist Church in Poltava. Since the Russian invasion, Serhii's church has provided shelter and hospitality for thousands of refugees, who have fled cities such as Mariupol, Kharkiv, Severodonetsk and Sumy, which have been devastated by Russian bombs. Serhii recently sent this update...

'In addition to daily fellowship groups, refugees get accommodation in our church on the regular basis. We let people stay over for one or two days. In some cases, people stay a little longer. But even with this conditions, we have about 20 people staying overnight every day. We also cook meals for them.'

We thank all of you, that together with us you are taking care of refugees!

The supply bags given to refugees and shown in this picture, were paid for by donations to DHM.

This month, Liliya, our administrative co-ordinator in Eastern Ukraine, now a refugee herself, reported back: *'People feel so encouraged that they are not alone. Aid seems to arrive at the exact time it's needed.'* Her overall impression of our partners and friends is that they are *'bodro'* meaning lively, alert and in good spirits.

'You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you' Isaiah 26.3

Homes for Ukraine—our ‘Homes of Hope’ here in the UK

Many Ukrainians hoped that the war would be over quickly and they would have returned home by now. However, the war seems never ending and many are overwhelmed by the decisions they need to make—to stay in a foreign country as a refugee or go back to Ukraine. Here in the UK there are predictions that many Ukrainians may be homeless this winter as their hosts are unable to continue with the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The ‘pool’ of available UK hosts has plummeted—there is no accommodation left. If you are able to offer a home to a refugee who is unable to stay with their original sponsor, please contact your local authority (Under the Homes for Ukraine rules all rematching has to be made through a local authority).

Please pray especially for those refugees who asked DHM for help to provide them with a ‘Home of Hope’:

- ◆ A mother and her two sons and their sponsors in Poole.
- ◆ Irina, who is disabled and her daughter, Olga from Mariupol and for their sponsor family in Cumbria. We have not heard from Irina and Olga this month and are becoming concerned.
- ◆ Natasha, recently widowed, and her three children. They are settling into the UK and are receiving incredible support from their hosts and the local community. Pray that the school places are confirmed.
- ◆ Pastor Viktor (who lost his leg and hearing when he was hit by a bomb in Mariupol), his wife and daughter - again we have not heard from this family recently.
- ◆ Pastor Denys and his parents who are still trapped in Russian occupied Kherson where there is much suffering.

Please join us as we pray for peace in Ukraine

We hold a regular on-line Zoom prayer meeting *usually* on the first Thursday of each month from 3-4pm (BST).

We would love to see you on September 8th, October 6th, November 3rd and December 1st.

If you would like to join us please contact the prayer convenor: melanie@dniprohopemission.com for the Zoom link.

Give

Please continue to donate to DHM, so that we can continue to support the incredible work of our partners—some featured in this newsletter, all working on the ground in Ukraine. Since DHM is an organisation comprised of volunteers and our local ministry partners and we don't have any paid staff, 100% of your donations go directly to where they are most needed in Ukraine. Please donate either through Stewardship or through a standing order or one-off payment to the DHM account:

Sort Code: **30-90-91** / Account Number: **68149860** / Account Name: Dnipro Hope Mission / Bank Name: Lloyds Bank

<https://www.dniprohopemission.org/donate/>

Preparations for winter

Winter will be very difficult in Ukraine—houses have been damaged or wrecked; heating infrastructure has been destroyed and areas are still being ravaged by hostilities, shelling and rocket attacks.

Please pray as DHM works with our partners to listen to needs and allocate funds to specific projects, goods or services needed. **Please keep praying** that the war would end before winter sets in.

Pray for the many new refugees coming from Zaporozh'e, Kherson and Donetsk provinces and that we will be able to keep supporting them.

‘I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it’

Matt 16.18