



International Brotherhood Aid

IBA endeavors to draw people to Christ, and teach good stewardship and sustainable living.

Newsletter | December 2023

Ukrainians Face Winter Unprepared

Merle Ebersole and Luke Coblentz took a 12-day trip to Ukraine in August. IBA is starting a new base in the Kherson region in southern Ukraine. This area has witnessed immense damage. They spent a day visiting people in the villages within an hour's drive from the new base, listening to stories, and getting an idea of the needs as we move into the winter season.

1. Roofing is a common need. Many of the house roofs are being fixed by our volunteers. Some houses aren't worth repairing. However, a number of these places do have summer kitchens that are in better conditions than the houses. The villagers are working on them as well.

2. Heat is probably the #1 need. Previously many villagers relied on natural gas, piped in through above-ground lines for heat. During the fighting, these lines were shot full of holes, leading to a shortage of natural gas for heat this winter. Although most people have a little stove in their summer kitchen, coal is scarce and expensive. Firewood is not cheap either, with a semi load costing between \$3000 and \$4000. To help with this need and show the love of Jesus in action, IBA plans to buy firewood and help warm as many houses as possible this winter.

3. Good water is also scarce in these areas. The city water tanks are damaged from the war. Most villagers have shallow wells at their house. IBA's goal is to dig some deeper wells, praying for plenty of good water that will supply as many people as possible. The first well is supplying one village with water (pictured).



What IBA Plans to Do:

- Buy \$50,000 worth of firewood for the Warm Project.
- Start a feed mill that will cost \$25,000
- Finish the property purchase and repairs that will cost about \$75,000

You can mail a check, scan the QR code or go to our website to donate online.

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4. **Feed** for animals is also a great need. Feed is scarce because many of the fields have not yet been de-mined. Most of the grain and hay has to be shipped in from Western Ukraine. The closest feed mills are an hour away, and most of them are shut down. Recently, a neighbor lady brought her bucket over to the house, and asked if we could throw all our food waste into the bucket for her goats, since they are very hungry, and she doesn't know how she can feed them over the winter. This is a common cry.

5. And a **hunger for the gospel** is also growing. Many Ukrainians want us to start a church in this area. Right now we are holding church services under a shade tree, and people are coming and listening and asking many questions.



How You Can Help:

- **Donate to the Warm Project-** help provide firewood for many people who will otherwise be cold this winter.
- **Join our sponsor list** for the Feed Mill and House Purchasing projects.
- **Most of all, pray!** Pray that God would give us direction on how to respond and help these hurting people, people who are trying to pull their lives together after losing so much.



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