



May/June 2025

Hopes for a just and lasting peace for Ukraine are fading fast.

Russia is launching countless missile and bomb attacks on Ukrainian cities killing many innocent civilians daily.

A deadly missile strike killed nineteen people including nine children and teenagers in Kryvyi Rih on April 4th - dozens were injured; in Kherson three people were killed and two injured on April 12th; Cluster munitions killed thirty four and injured one hundred and seventeen as people were heading to church in Sumy on Palm Sunday; a mass drone attack killed three and injured at least thirty in Dnipro on April 16th; shelling in Nikopol killed two and injured five on April 17th; yet another missile attack killed one and injured one hundred and twelve in Kharkiv on Good Friday, April 18th .



This photograph was sent to us by our partner Serhii and was taken from his yard in Poltava on April 23rd. 'Tonight, from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m...there was the largest drone attack on our neighbourhood during the entire war.' His children were terrified. **Please pray for the safety of our families, friends, mission partners and all in Ukraine.**

Please pray unceasingly for Ukraine

Joshua's message to our partners on Good Friday:

'Dear and Beloved Friends and Ministry Partners in Ukraine,

On this Good Friday, we unite in prayer and solidarity with you, as we reflect on the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. This year marks the fourth Good Friday since the brutal and illegal invasion of your peaceful country by Russia. We recognise that for you, the agony of Good Friday is not a one-off event, but a constant condition of existence: as you mourn your loved ones and endure the daily indignity of disruption to your lives, while the piercing sounds of air raid sirens announce the approach of yet another deadly Russian attack.

As the sun sets on this sorrowful day, we hold you close in our prayers. On this Good Friday, where pain and death reign and violence casts its dark shadow over our lives, we remember our Saviour with his arms of love spread out on the cross. We remember how He cried out in agony as He submitted Himself to an unjust punishment of unimaginable pain and indignity at the hands of evil men.

We also recall that Christ felt the pain of abandonment by his friends. We know that you, our dear Ukrainian friends, are also feeling abandoned and betrayed by the nations of the world. It is important to remember that those proud politicians in Washington and Moscow, who have betrayed you and who now wield power and think themselves invincible, will one day face God's judgment.

They mistakenly believe they control the course of history, yet they are ultimately weak and enslaved to their pride. Their god is their own ego and their end is destruction (Phil. 3:19). On the great Day of Judgment, these powerful figures will be brought low. They will not be able to escape the wrath to come (1 Thess. 1:10); their evil deeds and lies will be exposed for all to see (Luke 8:17). They will face a terrible reckoning for their complicity with darkness, which has led to the suffering and destruction of countless innocent lives in Ukraine.

In stark contrast, you who have endured suffering at the hands of these evil men will ultimately be vindicated. Though you, as victims of the Russian aggression, may currently feel overwhelmed and powerless, your struggle for dignity and freedom is righteous, and the Lord hears your prayers; the Lord even hears with compassion your protests as you raise your voices in lamentation that He has abandoned you.

While the reasons for your immense suffering may elude our understanding, we can affirm that the fate of every nation rests in God's hands, who vindicates the righteous. Long after the self-serving leaders of so-called "great nations" have vanished into obscurity, it will be those of you who exhibit humility, service, and sacrifice who are honoured and remembered.

The cruel death of our Saviour on Good Friday reminds us that the true destiny of Ukraine is determined not by the whims of politicians in Washington, Moscow, Brussels, or even Kyiv. Rather, the destiny of Ukraine belongs to you, dear Sergei, dear Alexander, dear Yulia, dear Oleksii, dear Taras, dear Olya, dear Roman and to all our other dear friends and ministry partners in Ukraine – names that no-one will read about in Time magazine, but whose quiet unsung deeds of compassion, sacrificial love and service will echo through eternity.

Dear friends, your deeds reflect Christ's love and align with God's ultimate purposes for Ukraine and all nations and therefore will live on long after the seemingly powerful and self-serving global leaders have exited the stage and are no more than dust and clay.

On this solemn day, we join you, our dear Ukrainian friends, in your hope that resurrection follows the crucifixion. Just as Christ triumphed over death and despair, so too will your courage, compassion, and faith pave the way to victory, freedom and a just and dignified peace for all the people of Ukraine'. Originally posted on Facebook and written on behalf of the Board of Trustees for DHM.

*'...the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives
for their friends.' John 15.13*

Dnipro Independent Baptist Church

Our partner Yevhenii and the team at Dnipro Independent Baptist Church have been using funds from DHM to help the most vulnerable. Dnipro is a city in mourning after mass Russian drone attacks on March 28th. 4 people were killed and 24 injured. '...the city is a real hell, houses are on fire and the streets are in ruins...just horror..'. There have been multiple strikes since then including the one on Wednesday, April 16th when Russian drone strikes killed at least three people, one of them a child. Dozens more were injured in the attack. Bombs destroyed homes, student dormitories, a university facility and several vehicles and multiple fires broke out across the city. [Pray for protection for the city of Dnipro.](#)

We are very thankful that Yevhenii was able to visit the UK just before Easter and especially grateful to Pastor Simon, his wife and children and all at New Malden Baptist Church who have taken this Ukrainian family into their hearts.

[Please pray for:](#) Yevhenii, separated from his wife Polina and their three children who are refugees here in the UK.



The School House in Tsarichanka



We are so thankful to our partner Oleksandr and the team at Tsarichanka Baptist Church who have set up a 'school within the church' which has a number of classes for different aged children. This is an amazing community and DHM is delighted that we can send funds for two new laptops for teaching staff and sturdy furniture for the classrooms. With increased Russian attacks, thousands of children are now learning online or are out of school entirely, or in an underground classroom. The School House is a lifeline for single parents and these children can play and have fun with their peers, are taught by a teacher and receive a hot meal.

[Please pray](#) for protection for these children and all those who live and work in Tsarichanka. Pray that all Ukrainian children would have a 'hope and a future.'

'I want you to share your food with the hungry and welcome poor wanderers into your homes.' Isa 58.7

Equilibrium Project moves forward in Uzhhorod

The work of the Equilibrium Project continues. Over the winter, Margarita has built her own stables and rescued another horse. This project is helping hundreds of children cope with the trauma of conflict, displacement, uncertainty and separation. Many of these children have been displaced not just once but two or three times. Through art, horses, massage and music, and a safe space for friendship and support, there is a sense of hope, purpose, meaning, and community. One participant sent us a message: *'Our family want to say a big thank you to Dnipro Hope Mission for the wonderful opportunity to take part in the Equilibrium project. This is a very inspiring and creative project, we are grateful to Margo, Irina and everyone who is involved in this project and gave us such an amazing opportunity. Thank you!'* A huge thank you to every one of our supporters who have taken this project into your hearts.



Please pray for:

- ◆ Margarita and the team as they prepare for the busiest time of the year - the three-month summer holiday.
- ◆ Wisdom as DHM trustee Helen and her daughter Hannah make preparations to return to Ukraine this summer.

*'Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf,
welcomes me.'* Mark 9.37

Meanwhile in Kherson...

Our partner, Oleksii is loading a truck to take to the Kherson region again. He will be there with the team for the entire Easter week. DHM has sent funds to help with fuel and other urgent needs. Since the beginning of the war, the residents of Kherson have been terrorized by non-stop Russian drone and artillery attacks targeting civilian buildings. All of this time, Oleksii and the team from the Heart of Christ Church have been making the dangerous journey to support people in this region. The city was under Russian occupation for 256 days from February to November 2022, before it was liberated during the Ukrainian counteroffensive. During the occupation, many were forced to remain in hiding to avoid filtration and potential interrogation, torture, or abduction. The number of people in the city is now a quarter of its pre-war population. It is right on the edge of Russian-occupied territory, with Russian troops carrying out relentless attacks from where they hold the other bank of the Dnipro River less than a kilometre (0.6 miles) away. Those left are volunteers, key workers, the elderly, the poor and people with disabilities. Schools and pre-schools are held online. With danger too high for many repair crews, parts of the city have no electricity, water, or gas supplies.



Oleksii says 'Thank you for your prayers and support.'

'Sometimes we look for proof, signs, or confirmation. But true faith is taking a step into the unknown, trusting that God is near.... Don't lose your faith. Even when everything around you says otherwise - God is. And He is at work.'



Please pray:

- ♦ For the safety of Oleksii and the team.
- ♦ For the cities of Dnipro, Kherson, Kryvyi Rih, Nikopol, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia and the many others - may they be protected from further harm.
- ♦ The residents of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions - these are the territories being claimed by Russia (with Crimea) and could be part of a peace deal forced upon Ukraine. Mass evacuations will be needed because many people will be in great danger.
- ♦ Oleksii asks us to 'Pray for peace, resilience and God's protection over all residents of Kyiv'.

'When I heard this, I sat down and wept.' Nehemiah 1:4

A message from Serhii and Salvation Church in Poltava

'But the Lord Christ is with us, He gives His grace to live, serve, hold on. God has put it in our hearts to serve those whose lives are in fear, destruction, loss, grief and despair. We, as a church, carry hope in God, that only in Him will a person receive healing of the soul and find true peace, although everything around is saturated with death.'

We thank each of you for your GIANT heart. For the fact that each of you has taken: our pain, our tears, our suffering, our burdens, our losses upon yourself. We thank you for always being with us! We thank you that through your service, through your donations, through your help, we have been able to serve hundreds of thousands of people together! These people have never seen you, but they have felt the touch of each of you in their lives. You have done much more than you can imagine, you have supported, helped, served, saved thousands, tens of thousands of people.'

A story of strength, pain, and hope...

Here is 74-year-old Olena's story - just one of the many thousands who have been helped by this church since the war began. She was forced to flee her hometown of Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region) with her 12-year-old grandson after heavy shelling began. They spent six weeks in a bomb shelter without electricity, food or enough water. Their home was destroyed by a rocket strike. Thanks to volunteers, they managed to evacuate. They were terrified, heartbroken and hopeless. Salvation Church invited Olena to a support group for internally displaced people. Here she found warmth, kindness, a hot drink and treats but she says:



'Most importantly I found hope - encouraging words, prayer, support and a feeling that I am not alone'. Olena suffers from chronic illnesses and her small income barely covers rent and medication. Thanks to Salvation Church, she receives essential aid - food packages, clothing and hygiene items - without these it would be hard for her to survive. 'This help is not just a package for me, it is a support for my heart. This is a reminder that God sees my tears and will not leave.'

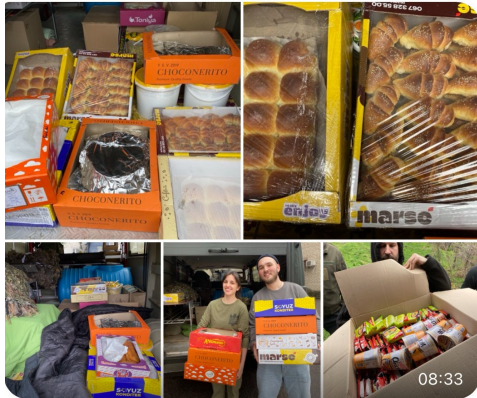
Please pray:

- ♦ For all those who have passed and are passing through the valley in the shadow of death - that they will be given physical, emotional, social and spiritual support and that the 'light will shine in the darkness.'
- ♦ For Pastor Serhii, his family, all those in Salvation Church and the thousands of internally displaced people in Poltava, especially after the trauma of the recent bombings.

'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted...' Psalm 34:18

Update from Sasha:

Work continues on the House of Hope. Sand and gravel have been delivered together with three hundred breeze blocks for building a toilet in the yard. They are now feeding people from five villages and have ordered two more large tables so they can all be hosted at the same time! Sasha says: *'We are very grateful to DHM for the huge help and blessings! May the Lord bless each of you, your families, communities, churches!'* Sasha continues to deliver food (pictured) and drinking water to two villages just 6 km from the front lines. He also takes a generator so they can pump water for household needs.



Mark Allchorn, Chair of DHM's Board of Trustees, wrote about Sasha in our Easter blog post: *'...Sasha, a local pastor and our longest standing friend and partner in eastern Ukraine, narrowly escaped death and saved a woman to whom he'd brought food and water. He was just 2km from the front line and was targeted by a Russian drone team. His minibus (donated six years ago) was destroyed. He then had to shelter with the woman until nightfall and the drone threat was diminished. Sasha was kept safe. And then borrowed another vehicle so he could go back and provide relief once more.'*

Sasha is incredibly brave yet so modest and with such a servant heart. We thank God that he's safe and continue to pray for his ongoing protection'. Read the full post here: <https://www.dniprohopemission.org/faith-fellowship-and-the-front-line-an-easter-reflection-on-servant-leadership/>

Sasha with supplies to take to a local orphanage

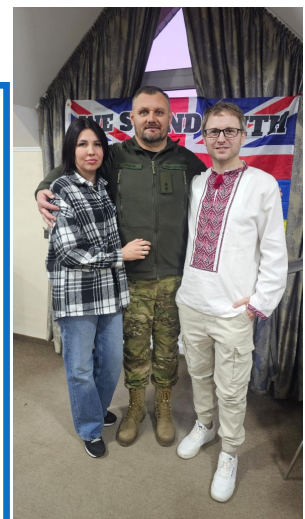
Please pray: Sasha needs a Renault Master van urgently to replace the DHM minibus which was destroyed. Finding the right vehicle is proving difficult even though the funds have been provided (a huge thankyou to Epsom Baptist Church) and are already with Sasha. Please pray for a breakthrough.



Urgent request from Sergey:

Please pray: Sergey (an army chaplain, pictured here with his wife Valentina and Joshua) asks for prayer for his own health and protection. He's frequently in extreme danger these days. Also, his car is giving out and, like everyone else, he needs a new one. A vehicle is a lifeline. It's an ambulance for the wounded as well as his own getaway car. Can we possibly help? All of our partners have said that their most urgent need is for a reliable car - to distribute aid, evacuate the wounded and for mandatory evacuations as the Russians advance. If anyone is able to help, please contact our Chair of Trustees: mark@dniprohopemission.org

Most of our partners, like Oleksii, Sasha, Sergey and Vasily, are driving along very dangerous roads to deliver life-saving aid to civilians very near the front lines (as near as 2km). **Please keep praying for their safety and protection.**



'Weep with those who weep' Romans 12.15

Our grateful thanks....



In early March, Joshua led a small team of volunteers from Dnipro Hope Mission to visit our ministry partners in Ukraine. He writes: *'In a war-torn nation, where the haunting wails of air raid sirens and the deafening blasts of exploding Russian bombs threaten to drown out the voices of hope, we became witnesses to a remarkable story of faith, courage and resilience unfolding in Ukraine.'* Read the full story on our blog: <https://www.dniprohopemission.org/a-testament-of-hope-report-on-a-recent-trip-to-ukraine-by-joshua-searle/>. Joshua has also written an Easter reflection here: https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/714626/An_Easter_reflection.aspx

Every month, on the first Thursday, we pause and pray for peace and justice. Please join us, if you can, on **May 1st** from 3 - 4 pm BST, **June 5th** from 3-4pm BST and/or **July 3rd** from 3-4pm BST as we pray for an end to this illegal war and for a just peace for Ukraine. 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

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 direct debit/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 throughout Ukraine.

Account name: Dnipro Hope Mission

Account Number: 68149860

Sort Code: 30-90-91

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

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