



June/July/August 2024

Our partners continue to serve with great courage when everything seems bleak, and all are weary and sad. They are daily risking their lives because they love God, and they love their neighbour as themselves.



Aid distributed by the Mennonite Brethren Church in Novomoskovsk where our partner, Pastor Sergei, ministers.

(Photo: Pastor Aleksei)

The Russians have launched a new offensive and are making ‘.. larger daily advances than at any other point in the war’ (the Guardian, May 15th, 2024). The Ukrainian military are fighting with a critical shortage of weapons. There are mass casualties and thousands of people have been evacuated – many of these are people who fled from this region in the early days of the war and returned when Ukraine was able to push back Russian forces in September 2022. Our partners face great danger.

Please pray especially for Pastor Sergei, an army chaplain, and all serving in the church in Novomoskovsk.

‘Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.’ Eph 5.16

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

Saving lives in Pokrovsk

Please pray also for our partner, Pastor Vasily - the situation is terrible in Pokrovsk, with the Russians advancing steadily towards the city.

Vasily sent the message below in early May.

"Starting tomorrow, the next stage of evacuation will begin. This week, we plan to take people to Poltava, Vinnytsia, and Odesa tomorrow. Next week to Kremenchuk and more.... The boys just returned from Volyn yesterday. There is fatigue. Please pray for strength of spirit and vigour of body. Thank God people are LEAVING. There is a lot of work. No one cancelled the supply of water to the population - 34,000 litres of drinking water were delivered last week. There will be no less for this week. Thanks to "DNIPRO HOPE MISSION," for the fuel for the evacuation and equipment....."

Please pray for the war to end. Pray that no more lives will be lost, and that peace will be restored.

Photo: Pastor Vasily (left) from Pokrovsk, pictured with Pastor Valeriy from western Ukraine. We are thankful that our partners are able to support each other.



Helping those who have lost everything in Poltava

A team from Salvation Baptist Church, Poltava have been visiting wounded soldiers and taking in supplies to the local hospital. They say '...grateful to all involved and sponsors.'



Six people were baptised at Salvation Baptist Church at the beginning of April. Our friend, Pastor Serhii, sent us this message... *'Praise Jesus for finding and saving people. That in the midst of darkness, He brings light. Also, our youngest daughter was baptized - my wife and I are very happy.'* The DHM trustees give thanks that people are finding faith amid the ruins of the war as, for some, this gives a greater sense of meaning, reduces stress and brings healing after trauma.

Pastor Serhii and the team continue to minister to internally displaced people. (His wife Olga is pictured with some new arrivals). Tregub, 71 years old, his disabled son, aged 43, and daughter 35, fled from the town of Volodymyrivka, Volnovsky district, Donetsk region. He says: *'We lived in the cellar. There was not enough food. There was a shooting and the wreckage killed my wife. There was no medicine for my son so he was treated with the medicine of "green pharmacy". Before the meeting, dinners are arranged for those interested. During the meeting the helpers carefully listen to each, sympathize and try to smooth out the grief. After each meeting - humanitarian aid.'*



'A vast crowd was there...and he had compassion on them...'

Mark 6:34

Urgent relief in Eastern Ukraine

All of our partners are engaged in crisis response. With the situation worsening in Ukraine, we continue to fund eight relief projects on a regular basis: Aleksei, based with fellow IDPs in Vinnytsia, but with regular trips to the front lines near Kherson; Yevgenii and Mikhaïlo in Dnipro; Oleksandr in Tsarichanka; Sasha in Vasilkivka; Sergei in Novomoskovsk and Zaporizhzhia; Serhii in Poltava and Vasily in Pokrovsk.



Left: Long queues for food in Kherson, April 2024

Below: May 2024, Aleksei writes:

'Distributing vegetables to the people. You should see their happy and grateful faces!! How many kind words and gratitude they express!! Thank you for supporting this process and giving me the opportunity to actually do so!!'



Please pray for:

- ◆ The poor, the elderly and disabled whose pain and loss seems never-ending.
- ◆ Those living within 25km of the border with Russia (approx. 189,000 Ukrainians) who are facing significant risks from the current fighting.
- ◆ All involved with humanitarian projects and pastoral care in Ukraine - that they are surrounded by support themselves and protected from burnout, loneliness and despair.

'Be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.' Luke 6:36

'Children are our everything' - Pastor Aleksei

An average of three children each day are killed or injured in Ukraine; many are living apart from their parents, extended families and communities and have known nothing but war; others have been forcefully transferred to Russia; some are in institutions; others have experienced mental and physical trauma and almost all are experiencing stress and anxiety. Our partners are setting aside time from their relief efforts to give day-to-day support to help children feel safe and provide activities to help children heal and learn.



Left: Salvation Baptist Church, Poltava runs many activities for children including a 'Teen Club' and regular meetings for children who have been internally displaced - they include a meal and food treats to take away.

Below right: During the Easter holidays, Pastor Aleksei and his co-workers took children to a trampoline party. The children had a lot of fun socializing and playing. Other activities include a Friday night café at the church in Vinnytsia and outdoor volleyball.



(Left:) Pastor Oleksandr and his team. Delivering aid to children in Tsarichanka.

Below: An Easter party for 60 children organised by our partner, Yevgenii and Regeneration Independent Church, Dnipro.



- Please pray for each of our partners as they plan and prepare activities for children and teenagers this summer.

'And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.' Luke 18.5

Rehabilitation Project - Equilibrium/School House



The Equilibrium project provides a safe haven and rehabilitation for traumatised children. Most have fled the war-torn areas of Eastern Ukraine and/or have disabilities. Maria (pictured) is a 12-year old who fled from Chernigiv province, not far from the border. On February 24th 2022, hearing the shootings and explosions, her family left within 1 hour of the war starting. For Maria's mother, the project has become a source of hope as she has seen improvement in her daughter and in their relationship with each other. Margarita, the project leader wrote: 'We thank DHM for your continued

investment in the lives of Ukrainian children and their families. Especially, we thank you for the minibus. It serves an amazing number of people every day. More than 120 people are transported every week for the project and to attend church. It makes life so much easier for people. We thank you for your prayers and all your support.'

Please pray for:

- ◆ Margarita, the project leader and her team.
- ◆ DHM assisting Margarita to unlock new, sustainable sources of funding which will allow for expansion to adults, parents, IDPs, people with special needs and to ex-military personnel impacted by the war.
- ◆ That the children, teenagers and families taking part in the project will heal and grow and that the negative effects of the war will be reduced.
- ◆ DHM trustees, Melanie and Helen, and Helen's daughter, Hannah, planning to visit Equilibrium this summer.

The School House Project



We have been working with Pastor Oleksandr for almost 10 years now and often report on his ministry to the care home in Tsarichanka. Over the past two years the church here has been expanding its ministry to children and he writes: 'The school for internally displaced children



continues. It is difficult to support. We need another worker in the kitchen to fix lunches. We are still seeking funds to complete the 'School House' - for chairs, cupboards, beds, dishes....more resources and staff. Please pray with us.' We are doing our best to help.

Please pray that the activities organised by our partners (p4) and our rehabilitation projects - Equilibrium and the School House - give children a sense of community and emotional support; that they offer structure and 'normality' and an escape from the war. As importantly, that they will have a long term impact rebuilding Ukrainian society - making life easier in the months and years ahead.

May each child know that they are loved and have not been forgotten.

Pray for Dima and Olha (p6) who also work with children affected by war and will be organising camps this summer.

'He made sure that justice and help were given to the poor and needy...' Jer 22.16

Rehabilitation Project - House of Mercy

The 'House of Mercy' project is a residential smallholding offering rehabilitation for internally displaced, single men who are often ill, disorientated, unemployed, without documents and suffering from addictions. Work is moving forward and we have now sent funds which have enabled Dima and the team to stock up on chickens, pigs and seedlings for vegetable production this summer. This project has been developed from a street feeding programme where participants for the House of Mercy project are identified. The next step is a Community Hub (in Kyiv) which will be open to all in need every day - a place where people can come and receive clothes and other vital help, have a hot meal, get a free haircut and receive psychological and spiritual support. We are supporting Dima and Olha with funds for rent for the Hub which will open as soon as cosmetic repairs are complete.



Rearing livestock and growing vegetables will ensure that this project becomes self-sufficient in the longer term.

Please pray for:

- ◆ Andrei and for those like him who want to break the cycle of addiction and re-enter society.
- ◆ Those finding a faith in God and meaning in their lives.
- ◆ The new community hub - that it will be a source of support for many.
- ◆ The homeless in Ukraine, who often have mental health issues, addictions and other challenges and who are vulnerable, marginalised and stigmatised. DHM is working with Dima and Olha to support key aspects of their work and business planning. If you and/or your church would like to 'adopt' this ministry with a regular contribution to support the work please contact our Chair of Trustees: mark@dniprohopemission.org



This is Andrei, a refugee from Luhansk. Before the war he lost an eye. When he came to the 'House of Mercy' he was homeless and unemployed. Now he has a home and is busy with work and finding faith in a supportive environment.

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those who are perishing. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.' Prov.31: 8-9

Latest news

We mentioned Summer camps for children on page 4. The school year in Ukraine ends in May. Pastor Oleksandr in Tsarichanka is planning day camps for younger children for two full weeks in the church grounds. In July, they plan a 7-day camp for youth and in August, a 7 day camp for kids aged 10-14.

The photo (right) was sent to us by our partner, Mykhailo in Dnipro, from a conference preparing for summer camps. The churches in his area are planning some 50 camps this summer for children and adolescents. *'We appreciate your prayer support,'* he writes.

Please pray for:

- ◆ Safe travels. Some will be travelling long distances from eastern Ukraine to the relative safety of the Carpathian mountains in western Ukraine.
- ◆ Wisdom for the team leaders and for all the volunteer helpers.
- ◆ A safe and blessed summer time for all in Ukraine.
- ◆ The Ukrainian children whose fathers are away fighting or who have been killed fighting to defend their country from the illegal Russian invasion. Pray for Russian children too, they are also innocent victims of war.



Thanks to Joshua and all those working tirelessly for DHM

We are hugely grateful to Joshua, DHM trustee and co-founder with his wife Varduyi. Joshua continues to work tirelessly for 'a future and a hope for Ukraine' where he lived and worked. Joshua is pictured in Switzerland where he was speaking about DHM. He has also spoken at The Annual Assembly of the German Baptist Union where he gave a talk on the Sermon on the Mount (and where Varduyi spent her birthday!)

Please pray for :

- ◆ Joshua, Varduyi and Thomas in Elstal - that they get some family and rest time this summer. Pray too for Joshua as he is ordained at the end of June.
- ◆ Mark, DHM Chair of Trustees, Roger, our Vice-Chair and for Reg, our Treasurer and the Board of Trustees - that we make wise decisions in uncertain times.

We give thanks to you - our DHM family and community - for making the life-saving work of DHM possible.



Join us as we pray for peace

Every month, on the first Thursday, we pause and pray for peace and justice. Please join us, if you can, on June 6th, July 4th and/or August 1st from 3-4pm (BST) as we pray for a just end to this terrible war and an end to the anguish of the Ukrainian people. Please know that we are grateful to you all as we stand with Ukraine.

Please contact the prayer convenor for the Zoom link: melanie@dniprohopemission.org

'Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful...' 1 Thess 5:16-17

Thank you for your prayers and continued support

A huge thank you from our hearts to everyone who has donated to Dnipro Hope Mission - we are supporting many projects and partners now and couldn't do this without you. A special thank you to Geoff and Joan who held a plant sale and open garden at their Stockton home on Saturday May 18th and raised an incredible £1081.



Please pray for continued support for our financial needs, especially as the situation in Ukraine worsens.

Visiting speakers: One of our trustees may be available to visit your church or group to tell you more about Dnipro Hope Mission, our partners and their life-saving work in Ukraine. Please contact DHM chair of trustees:
mark@dniprohopemission.org

Come and say hello to DHM! We have a stand at the Cedarwood Festival
12th-13th July, Thorp Harrow, North Yorkshire: <https://cedarwoodfestival.com/>

Giving



DHM is an organisation comprised of volunteers and local ministry partners, we don't have any paid staff and almost all 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

Please contact gill@dniprohopemission.org for a gift aid form or download it from our website
<https://www.dniprohopemission.org/donate/>

If you would like an acknowledgement, please email trustees Gill or Melanie and we would be very happy to thank you personally for your gift.

Every penny will help and almost all of your donations will go directly to our trusted local partners who are already working in Eastern Ukraine.

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'Love does no wrong to anyone.' Romans 13:10

Dnipro Hope Mission has been working in Eastern Ukraine since 2016 and became a UK-registered charity in 2018 (1177504)