



**GOPEL OF JOHN MISSION, INC.**  
**June, 2022**

“He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18-19

***Dear Friends,***

The situation in Ukraine and neighboring Moldova remains very challenging and refugees continue to move through Moldova with heart breaking stories. The map below shows the current status of the fighting with the red areas controlled by Russia and the yellow areas being territory regained by the Ukraine resistance. The fighting in Southern Ukraine along the Black Sea is the closest that the war is to Moldova. Odessa is the closest major city to Moldova it is a critical export hub along the black sea. The town is held by Ukraine but Russia is blocking exports out of the port and has attacked the grain silos.

Mykolaiv on the map (also called Nikolaev) is the next major city on the edge of the fighting and our missionaries Natasha and Vitaly recently traveled there to provide aid as the town is out of water and food. I certainly didn’t ask them to go, but they are extremely brave and are hoping to go back next month. Natasha says as they approached the town they heard bombing in the distance that felt like earthquakes and one of the volunteers that has traveled to this area regularly reported that only 15-20 miles away there are dead bodies just laying in the streets. They reported that anybody bringing aid was approached by hundreds of people which included families with small children that hadn’t been able to leave the area yet.





Vitaly and Natasha and team in Ukraine providing aid to those near the fighting.

Despite the heart ache and challenges we know our God is in control and works all things for his purposes. All of our workers are being given new opportunities to serve and witness to the Ukrainian population in Moldova as well as continue with their existing work. There is much going on with our ministry right now including many summer projects such as VBS programs, summer youth camps and all of our regular activities. In the remainder of the newsletter, I want to share about Sergei's continued ministry to prisoners in Moldova.

Sergei reports that the prison ministry team thanks the Lord that their disciples are growing spiritually and that God continues to let our team serve in leading others to Christ. All Glory is to Jesus for bringing people to Himself through our prison ministry! Below are some reports on the lives being impacted by the ministry.

Artem is a 22 years old young man who killed 4 people and received a 30 year prison sentence. After being sentenced to prison Artem testified that he was in complete despair. He didn't know how to move forward and turned to drugs and later battled suicidal thoughts. One day things began to change as he began to attend the church in prison. Upon learning of the forgiveness of sins offered by Christ Artem repented of his sins and testified to feeling like the happiest person. He found hope and acceptance that he didn't know was possible. He still testifies of struggling with depression, knowing that he has a long sentence ahead of him. Please pray for Artem that he would continue to look to the Lord for healing and would continue to grow in His relationship with Christ.

Another prisoner that is discipled by Sergei is named Oleg Stazhila and he testifies that truly the Holy Spirit lives in Oleg. Oleg is happy and calm in prison because he has believed in Jesus and has been transformed. Now when he is faced with temptations he doesn't give into it but instead turns to the

Lord in prayer. Oleg now prays for his fellow prisoners and is actively evangelizing his neighbors in prison. He now has several fellow prisoners with whom he regularly prays and studies the Bible.

Sergei has many more stories of prisoners who have turned their lives to Christ through our ministry and continue to grow in their understanding and knowledge of God and His word. Sergei also would like to thank all of our supports for their gifts that enable the ministry to continue and in particular for resources that helped provide needed items such as new glasses to prisoners in need. The prison team was also able to distribute over 15,000 Christian calendars through the prisons and throughout Moldova that contain Bible verses and the gospel message. Sergei also asks for your prayers for the prison ministry team and for the salvation of convicts and their families. He also asks for prayer that God would continue to bless his pastoral ministry in our local church.

Sergei has also been ministering to Ukranian refugees such as those pictured below. He has been focused on providing basic needs such as medicine and food supplies while looking for opportunities to share the good news of Christ.



Sergei Bolgar sharing the gospel with Ukranian refugees and passing out medical supplies.

Thank you for your continued support for our ministries that help bring good news to the captives. Despite all the challenges in the world God is still in control and still working!

Sincerely yours,

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