

Before reading this letter from Svetlana, please substitute any reference to me as a reference to yourself. It was your generosity, given in and with the love of God, that made it possible to help in time of need. I did not want to change her letter in any way so that you can receive it just as I did. There are links at the end to share video's that she and Alex forwarded.

Some background; I met Svetlana in one of the refugee camps visited in late April. She, Pasha her husband, and children wanted to return to Kyiv. They had no money, no jobs waiting for them, nor did they know that their house was still standing. Their son-in-law of just a few months was fighting in the combat zone. Alex is a minister working in Chernigiv in need of a van to transport relief.

*We are truly a blessed people and yet we have no idea of just how blessed we are.*

It begins:

“Hello, Michael!

We pray that God bless you abundantly and your whole family. We hardly know each other, but God has already done much for our family through you. It's so touching when God takes care of us.

Thank you for your open heart. I still can't believe that almost strangers can help others like this. Thank you very much. Thank you for God taking care of us through you.

We returned to Kiev. And we had a lot of urgent expenses. Without your help we would have been hard to cope.

It has been 3 weeks since we returned to Kiev. Thank God our house is intact. Some things have spoiled a little, because the house was empty and not heated, and there was humidity. But it's no big deal.

It was very difficult to return. We passed through Irpen, on the road where the fighting was, near the destroyed bridges, in the villages that were destroyed. And even though it's been a long time and a lot has been cleaned up and we haven't seen any dead people, it's still very painful.

And although we've seen it all in photos and videos - seeing it live was harder. Words can't express these feelings.



Residential building earlier today in Kyiv



It's hard to go back to the old place and understand that everything has changed, that there is no old life. There are no people with whom you served, worked, went to church. And you don't know what or who or when they be back.

It's hard, you kind of came back. And you live. The life goes on, but you can't enjoy it. You can't relax either. You can't plan either. You come out of the house and hope every time what you can come back here.

For three months we were all together all the time. And here the girls go to the rehearsal, and some meeting. So it's harder when they're going somewhere and the sirens start to sound. Or when we're going somewhere and they're home alone.

It was hard to get used to sirens. Understand what to do. What can you do, what can not. When you can go, etc. For a long time could not get used to new sounds. We still listen. Especially unpleasant when you hear the sound of a plane or a helicopter over you.

Every day there are sirens and shelling throughout Ukraine. Last night, more than 40 rockets were fired into Ukraine.

Yesterday morning, too, many rockets were fired. Two exploded in Kiev. One hit a residential building, another on the territory of a kindergarten. It's a long way from us, but we heard explosions.

Now there are many threats from Russia and Belarus again. We live today and do not know what will happen tomorrow.

For a couple of days we went to the Yellow Waters. Finally we were able to get together with all their brothers and sisters. Spent time with my mother. She is 87 years old. During this time she was very weak. She walks very slowly. Her memory also became worse.

And it is very sad to see your mother weakening physically. Thank God that spiritually she is with God, praying and blessing us.

With work is difficult. There is always something to do and someone to serve, but not always there is money for it. Some families I worked with returned to Ukraine.

But I don't always have the opportunity to go and see them, support them and help them.

We pray for a more economical car. Because our car has a very high gas consumption. And it is expensive to drive and many petrol stations are given only 20 liters of gasoline. And this is us for 180 km somewhere. And for this we have to keep looking for gas often.



Our main thanks and prayer for Zhenya. God miraculously preserves him all this time. He is alive. And this is a miracle. Because they are now in a place where there is always shelling.

If in the old place they were rarely shot at, then now they live in a field and there was not a single day that did not shoot at them. Thank God that there is a connection with him. For more than 3 months he has been there without rest. He is very tired. Thank God we again managed to buy and hand him the things he needs. The situation in their direction becomes more complicated every day. Therefore, we will be grateful for prayers.

Recently it was 9 months since Katya and Zhenya got married. We believe that soon they can be together again. And today is Zhenya's birthday. And yesterday he got sick. He feels very bad. He must have a cold. So we ask you to pray for him.

We continue to pray and believe that my Pasha will not be taken into the army.

I can't say that we good with everything. Sometime is very difficult. It's like life starting over... Start something again, but again temporarily. Every day we learn to trust God ourselves, our children, our relatives, Ukraine.

So we learn to focus on God, his promises. We pray and try to understand what God wants from us now. Where we should be and where we can be most useful at this time.

We are grateful to God that He is faithful. That He is always with us and supports us.

This week promises to be difficult. We ask you to continue praying. We believe that everything will pass with God. We believe that this bloodshed will stop.

So want to go to bed and not jump from the sirens, do not hear explosions, do not receive news about the deaths of soldiers, children, civilians. We want don't worry about our sons, husbands. Russians just destroy everything - residential neighborhoods, factories, granaries, children, military towns, etc.

It's just whole cities being blown off the face of the earth. I believe this day will come. And it is already 122 days closer than it was before.

While writing you a letter - again, there were many explosions in Ukraine. One of them in Kremenchug. The missile hit the mall, where there were many people. And again, a lot of civilian casualties. 😞

Links to video: Kyiv, Chernigiv & Poltava respectively



[https://1drv.ms/u/s!Aoic39xFplmYg49-7d\\_S2imTXwaJ3g?e=RVJty8](https://1drv.ms/u/s!Aoic39xFplmYg49-7d_S2imTXwaJ3g?e=RVJty8)

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Aoic39xFplmYg5ACHfba5oDGBVbnrA?e=jV4OKW>

Included in these links is video from today's cruise missile attack on a shopping center in Kremenchuk, Poltava Ukraine. A reported 1000 civilians were in the mall when it was struck. A purely barbaric attack on innocent civilians.