



## UKRAINE UPDATE 14 March 2022

*“I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8).*

Mine are the hands to do Thy work,  
My feet shall run for Thee;  
My lip shall sound the glorious news—  
Lord, here am I, send me.

*Anonymous*

More than two weeks into Ukraine war relief efforts, the response has been tremendous. The Hardin Valley Church of Christ has become a focal point from around the region and across the country.

One result of your involvement was the delivery of 372 family buckets to the Graymere Church of Christ in Columbia TN on 10 March where they will be loaded on a cargo container, with a capacity of 2,200-5-gallon buckets, this week for Gadansk Poland. In addition, hundreds of individual items and food was also delivered; one note regarding the food, John and Kim from Seymour who donated several pounds of freeze-dried food including baby food. They have committed to supply the food from their small food processing business for as long as necessary. It is this kind of support and effort that demonstrates the goodness found in East Tennesseans for their fellow man.



In addition to the “Family Bucket” efforts, financial support has been overwhelming. Not only have Hardin Valley members opened their purses, financial support has poured



in from the region and across the country. Financial support will enable us to get collected goods to Poland and Into Ukraine. These funds will also be used on the ground (later in article) to provide necessary support in the refugee relief efforts. It is very humbling that we are working with congregations in several states across “denominational” identities.

I have been able to keep updated with many of the churches and individuals some in our congregation know. The Church in Sumy remains safe and few have fled. I have not anything from the Church in Chernigiv... just north of Kyiv, shelling there has been devastating, the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk is active, playing an important role in the distribution of relief and providing shelter for refugees. Our grandson’s fiancé and her mom

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are safe in Germany, others have fled to Poland, Austria, Romania, and other countries; Ukrainian citizens can travel freely withing the EU countries.

### **From the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk**

“Dear brothers and sisters!

*We turn to all who might be able to help us. Due to the war, thousands of internally displaced people have come to Western Ukraine from the East and other cities of Ukraine. All lodging that was available for rent has been rented by those that can afford it. Those that are less fortunate could hardly get here. They live in their cars now waiting to be helped.*

*The Church here is providing food and water for them, but they are exhausted and weak and need lodging. We have available space inside our church building. But it is still incomplete for such activity. We need to buy beds, rugs, mattresses, put in showers and toilets. We have finished heating and have plumbing ready. There are 8 rooms available on the first floor. We could easily make them available to the IDP's. If we can purchase the above mentioned things we will be able to house them as soon as possible. If you can help us with money to purchase all that is needed then we can offer shelter for many IDPs.*

*We are doing all we can here. We are helping hospitals and surgeons who treat wounded.*

*Thank you for your prayers and support*

*Men of the congregation: Ivan, Volodymyr, Mycholi, Ruslan, Pavlo, Andrew”*



Distribution from inside Ukraine courtesy of Ukrainian officials and John Kachelman, Jr.

Work continues on the ground in Worclaw Poland (east of Krakow) establishing the infrastructure to receive and distribute relief to refugees and through the Church into Ukraine. My personal plans at this time is to continue to lead the efforts here. As the situation in Poland becomes clearer, I will reassess my involvement to travel there to make a personal assessment of how to be more effective in targeting the relief that is so graciously being given.

How can you help?

If you have ideas to be involved, please share them with me and others. You can help by volunteering to compose a daily prayer for Ukraine for the next 30 days to be shared with the congregation and beyond.

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We'll assess the need at the end of that period. Individually, continue to pray for Ukraine... make it a part of your daily talk with God. Pray Psalms 91 as a family...read the many fascinating stories found online concerning this Psalms and talk about them around the family table.

God is in control... Here I am Lord, send me!

Michael Lawson

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