

RESCUE82

RESCUE. DELIVER. DEFEND.

PSALM 82:3-4

Almost one year ago, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The resulting humanitarian crisis continues to be staggering- Over 7 million refugees have fled the country, thousands have been killed, and many have lost their homes while entire cities have been reduced to rubble.



Numerous humanitarian aid organizations, churches, and individuals responded to help. I had the opportunity to join a group of fellow police officers and local businessman, Brad Cobb, to travel to Ukraine, and to offer whatever we could to help. Many of you donated money, clothing, and medical supplies for our first two Ukraine missions, and Brad personally paid for many of our expenses out of his own pocket. Thank you for partnering with us!



Last March, we spent two days at the Ukrainian border serving refugees and carefully planning our journey into Ukraine. We were surprised when a few volunteers at the border tried to deter us from entering Ukraine. "It's not safe," they told us. We tried to explain to them that our group of SWAT team members and military combat veterans had a different perspective of "safety."

We explained that going where "It's not safe" is a normal, everyday occurrence in our jobs. We tried to explain that since we knew there were people (mostly women and children) trying to escape death or simply survive where "It's not safe," we were deeply compelled to go there and help them.



When we arrived in Odessa, we were immediately embraced by Pastor Sasha from Holy Trinity Church. He was surprised by our willingness to bring first aid supplies directly to him, and we were impressed by his courage and humility. Instead of moving to a safer city or leaving the country, Pastor Sasha chose to stay in Ukraine and lead his congregation as they help as many people as possible. We have been honored to come alongside him and the other church leaders as they work tirelessly, distributing groceries, generators, cooking supplies, diapers, baby food, and much more to those who are suffering.

On our first night in Odessa, our hotel windows shook from nearby airstrikes and our team was awakened by the bombings, but instead of fear, our team experienced a sense of peace. We knew we were exactly where we were supposed to be. Earlier that day, we made a delivery of food to a boarding school converted into an evacuee shelter. There were many children living there with almost nothing. Their homes had been or would be soon destroyed by the invasion and the shelter they were living in was the safest place they had been since the war began. Our team voted the next morning to divide into two groups- one team would remain in Odessa to help these children and the second team would fulfill our previous commitments. Read more at rescue82.org.



RESCUE 82 BACKSTORY

Just before we left the States in March of 2022, I filed paperwork to form a non-profit called Rescue 82. The name comes from Psalm 82:4-“Rescue the weak and the needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” The heart of a first responder’s job is “to rescue.” It is what we train for and it is what we go to work for every day. To me, it just makes sense to take the skills we have learned as first responders and leverage them in environments where “It’s not safe” to help other people. It’s what Jesus would do. In fact, when Jesus came to this earth, He was on a rescue mission. (Luke 19:10)



WHAT'S NEXT?

We are returning to Ukraine in March. We will continue working with Ukrainian pastors and churches to distribute food, medical supplies, and other humanitarian aid in villages devastated by the ongoing war. We will also be visiting soldiers, sharing our faith in Jesus Christ, and distributing Bibles.

The vision I have for Rescue 82 doesn't stop when the war in Ukraine finally ends. My heart's desire is for Rescue 82 to come alongside many great organizations (Samaritan's Purse, Send Relief, the Free Burma Rangers) that are doing amazing work in austere environments and offer whatever we can to help.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- **Pray:** please pray we will be able to help as many people as possible.
- **Purchase medical supplies:** tourniquets, burn gel, gauze, etc. (Go to rescue82.org for details)
- **Provide financial support:** Our goal is to raise \$150,000 to purchase and distribute humanitarian aid inside Ukraine. All donations are tax-deductible.

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

- **Online:** rescue82.org or scan the QR code
- **By Check:** Rescue 82 Inc.
P.O. Box 24351
Chattanooga, TN 37422



Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Cook