

August 24, 2022

The war in Ukraine is now six-months old; Ukraine just celebrated 31 years of independence from the Soviet Communist Regime under bomb filled skies of Russian aggression, but historic Ukraine can be traced back long before there was a Moscow. That notwithstanding, I'll start this update with a huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who has contributed in any form to Ukraine Missions. Your contribution has provided much needed medical assistance to doctors, nurses and soldiers in the combat zone in Eastern Ukraine. You have provided food, hand-made quilts, household appliances, buckets stuffed with essentials, backpacks, etc. to refugees, IDP's (Internally Displaced Persons), and children's camps in Ukraine. In this issue I'll share some of this with you.

Let's begin with this message from Mariia who lives and works in Kharkiv where shelling and cruise missiles are a daily occurrence. Your support enables her and others like her to save lives and provide comfort to all in need.

Her Message:

"Finally, doctors of Kharkiv and the region will receive such necessary surgical tools.

Didier Liebermann and Eustadia da Silva in cooperation with the French Ukraine Support Association Aide Médicale & Caritative France-Ukraine namely Novomed Group... sent 16 pallets!! of surgical instruments and medical supplies.

...all this time they have been tirelessly providing a lot of help to Ukraine, especially Ukrainian hospitals. Thank you so much for this.

Many thanks to Charita Shteynberg director of World of Connections and Church of Christ, Michael Lawson, for organizing the transportation and its payment.

Thanks to the efforts of all these people, our doctors will receive high quality surgical tools. Thank you on behalf of every patient whose treatment will be improved.

Mariia ...

More photos on next page

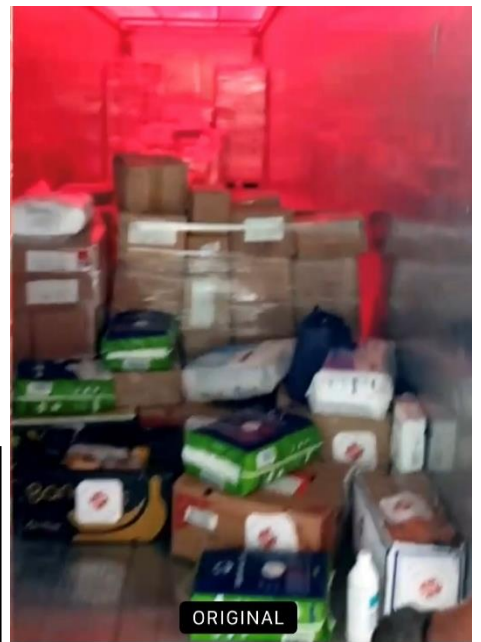




There is still a need for specialized Surgical Instruments, particularly in Urology. If you are interested in helping source instruments, please contact me.

Mlawson@ukrainemissions.org or

(865) 207-0114



Moving onto camps, I had the opportunity to revisit camps visited back in April and May. Again, your support has helped feed and bring some “normalcy” to the lives of these children and families.



Passing out bananas might not energize American children, but these kids came running when we arrived at the camp in Yaremche.



Every “little man” needs some ice cream after a hard day of fun.



The evening meal is prepared and ready for about 150 children. Evening meals consist of borscht, a pasta or potato dish, bread and fresh vegetables, juice, and water.

On the right, children and camp staff enjoy freeze dried cherry taffy and Tapioca pudding (it really taste like Tapioca Pudding) and other foods from John and Kim Jones of Seymour, TN. (JPAbove.com). Some packages of food were sent to the front lines. An ideal use since the food requires no refrigeration.

Top of next page, campers share the freeze-dried cherry taffy.





On the right. Unloading medical beds shipped from Germany. These beds will be distributed to assist the wounded soldiers and civilians wounded by Russian aggression.

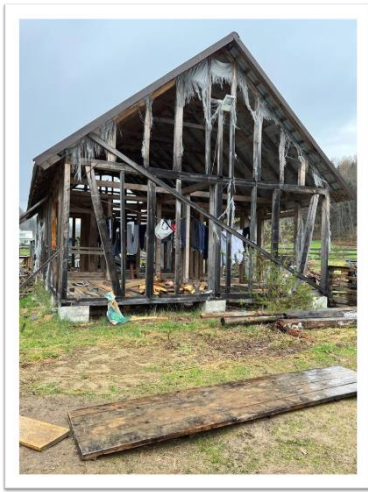


During my trip to Ukraine, 15 refugee children from Mykolaiv arrived at the camp.

On the left, one of several trips to purchase perishables for the camp. A commercial refrigerator is needed to store more food and reduce the number of trips to the Metro Food Market.

On the right, Inna and Nicholai discuss items to be purchased.





The building on the right (photo from earlier mission trip) was renovated to house families.



Above: A foundation and seal plates have been laid for a new kitchen, dining, and rec hall. With winter approaching, plans are to provide heating for the units. This camp came into existence this year after the war. Above right: Quilts shipped from Laugh-A-Lot quilters in Lafollette and the Maryville Church of Christ made their way to camp... ready for winter. More are on the way. Right: a visit to the camp (read any camp) assures one of some excellent borscht, whipped potatoes, and fresh vegetables.



Going to Church

It was a 15-minute walk from the hotel to the prearranged bus stop where in-town members, who do not have their own transportation, could catch the bus for a fifteen-minute ride out to the new facility. The Church currently meets in a finished room while the sanctuary is awaiting completion. The classrooms are in process of finish work to be used to temporarily house IDP's. I was privileged to present the topic of *"Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the Church"*



While there, my grandson, Michael, was married to Kristina. They will reside in Chardon, OH with our daughter and son-in-law while Mike completes his degree. It was quite the experience, as Mike describes it, to navigate Ukrainian law related to foreign nationals marrying a Ukrainian. If you are interested in viewing the ceremony (in Ukrainian) let me know and I'll share the link to the ceremony with you. Kristina did not come to the States as the spouse of Mike but came here under the "United for Ukraine" program. Currently, I am working with two other families to host a Ukrainian family under the two-year program. If you are interested in learning more about the program or willing to host a family, please let me know.

On the next page, read a heartbreaking story and how your efforts brought comfort to so many.

They are just buckets of everyday household items... how will they make a difference?

From Lana

"Greetings to you, good people! I am the Head of the Public Organization "The Only Family of Heroes of Azovstal" My name is [removed for security] My son Vitaly... an officer who died in Azovstal April 15, 22, and my daughter-in-law Tara..., a soldier, died May 08, 22 at the Azovstal plant

The families of the victims and I organized a union where we help everyone.

Got your buckets for help! I bow low to you for your kind heart! Everything is so wonderful and useful!

May the Lord protect your family!

Sincerely, Lana"



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11515 Hardin Valley Road
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GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS...

we've all heard this saying taken from Isaiah 55:8-9

About two-years ago, the Hardin Valley Church of Christ, via Ukraine Missions, supplied funds to put a roof on a building in Chernigiv, Ukraine. The building was purchased by a congregation that had been evicted from their long-term rental facility. Through your support, they purchased radiators, plumbing, and other remodeling materials to have a place of worship. As you might guess, all was normal until 24 February 2022. God does work beyond what we can understand or foresee. The current use of the church building in Chernigiv Ukraine (north of Kyiv) is now being used as a healthcare processing center. Much of the city was bombed to oblivion but the church building remained unscathed as did the minister's home. Follow this link to a video developed and supplied by Alex ..., minister of the Church. God always provides a way!

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aoic39xFplmYg5EEc4glORhO4nd4ig?e=GH4gPg>

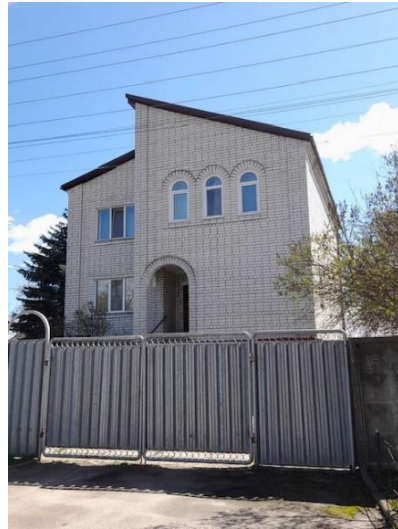
Alex provided this just a few days ago.

"This morning we all woke up to the loudest and the most terrible sound of thunder that we have ever heard. It was very close and it was deafening. Chernihivites who went through all that bombing and shelling react to things like that quite differently from those who never had that experience. It really reminded us of the bomb that the Russian plane dropped near our house in March. The alarm on our car and our neighbors' cars went off. The flash of lightning was such that David and Veronica saw it with their eyes closed and the blinds on their windows shut while it was already light outside. Tonya and I first thought that it had hit the roof of our house. Thank God it did not, our house is still intact."

[This congregation usually has about 30 souls during Sunday worship but two weeks ago the situation was quite different]

*"**UPDATE** Brothers and sisters, this Sunday morning we had over 200 unbelievers at church and about 250 people as a total. This is the biggest number of attendants that we have ever had. Since the church auditorium could not hold so many people, many of them had to sit and stand in the corridors and outside the building. We put one speaker out so that they could hear the service. Some folks from the nearby apartment buildings also brought their own chairs with them as we didn't have enough chairs in the church house. I preached the gospel message to them and many of them were very responsive. 12 people repented of their sins and expressed a desire to also attend our midweek services. Please pray for the work of God's Spirit in their hearts as we continue to witness to them."*

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Above and below is Alex's neighborhood. The photo to the right is his home today.

Follow the link and ride with Alex as he provides relief and Bibles to his community.

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aoic39xFplmYg5EFZMzOm3iJsB5eAQ?e=3jdseV>



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