

RESCUE82

RESCUE. DELIVER. DEFEND.

PSALM 82:3-4

DEAR FRIENDS,

As the war in Ukraine entered its second year, Rescue 82 traveled to the front lines for our 3rd relief mission. Our six-man team was divided into two groups as we continued our partnership with Holy Trinity Church in Odesa, Ukraine. Their congregation makes continuous relief missions throughout Ukraine and we count ourselves blessed to get work alongside them as they minister to so many suffering people. There is no way for me to accurately convey to you the immense scale of devastation and suffering taking place in Ukraine.

MISSION #3 HIGHLIGHTS:

We made food deliveries to a village outside Mykolaiv. When we visited this same village in October of 2022, there were no civilians in this village, only soldiers and we could hear artillery flying over our heads as we delivered care packages to the soldiers. It was awesome to return to this village in March and witness hundreds of civilians in the village attempting to rebuild their homes and their lives. We were able to not only deliver food to them but pray with them and share the Gospel.



We traveled with a military chaplain to visit a military unit outside Donetsk. This region has seen some of the most intense fighting. We stayed in this area overnight, delivered basic necessities, listened to their stories, and shared the Gospel.

We visited a children's hospital, evacuee shelter, and recreation center in the city of Kryvyi Rih, and delivered 120 gift bags for these children.



One of our team members, Matt, in addition to being a police officer and a former SWAT Sniper, is a talented artist. Matt taught several drawing classes with different groups of Ukrainian children. These drawing classes gave the children a break from the turmoil around them and the kids loved it.



We delivered food to a church in Kherson. (The city of Kherson was under Russian occupation for nine months, until it was liberated in November of 2022.) We arrived to find this church (which would normally hold about 150 people) with nearly 300 people crammed inside. We were blessed with the opportunity to speak to them and encourage them as our Ukrainian pastor friend translated. We learned that this church was packed on almost a daily basis with people in need of food.

We delivered 14 wood stoves to a village attempting to rebuild after heavy Russian Shelling.



Throughout our mission, we met amazing people. One particular evening, a Ukrainian family hosted us for supper. Their home had been on the front line and we learned they were forced to flee their home shortly after the Russian invasion. After living away from home for months, they returned in November of 2022 to find their village and home heavily damaged. They began repairing their home immediately. Now in March of 2023, it was surreal to be sitting in their modest kitchen listening to their remarkable story of survival. It was humbling to be served by them when we had traveled all this way to serve them, but this wonderful family insisted on giving us a meal. We also learned the husband was working diligently to get the village water supply running again with a water pump and generator near their backyard.

By the conclusion of our mission, we had delivered food to hundreds of people in villages heavily damaged by the ongoing war. At each delivery, Adam, Andy, and Matt were able to speak to the villagers and share words of encouragement and hope. Brad and Clay spent several days of manual labor clearing out rubble and delivering bags of new concrete and other building supplies to help villagers rebuild.



The Ukrainian people are resilient and determined to keep their homeland from being overrun by a foreign power. The Ukrainian churches are working tirelessly to help those who are suffering and be the hands and feet of Jesus.



Thank you for your prayers for our safety. It was very common to hear explosions in the distance as our mission took us within one mile of Russian-occupied territory.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- **Pray:** Our next mission (Mission #4) is less than one month away.
- **Provide financial support:** We hope to raise at least \$4,000 for this upcoming trip.
- **Share about Rescue 82:** Please consider sharing this newsletter with others.

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

- **Online:** rescue82.org or scan the QR code
- **By Check:** Rescue 82 Inc.
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Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Cook