



December 2023 and January 2024

*May Christmas bring you hope and joy;
May 2024 bring peace to Ukraine and
the world.*



*Thank you
to everyone
who has given
to our work
this year.*

*Every gift
allows us
to continue
supporting
our partners'
life-saving
work.*

*Our partner, Aleksei, and his
team are supporting people who
cannot leave the areas near the
frontlines. He writes, 'Cold
weather is coming in... that is the
time when the needs of people
who are already in need are
doubled.'*



*'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from
God.' 1 John 4.7*

Latest news from the Equilibrium Project

Mira has written to us reporting ... *'the situation in Ukraine is unstable; Russia wants to claim more territory. People are much afraid and more and more are coming to the Trans-Carpathian region. The number of people in need of spiritual and physical help is growing more rapidly. If 10 soldiers are killed every day, and 50 are wounded, then hundreds of their relatives need help. They need support and assistance in recovery. Of course, we understand that more than 10 people are killed every day at the front. Ukraine's statistics do not show the real figures, but social media groups are bursting with requests, prayer needs from the front lines, about attacks, about health and strength. I am afraid even to imagine how many families are losing relatives every day. It is impossible to grasp the tremendous need that fills Ukraine.'*

Today it is one year (October) since the "Equilibrium" project began, helping people who have lost hope. Praise God for the resources and the energy that each person is prepared to contribute to the work and service to people. We have begun to minister to children, we will grow and broaden our help to include mothers. May God give us the opportunity to serve whole families, and not only in the Trans-Carpathian region.'

There is much to give thanks for: Equilibrium 'rents' the horses from a stable where every horse has been 'rescued' from a situation of abuse, neglect or abandonment; 93 war-traumatised children completed the programme during this first year; the programme initially was offered to IDP children, it has been extended to work with children with disabilities; parental reports are overwhelmingly positive - as is the case for one boy who stopped hitting himself; for others recovery takes time. Some of the children need continued support and this is offered to them.



Five year old David has autism. His mother reports: 'We noticed improvement in David almost immediately. He began to sleep better and became less anxious.'

Another mother writes: *The "Equilibrium" program has been a breath of air for us. My younger daughter, 7 years old, was so thrilled with the horses, with the trainer. As a mother, I was simply happy that we were given such a wonderful opportunity to recover a bit of health—massage, games, treats. Zlata liked it very much and will remember it for a long time. It seems to me that she has become calmer and more attentive; her back is stronger. As a mother, I am very grateful to Mira, Vika, and all the people who take part in this good work and help give happiness to children. By spending time with Margo, Vika, and playing with the children, I also received a colossal blessing from God. It's a marvellous program, a great idea, and wonderful people! Many thanks to all who have given us these special feelings.'*

Please pray for:

- ♦ Mira, the Equilibrium team and all the children and families participating in the project.
- ♦ Wisdom and funding as Mira and the team would like to expand the project to adults and to ex-military personnel impacted by the war. It is estimated that 1 in 4 Ukrainians have mental health needs (stress, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder).
- ♦ All children in Ukraine affected by conflict and limited opportunities for social interaction.



'...God is love and all who love live in God, and God lives in them.' I John 4. 16

From the front lines - Pastor Vasili



In August, Pastor Vasili was making deliveries in Adiiivka in Donetsk Region - under intense Russian assaults. Those who stay live in basements.

Pastor Vasili and the team continue to bake thousands of loaves of bread to distribute to hungry people living close to the frontline. Every day, a few hundred people come to fill their plastic bottles with water—all provided free of charge. In the last year they have given away 1,800,000 litres of water. Water is also taken to other villages and to the front lines - delivered by young Christian volunteers who are risking their lives to do this.

Before the invasion, there were 10,000 people in the churches of this region now just 450 remain - most fled and are living abroad as refugees...but they have baptised 150 people who have discovered faith in a time of war.



Please pray for:

- ◆ Resources to increase the capacity of the bread and water project.
- ◆ The safety of Vasili, his family and all the volunteers.
- ◆ All those serving on the frontlines and those living in besieged areas.
- ◆ Protection for every soldier on the frontlines.

'We drive through the forest...people on bicycles selling vegetables, in this war zone with its terrible roads. We are now 2km from the front line. Vasili tells me that they have set up volunteers in every village where they take water, they in their turn dispensing to their local community—this is the best ...the safest way to do this ...' Mr H. (see page 8)

From the front lines - Pastor Sasha



Paster Sasha has only 19 members of his congregation left - just three are men. A typical day would include collecting vast amounts of home made food and drink from the local community to deliver to the troops - boxes of beautiful cakes and fruit juices etc; delivering aid and comforting local people who have either refused or been unable to leave or have returned; delivering aid and praying with the troops; visiting medics in the front line hospitals and emergency centres and dropping off first aid kits and other medical supplies; praying for one doctor who is 'dealing with 150 patients a day in a grim, dark, bombed out place with plastic flapping across broken windows.'

Please pray for peace and that Sasha and his family stay safe. See also our blog: <https://www.dniprohopemission.org/standing-with-ukraine/>

'People here clearly love Sasha and all that he is doing for them...artillery is now very loud and the ground is shaking, and Sasha pulls over the van and we put on flak jackets and helmets....now he is driving very fast and scanning the sky for drones etc...we stop at a home of an 84 year old man who lives alone and refuses to leave; he shares stories of the Germans here in 1941....' Mr H.

'Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other...'

1 Peter 4.8

From the front lines - Pastor Alexander (Tsarichanka)



Pastor Alexander has baptized over 28 of the residents of the Tsarichanka Care Home in the eleven years he and the team have been coming here. He often preaches and church members sing and pass out hot chocolate, bananas and more chocolate! They also visit the wards and provide essential medication for the residents. **Please pray for:**

- ◆ A new initiative - the 'School House' project - set up to help children who are unable to access

on-line schooling.

- ◆ The people of Nikopol (and other areas too) with no access to water - Alexander and his team from the church here regularly take supplies.
- ◆ The elderly and disabled residents of the care home and the staff.



'Back to the church and packing up large numbers of bags with food for IDPs. Alexander described the first few days of war as a flood of refugees all heading away from the South and East arrived here...people with literally nothing but a nightdress; people with burnt heads and clothes. He says that he would have been retiring now but the war has changed all that.' Mr H.

From the front lines - Pastor Serhii (Salvation Baptist Church)

Pastor Serhii leads a large church with a huge range of programmes for IDP's and local residents in this very poor area. Many came here when the war started as Poltava has a reputation for being a 'safe' city due to Putin's known affection for the city and its historic past. Each week they provide aid to 750 people via an outside food van (providing a hot meal to mainly elderly people); another 200 people are fed inside and there are also 400 who receive meals and aid as they attend study groups. Other ministries include visits to the frontline to deliver food/aid to soldiers; visits to local hospitals to minister to wounded soldiers; a ministry to people who are visually impaired and a ministry to support wives who have psychological issues due to their husbands serving at the front.

Please pray for:

- ◆ Pastor Serhii, his family and the team at Salvation Baptist Church.
- ◆ Andrii and Olga Chizmar, members of Salvation Baptist Church and their church plant situated on an abandoned industrial estate some way from the main city of Poltava. They are funding their ministry by running a furniture making business. Pray especially for the small groups they are building out in the rural areas.
- ◆ Pray for Pastor Serhii and all who serve here and for Pastor Serhii's visit to the UK (see page 6).

'Today, we visit 5 wards in a local hospital where soldiers from the frontline have received operations and are in the process of being moved onto another facility for recuperation and rehabilitation. Pastor Serhii is obviously well known here and welcomed...deeply moving...the one thing that seems to matter more than anything is the phrase, 'You are not alone, we stand with you'.

Mr H.

'Love your neighbour as yourself...kneeling beside him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicines and bandaged them'. Luke 11.27 -34.

From the front lines - Pastor Aleksei

Pastor Aleksei (also on our front page) has not stopped praying and working since the war began. He sends thanks to DHM supporters: *'Thank you so much for your prayer support. It is always nice to know that someone is sincerely concerned, prays, and is standing with you. I very much want to see all of you, hug you, and rejoice with you, and praise God together for all that we have. The greatest need we have now is for victory, peace, and freedom. Next in importance is how we are going to get through the winter with sufficient light and heat. There is a great need for fuel for the generators and for people who heat with stoves. We are praying for opportunities to help people with heat and food during the winter. We understand that this winter will be extremely hard... As a chaplain, I receive information every day from the soldiers who ask daily for prayers for the guys who are wounded, seriously wounded, missing, and killed. Pray for us.'*



'We are blessed to baptize 8 more people. I ask you to support them in prayer in the firmness and strength of their decision.'



Please pray for:

- ◆ Aleksei and those who work with him—their lives are at risk as they deliver life saving humanitarian relief to the frontlines.
- ◆ Young people - that they would have a bright and peaceful future in Ukraine.
- ◆ Aleksei would like to come to the UK to thank all those who 'stand with' Ukraine and share the work with churches - particularly young people. Pray for the timing and wisdom of such a trip.

'A special time for me is Friday night. When, after a busy week on the road at the front and serving people to the sounds of "arrivals", "departures" and the shaking of the earth, I can just spend this wonderful time in Vinnytsia in church with young people who want to succeed and know God.'

From the front lines - Pastor Sergei

'We follow his car down to the frontline where soldiers and vehicles are dug in, with artillery, machine gun, and rifle fire sounding loudly. Sergei is exceptionally kind, taking us to meet his fellow chaplains down into the dugout bunkers and trying to give us a real picture of the war situation. We meet and greet soldiers and pray a blessing over them, some of them so young....They are short of absolutely everything, including food and protective gear ...' Mr H.

Sergei from Novomoskovsk is a youth pastor and an army chaplain and has seen many young men fall in battle. His work also includes supporting refugees and anyone in need.

Please pray for:

- ◆ Every medic and chaplain working on the front lines.
- ◆ The never-ending need for reliable cars and trucks to transport aid and evacuate the wounded. Sergei needs a car urgently.
- ◆ An alcohol and drug rehabilitation house and church community centre/refugee hub - two projects that Sergei is keen to 'grow'.



'..fear is driven out by perfect love.' 1 John. 4.18

Pastor Serhii's visit to the UK

Pastor Serhii and his wife Olena from Poltava Salvation Baptist Church will be visiting the UK (God willing) as guests of Guildford Baptist Church from January 23rd - February 6th 2024. If you would like more details of their itinerary please contact: office@guildfordbaptist.org

Dima, Olha and the House of Mercy

Thankfully, DHM was able to send funds to the House of Mercy to sink a well linked to an electric pump so that the residents can have indoor water this winter. Dima and his wife Olha wrote to DHM: *'First of all, the entire team and I are grateful to DHM for your trust and participation in our ministry. This is the Lord's answer for our team, and a kind of miracle. Your participation in our ministry is producing great gratitude to the Lord, not only on the part of our team, but also on the part of the people we serve. May God bless all the DHM team.'* Dima and his team feed and preach on the streets to IDPs and run a Rehabilitation House as well as the House of Mercy for those caught up in cycles of addiction to drink, drugs etc. The Rehab House is Step One and the House of Mercy Step Two for those wanting to break the cycle and re-enter society. Our volunteer Mr H. spent time with Dima and Olha in October and reports that there is a *'strong concept of stewardship of the land and sustainability underpinning this programme.'*



Please pray:

- ◆ The House of Mercy is in need of more funds to complete the renovations.
- ◆ Relationships with the head of the village where the House of Mercy is based as they are hoping to put a second floor onto the house and, eventually, build a church.
- ◆ For potential residents and existing residents - that they would be able to re-build their lives with faith and hope.
- ◆ For all the volunteers supporting this amazing ministry.
- ◆ For Dima and Olha - that God would answer their personal prayers.

'...at the beginning of the invasion we were in a state of shock, and responding to an emergency. Now we are in a new phase - finding a solution.'

Dima

Visiting Speakers



Thank you to Ferring Baptist Church who invited the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Rev Roger Martin (pictured) to speak about Dnipro Hope Mission in October.

If your church or organisation would like to know more about Dnipro Hope Mission and the life saving work of our partners in Ukraine please contact: mark@dniprohopemission.org

Thank you for all your prayers and financial support. Without you, our partners would not be able to carry out their life saving work making the Kingdom of God a visible reality in Ukraine as they offer compassionate care for all people in need, such as the sick, disabled, refugees and orphans.

A special thanks to Cotton End, Ferring and Godalming Baptist Churches and St Mary's Church, Chinley. Thanks also to the Anabaptist Mennonite Network and all our regular and occasional 'givers'.

'...And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free' John 8.31

Could you offer a home to someone in need?

Accessible accommodation is needed for a Ukrainian couple (Pastor Victor, a casualty of the bombing in Mariupol, has had his right leg amputated) and their adult daughter. The daughter could be hosted separately. If you feel able to help in any way, please contact melanie@dniprohopemission.org for further details.

Please pray for:

- ♦ Ukraine's war wounded - civilians and soldiers.
- ♦ For the huge number of amputees - for speedy treatment and correct prosthetics and rehabilitation.
- ♦ All those who are suffering as the war continues.



Could you raise funds for us?

The Ukrainian Community in Guildford organised a Ukrainian Food Festival offering food to the local community as way of saying 'thank you' for their welcome during these terrible times. DHM would like to thank Inna and all the team who passed on donations to DHM. The food was delicious! Thanks also to Tina and Debra and the GUkraine team who have provided tireless support to Ukraine and Ukrainians since the war began.



From Dr Daryna, Dnipro State Hospital: '...a huge thank you to the entire DHM team. I'm incredibly grateful to God for such spiritual and financial support.'



Thank you to Madeleine and Janet from Stoneleigh Baptist Church who ran a table top sale to raise funds for us. If you can help us in any way, please contact: gill@dniprohopemission.org

Pastor Sasha writes: 'Please pray for all those taken by the Russians.'

From soldiers on the front-lines: 'Thank you. We can stand strong and defend if we know we are supported outside.'

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.' Proverbs 31.8

Join us as we pray for peace

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

We would love to see you on January 4th, February 1st and March 7th 2024.

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

Thank you to 'Mr. H.' one of our incredible volunteers

Many of the stories in this newsletter come from one of our volunteers who prefers to remain anonymous. He is an International Development Professional who visited each of our projects in Ukraine throughout September and October. His reports have been incredibly moving and have shown us that God is doing infinitely more than we could ever have imagined through your prayers and donations which allow our partners to carry out their life saving work. DHM trustees wish to thank 'Mr H.' for donating his time and expertise and for his discernment, wisdom and his bravery. Please pray as we continue to work together seeking God's leading and plan for DHM's on-going ministry to the most vulnerable in Ukraine.

'I am deeply grateful to have had the privilege of meeting wonderful people doing amazing and faithful service in the most challenging and painful of circumstances'

DHM volunteer 'Mr H.' after visiting our partners in Ukraine.

Giving

We have much to give thanks for but we feel called to do more. The needs of those in the south and east of Ukraine where the fighting continues are urgent. As a small charity, our partners are able to save lives, restore destroyed homes and rebuild communities quickly if they have the funds, their faith and the knowledge that we 'stand with them'. Please give if you can. DHM is an organisation comprised of volunteers and local ministry partners, we don't have any paid staff and 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/>

Please contact gill@dniprohopemission.org for a gift aid form.

'...there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.' Rev 21.4