



Ukraine Missions Relief Effort Update 6 April 2022



Caution: Graphic Pictures

Ukraine Missions
A Ministry of the Hardin Valley Church of Christ
11515 Hardin Valley Road
Knoxville, TN 37932

The face of War

The war rages on. Russian atrocities are being uncovered for the international community to see in Bucha and elsewhere in Ukraine; Documented Inhumane atrocities are contrasted to the lies behind the brutality of the Russian military establishment.

The photo (R) is of Irina. She lived in Bucha. The photo on the far right was supplied by Iryna, her manicurist.

Below (R) is a 6 year old Kyiv boy as he stands in his backyard next to his mother's grave. Another innocent casualty of targeting civilians.

Throughout eastern Ukraine, thousands are taken to "filtration" camps in eastern Russia where they are stripped of everything that makes them a person and Ukrainian.

Earlier today I spoke to Nastya, an escapee from Mariupol. She was being interviewed by WBIR TV. She had to leave her husband and son behind in Ukraine. They are all safe now after their treacherous journey to reach Zaporozhe. A journey infested with Russian vermin along the way. It was painful to see and listen as tears streamed down her face; through her broken voice, she talked about the loss of her best friend and her son. Victims of indiscriminate shelling of civilians by Russian forces.

In Mariupol it has been reported that Russian soldiers have begun using portable crematoriums to destroy the bodies of Russian soldiers and Ukrainian citizens to hide the atrocities that are being uncovered in the regions of Kyiv, Chernigov, Kharkov, and Sumy as the Russian soldiers pull back. 160,000 civilians are trapped in Mariupol without food, water, and medicine. The Red Cross turned back because Russian soldiers would not let them in.

There are no words to describe these atrocities... not seen since WWII concentration camps.

Here is part of the conversation I had today with Mila in Sumy. A delightful woman who ran an English language school. I always enjoyed going by, when in town, to see her; she would always





let me speak to her classes... that was risky as I speak mostly Southerneeze. We talked about her future and that of her son who has already fled and desires to go to another country to live.

Mila: "A good and comfortable future is highly doubtful here. The news is only about war and dead people. After war we will have mourning over dead people. Then reconstruction will follow, misery, low income and when to live? Stress all the time. We always have something. If it is not this then it is either another Maidan revolution, or war, or genocide. There is no room for normal, comfortable and stable life."

Her story is the story of many Ukrainians. Just a few days ago, life, life and hope in abundance, was taken away by a little madman afflicted with a Napolean complex. A delusional and dangerous little man with aspirations of being the next great Russian Czar; one who restores the Russia Empire to a position only admired by one man; himself.

Relief Efforts

On a more uplifting message, your efforts are to be applauded! Relief continues to pour in and it is greatly appreciated. To date, two shipments (40' cargo containers) have been made thus far to Poland. These shipments consisted of "family buckets" and bulk items. There will be a slight shift in what is being provided; later in this update.

In the Sumy Region, direct relief is now being provided to a trusted partner; this relief effort is directly related to mothers with babies and infants.



Relief efforts continue to be a door-to-door operations. The Church in Ivano-Frankivsk continues purchasing needed foods and relief items locally to give to those who have been driven out of their homes and towns by the Russian military. With six-million internally displaced persons (IDP's), western areas are being overwhelmed.

The church building (next page) in Ivano-Frankivsk, although not completed, is being turned into temporary shelter for the displaced.

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How are Contributions Being Used?

Some have asked how financial contributions are handled. On the following page a brief breakdown is provided. As funds are used, a usage report will be provided via this newsletter and/or published on our web site: www.ukrainemissions.org. No personal information will be divulged.

100% of received contributions are used to support the relief effort; there are no administrative cost associated with a volunteer army.



- **Shipping of bulk relief items and related cost***
 - Shared cost for container shipments and necessary boxing and packing as necessary
 - Air freight and/or land-based shipping cost as necessary
- **Providing funds to trusted individuals for local purchase of items in Ukraine**
- **Assist with temporary shelter of refugees**
- **Provide medical/pharma support at point of need**

*Each container is valued at \$250,000-\$400,000 depending on their contents. Medical only shipments will be significantly more.

Your contributions, such as “Family Buckets” are still appreciated (there are a few remaining buckets to be filled so come by and pick one up). So, continue with those efforts and if you desire, a slight change in direction has been made to provide backpacks filled with items for moms and babies, infants, and young children; the change results from feedback at the refugee sites. A contents list can be found at www.ukrainemissions.org.

Local Efforts

Two Knoxville area churches are leading an area wide Christian outreach challenge. The Arlington Church of Christ and the Laurel Church of Christ are leading the way to collect medical supplies. Individually, you can help this effort by donating OTC items; these will be collected, boxed, and shipped. You can visit their respective home pages for contact and how-to-help information.

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A list will also be posted on our web site at: www.UkraineMissions.org

Tax deductible contributions are still being accepted payable to the Hardin Valley Church of Christ; on the memo line write "Ukraine Relief"



I mentioned earlier that a shift is being made in relief efforts to provide backpacks filled with items for moms with babies, infants, and young children. If you need a backpack (see photo) we can provide you with a backpack (about \$6 ea. bought in bulk through Amazon); the cost to fill the pack is about \$50-\$60. I hope to have a sample set up at our Church located at 11515 Hardin Valley Road before Sunday 10 April.

A list of items is posted on our website at www.UkraineMissions.org

A list of medical items will also be posted.

Taking the message abroad

In a few days, I will be traveling to Ukraine to help with medical distribution and relief efforts; I'll share more details as they become available. In the meantime, I solicit your prayers for the team, and the families saying here caring for the home front, that the mission will be successful, that Russia will cease its atrocities, and that our Father in Heaven will be glorified in all we do.

Michael Lawson

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