



*September/October 2024*

*It has been a summer of smiles for children taking part in DHM's camps. Our partners have given children and young people a break from the war and time to experience joy, hope and positivity.*



*Internally displaced children and their parents on a 10-day summer camp run by the Equilibrium Project in Uzhhorod, Western Ukraine.*

DHM trustees, Melanie and Helen together with Helen's daughter Hannah, visited Equilibrium in July/August. To read more about our partner Margarita, the project and the experiences of two of the mothers who lost everything as they fled with their children at the beginning of the war, please see our blog: <https://www.dniprohopemission.org/blog/>

*'There are three things that endure - faith, hope and love...*

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

## Summer camps: Mykhailo, Dnipro



Our partner, Mykhailo, organised many camps for children this summer. He writes: *'Thank you for your prayers and support, which are very precious to us. There is such a lot of work in the summer that, at the end of the month, you can't remember what was going on in the beginning! Pray for us and these kids who have heard God's Word and that they would receive it and hang on to the truth.'*

Left - a camp for 100 children aged 8-14 and staff at Dnipro Central Baptist Church. Right - a camp for children aged 13-17 in the beautiful Carpathian mountains.



## Summer camps: Evgenii, Dnipro

Evgenii wrote: *'Greetings and thanks for your prayers. We thank God that He preserves and cares for us.'*

Conditions have been hard in Dnipro over the summer - very hot weather, no power, no water, a tired population and waves of Russian unmanned drones and rockets which fly low over the city and terrorise the residents. These camps gave children and young people a time of peace and they experienced being part of a caring community.



The photographs show a camp for 30 teenagers at the dacha of a church member and a camp held at the church (Dnipro Independent Baptist) when 50 children aged 6-12 arrived on the first day!

## Summer camps: Oleksandr, Tsarichanka

It has been a very difficult summer for all our partners. At times, the temperature has been in the 40's. Pastor Oleksandr wrote to us a few times to ask for prayer: *'...Life is getting really hard. There are as many as 15 alarms a day...rockets and drones flying and where they will hit us is anybody's guess. There is constant fear. It's also hard to live without electricity. We are without power for 18 hours and have power for 6 hours, praise God. There are generators, but the noise is awful and the power generated is expensive. Prices are going up for everything. Pray for peace for Ukraine, for an end to this ridiculous war...'* Despite these difficult conditions, the summer camps continued. 96 children attended the first camp in July. There have been a number of other children's gatherings/camps.



*Tsarichanka Baptist Church is full and a source of support for the whole community.*

*...and the greatest of these is love.' 1 Corinthians 14.13*

## Summer camps: Pastor Serhii, Poltava



*The long-awaited children's camps for children aged 6 - 12.*



*Teen summer camp 'unforgettable adventures and spiritual enrichment.'*

## Summer camps: Pastor Sasha, Vasilkivka

Just 20km from the summer camp planned by Pastor Sasha, in the village of Novohryhorivka, a rocket exploded. Even so, despite the danger, his team were able to lead a camp for children and women. Over 100 people attended. Many didn't have a faith but heard about how faith can sustain and strengthen you in wartime. The camp provided a wonderful 'oasis of normality' in all the chaos this terrible war is wreaking. See the video dated July 13th on our **Facebook page**: <https://www.facebook.com/DniproHope/> There are monthly meetings planned for all who participated so friendships and mutual support can continue.

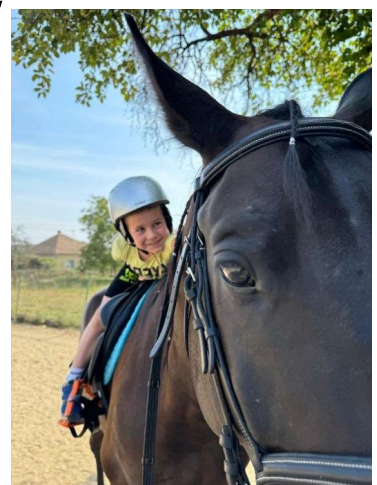


## Summer Camps: Margarita, Uzhhorod

Summer camps with a difference - the 'Equilibrium' Rehabilitation Project for internally displaced children. Margarita and her amazing volunteer team worked non-stop throughout the summer, running 5 x ten day camps. Over seventy children benefited from a programme of equine therapy, massage, therapeutic play, craft, movement, music therapy and more. Some of the children have disabilities and more complex needs. These camps are a wonderful time of inclusion and social interaction for children with and without disabilities. A special thanks to the Alchemy Foundation who donated £500 in response to our fundraising appeal.

### **Please pray for:**

- ◆ Margarita and the Equilibrium Project. She has plans to develop the project further which may involve a move to new premises and she is desperately in need of longer-term secure funding.



*'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord...*

# Summer Camps: Oleksii, Vinnytsia

When Pastor Oleksii wrote to us asking for additional money to fund a programme of summer camps, we sadly had to say 'no' as we didn't have any funds to send. However, after sharing this information with some of our supporters, the Dutch Mennonite Conference and several individuals sent very generous donations which enabled the camps to go ahead. Thank you for your generosity which has made such a difference to people's lives this summer. We are all very grateful. Oleksii has been able to run:

**A youth camp for over 60 young internally displaced people** who were able to spend six days in the Carpathian mountains. These vulnerable teenagers, all impacted by war, were able to spend time talking about God and go through trauma healing. Aleksei reported: *'Traveling, boating and mountain climbing ....conquering our first joint peak...praying for the world and back! Enjoying the beautiful views of God's creation... the wonderful time spent in the circle of young people will be remembered for a long time by me and every teenager....'*

**A family camp for 14-15 couples from the frontline territories.** Oleksii and his co-workers were able to spend time with these young couples, encouraging them, praying for and with them, and talking about their needs. War is having a huge impact on marriages and it is important to nurture and support young families, especially in times of war and separation.

**Five day camps for 100 children in war-torn Kherson Region.** Oleksii makes frequent trips to the front lines here and had been asked many times to organise events for children. He gained permission to go to 5 villages to lead these camps. The team somehow organised trampolines, sport and craft activities, led bible classes, shared lunch and talked to parents. Oleksii says *'Children are the future of Ukraine, and we cannot stop praying for them and investing in activities that help them adapt well, grow spiritually and morally and remain positive despite all the adversity, trauma and stress.'*

## Please pray:

- ◆ That the camps helped all the children, teenagers and adults 'grow' in every sense and develop an increase in personal strength and resilience despite the war that surrounds and affects every aspect of their daily lives.
- ◆ For the many children in Ukraine who are not able to attend schools - particularly those with disabilities or special educational needs.



*The six-day camp for internally displaced teenagers.*



*Fun and games for children living near the frontlines - Kherson*

*...they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.' Jeremiah 29.11*

## Buildings to give 'a hope and a future'



Across Ukraine, the scale of buildings destroyed by the Russians is unimaginable - estimates vary but over 100 hospitals, 700 schools and colleges and 1.5 million homes have been destroyed.

Pastor Oleksandr (pictured left in the green tee shirt) visited Kherson to deliver aid and spiritual support to the village of Posad-Pokrovskoe where there is much damage and the church was destroyed. The people there were singing mournful prayer for Ukraine: 'Full up with grief and weeping.'

**Please pray:**

- ♦ That the fighting will end and the rebuilding will begin.
- ♦ For those mourning the loss of loved ones and communities.

## The House of Hope - Vasilkivka



It was not an easy decision to spend funds on providing a roof, windows and door to the House of Hope building before winter, given the military situation. However, by roofing and securing the building, the progress already made is protected and preserved. The windows are now being installed. The building will be equipped with temporary generators which will enable it to be used as an emergency shelter/community hub this winter.

**Please pray:** For protection for the small town of Vasilkivka where Pastor Sasha and his family live and serve the local community and those who are internally displaced.

For the care home in Lubomyrivka - supported by Pastor Sasha with DHM funds.

## The School House - Tsarichanka

We are in urgent need of a sponsor for this project! This is the education centre for children in the village of Tsarichanka. Pastor Oleksandr and his co-workers support many children each week - children who have been internally displaced, war orphans and children who are generally 'at risk'. Children who are without the internet at home are able to come here for on-line schooling which greatly helps single parents who can continue to work knowing their children are safe. This building needs the façade finishing and the materials will cost about £2000. He says: 'Could you possibly ask your friends?' so if anyone reading this is able to help, please contact our Chair of Trustees: [mark@dniprohopemission.org](mailto:mark@dniprohopemission.org)

**Please pray** for Pastor Oleksandr, and for the protection of the church and school house and all who live and work in this area. On August 1st, Pastor Oleksandr sent us a cry from his heart: 'Pray for us ...from 10pm—8am for 8 hours, rockets and Shahed drones were flying...heaven and earth shook from the explosions!!! Why is the world silent?....' The destruction continues - on July 31st, Ukraine experienced a large drone attack - the largest of the war so far; on August 26th, a huge aerial bombardment across the whole country destroyed energy infrastructure and many buildings. There have been more overnight attacks with many killed and injured.



*'....we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us...'*

*Romans 5.4-5*

## DHM Relief work continues



Above: Food and medical supplies packed and delivered by Pastor Evgenii and his co-workers from Dnipro Independent Church.



Above: A volunteer caring for the elderly (Salvation Baptist Church, Poltava)



Left: Pastor Oleksii continues to make the thousand-mile trips to those left behind near the front lines: 'We continue to deliver our packages to Kherson region. It is getting more difficult there and people need help more than ever. Thank God for all who support us so that we can able to help them.' **Note** the windows of a church in the Kherson region, secured with sandbags so that people are protected from debris during the shelling.

Right: Our partners, Dima and Olha, have just opened a Community Hub in Kyiv. Already, there are many grateful visitors. DHM provides funds which enables them to rent the building.



So many are struggling. '14.6 million people are in humanitarian need.' ref: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9467/>. Smaller charities such as DHM with our local partners who are focused on mission and service and know first-hand what people need can reach areas where there are no large NGOs and where people feel forgotten.

**Please pray** for all humanitarian workers - that they will have funds, fuel, physical strength and inspiration to continue carrying 'the light that shines in the darkness' - there is a difficult winter ahead. Look out for our Winter Appeal.

*'Be strong and take courage, all you who put your hope in the Lord!'*  
Psalm 31.24

## Please keep praying for Ukraine

In Ukraine, the summer has been challenging – there are mass evacuations from Pokrovsk and the surrounding towns and villages. Fighting gets closer every day. It is very difficult to make the decision to evacuate and leave everything you have ever known behind. No-one chooses to leave their homes but, after years and months of rockets, bombs, missiles and drone attacks; of non-stop worrying about which of your friends and relatives are still alive after the shelling; of over 920 long nights of dread; of watching your children and pets suffering every time there is a loud bang; of trying to stay strong yourself, there is some relief. Who can compare the stress and exhaustion of living near the front lines, which may be far greater than the stress of leaving and not knowing when, or if, you will return?

### Please pray:

- ◆ For our partner, Vasili, who continues to help with evacuations. DHM funds are providing fuel to evacuate up to four families a day.
- ◆ That properties are protected while those who have been forced to evacuate have to stay elsewhere, so that people are able to return to their homes and rebuild their communities at the end of this war.
- ◆ That those who leave are accepted into new communities and welcomed. Pray that landlords are supportive and do not put up rents.
- ◆ For those experiencing sirens and active shelling in Ukraine right now (You can see this yourself on <https://air-alarms.in.ua/en> and <https://alerts.in.ua/en>)
- ◆ For Russian civilians who are also experiencing the heartbreak of evacuations.
- ◆ Our partner, Sergei, sent this urgent appeal on August 28th: *'Many are coming to Novomoskovsk from the Donetsk region, and there is almost nothing left to share with them at the displaced persons centre. Can you forward funds?'*

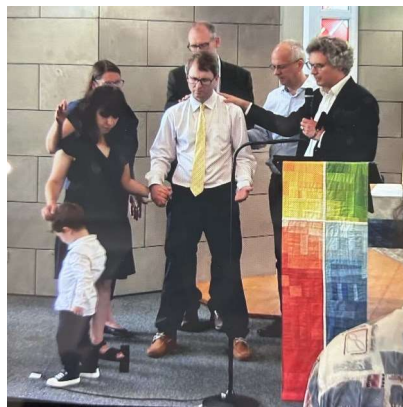
## We give thanks

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Joshua Searle (DHM Co-founder with his wife Varduyi) and to our partner Rev. Evgenii Vishnevskii (Dnipro Independent Baptist Church). Both have recently been ordained as Baptist ministers.

We are thankful too for the safe arrival of Evgenii and Polina's daughter - a new sister for Evgenia and David.

### Please pray:

- ◆ For peace so that Ukrainian families can be reunited. Polina and the children are refugees in London and Evgenii has not seen them since Christmas.
- ◆ For protection for the cities of Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia and the surrounding areas. They are at risk if the Russians take Pokrovsk.



## 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 September 5th and/or October 3rd 3-4pm (BST) and/or November 7th (GMT) as we pray for a just end to this terrible war and an end to the suffering 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](mailto:melanie@dniprohopemission.org)**

*'So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in Him...'*

# Thank you for your prayers and continued support



A huge thank you to our fundraisers and 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 Jacquie and Steve Taylor (*pictured*) and their friends who raised over £900 from car boot sales and donations and to the Lyndhurst Trust who donated £3000 in July.

Thanks to Mark, DHM Chair of Trustees and our new trustee Anna Bilous (*pictured below right*) who attended the Cedarwood Festival in North Yorkshire. Anna was asked to speak about her own experiences as a refugee.



DHM trustee Gill, with Nina



A ladies craft group in Poole, the 'Space for Life' group, have been busy knitting and crocheting blankets for elderly and disabled people 'left behind' on the front lines near Kherson.

**Please pray** for all those who receive these blankets which have been hand made with so much love and care. They will be couriered to our partner, Oleksii, early in September. Thanks to the group and to DHM supporter Nina who has donated the funds for sending the blankets to Ukraine.

**Please pray** for continued support for our financial needs. There are emergencies in other areas of the world and some larger NGOs may not be able to prioritise Ukraine. Our partners report that there is no longer the huge flow of aid that they received in 2022 and life is getting harder.

**Visiting speakers:** We would love 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 for more information:

[mark@dniprohopemission.org](mailto:mark@dniprohopemission.org)

## 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](mailto: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.

**Account name: Dnipro Hope Mission**  
**Account Number: 68149860**  
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*...May you overflow with hope...' Romans 15: 13*

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