

Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works
and glorify your
Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

We are so grateful to the Lord for the care that He showed through brothers and sisters in America.

Since the beginning of the war, many Christian brothers have been forced to send their wives and children to safer places in western Ukraine or abroad. Therefore, Pastor Igor [BMM's contact for distributing World Relief Funds] agreed with the church in western Ukraine that they would receive mothers with children from his church. They sent one bus of people there. After that, there were more people who wanted to go too. That's when the Baptist churches of the city of Bila Tserkva [where Pastor Igor pastors] united and began a ministry of resettling people. In the early weeks, the churches were receiving refugees and transporting them to western Ukraine and abroad.

Pastor Igor said, "All this was financed not by our churches, but by our brothers and sisters from America through the World Relief Fund that was opened in BMM. We wouldn't be able to do it on our own. It takes around \$2,000 per month just for car repairs and fuel. The income of the church decreased due to the fact that many have lost their jobs. So, there was no way the church would be able to afford this ministry without the help of our brothers and sisters from America."

More than 25 trips were made from Irpin, Bila Tserkva, and Chernigiv. In Bila Tserkva, brothers and sisters of local churches also hosted refugees in their homes.



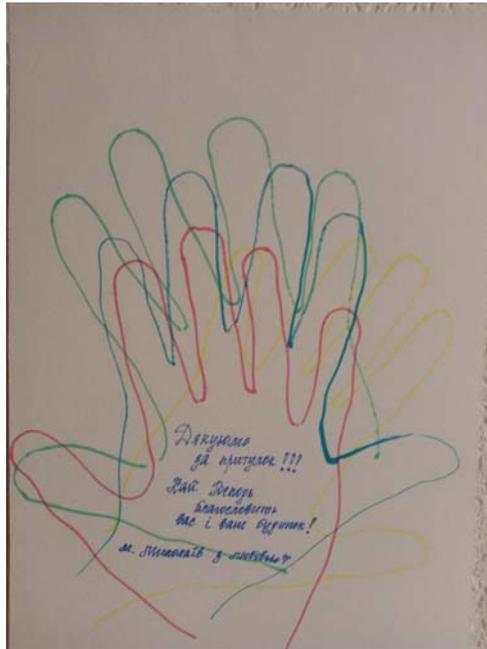


Brother Sergei [taking the photo at bottom] said, “During the war people are turning to God. Some ask if they can take Bible with them. My goal is to sow the seed of truth, but in order to do so we need to feed people first. We also give them the opportunity to wash, because the people had been sitting in cellars. Then, you can talk about God and pray.

The word is living and active. I have sown the seed. With some of them, I still communicate, and I believe that God is working in their hearts. These people also found churches abroad. There have been many people, up to 200, but I remember every single one of them: from new-borns to grandmothers, including one grandmother who was carried on a blanket because she couldn’t walk.

There were moments of emotional burnout, but I just went into a room and prayed, and God gave me peace to continue the ministry He entrusted me with. Through this ministry, God has taught me how to show love; I learned to listen and hear people, focusing less on myself because I realize that I indeed have everything. I have heard many stories, and they are all filled with pain, hurt, and despair. People left everything behind, and they go nowhere. The believers also came for help. It was much easier with them: they were calm and confident in God. We prayed together and supported each other. All who stayed at my house were smiling when they got on a bus to go further. I believe it’s because of God, because He guided me and was very near.”





Later, when people stopped leaving their homes in mass, churches began to provide food and technical assistance on the territory where hostilities are taking place and where Russian troops had already withdrawn. The brothers from the church in Bila Tserkva have been traveling to Kharkov region for almost 2 months: to the city of Chuguev and nearby villages on the front line. They distribute food and tell people about God. It is impossible to gather people in the villages on the front line, because they are in hiding. It's not safe due to the constant shelling and explosions. Consequently, we need to look around to find the people, and Ukrainian soldiers help us find them. Sometimes there is no way we can get in such villages at all, so the brothers give soldiers food and Christian literature, pray with them, and then the military distributes this food among the people. It is a little easier in the villages that are about 5 km from the front line.

Brother Vova, who is actively engaged in this ministry says, "The military showed us a hangar in one village where people can hide. So, I walked around the village and called people, saying that we brought food. They came to us to get help, and then we could tell them the Gospel."

Brothers from the local church in Chuguev are very helpful, providing lodging for our brothers Vova and his helper Oleg. A local team of 5 people rides with them to the frontline villages. Christian brothers who



serve in Armed Forces of Ukraine are waiting for the food to come, so they can go to people with food assistance. Government assistance comes very rarely, and usually it is leftovers. Together the teams conduct a small worship service, which includes singing with the guitar.

On average, Vova and Oleg bring about 4-5 tons of food and are able to help about 500-600 people. One trip takes about 5 days: 2 days for traveling and the rest of the time with people and soldiers. They spend so much time with them, since their goal is to take care of their spiritual needs, not only physical needs.



Vova says, "The closest we came to the front line was about 800 m.

Many villages do not have electricity, so they are in great need of candles and matches. Even if people have money, they simply have nowhere to buy the necessities. People are asking for thick plastic sheeting to seal their windows and roofs, because many houses have been destroyed. They also ask for gas cylinders and dry alcohol (to boil water for tea while sitting in cellars). In places where there is no electricity, people really need diesel generators of various sizes, solar power banks, and flashlights. The most essential need is food."





Vova continues, “We use the money from the [World Relief] Fund to repair cars, and buy fuel and food. Our van (micro bus) got scratched and dented some because we drive on impassable roads since the central roads have been shelled. The vehicle is not ours, so we are in great need of a car that would be specifically for this ministry.

Pastors of the Baptist churches in Bila Tserkva made a warehouse of different food items, so we load our van there. If possible, we try to buy what people ask for as well. For example, last time we bought some oil and toilet paper.”



Vova adds, "People in that area are close to death, so they listen to the Gospel very attentively, and ask for Bibles, especially large print and children's Bibles. People read the Word of God and pray, and soldiers do too. That's why this ministry is so important! People can die at any moment, so they start thinking about eternal things.

Now God is leading in such a way that there are simply no obstacles. I see that it is important and necessary, that's why I want to do it. Christian brothers from there really need our support. When I go there, I'm afraid, but I know that I'm walking under with the Almighty God. He leads me and I believe that he will keep me."

Pastor Igor shared his plans for the post-war period: "When the war is over, we'd like to meet with those people again, those whom we helped when they were leaving the country and those we helped with food. When we meet with them, we'd like to help with their property, where their homes are—to be more exact, where their homes used to be. We want to help people rebuild churches [called "houses of prayers" in Ukraine] and homes of both believers and their unbelieving neighbors. In order to do this, we need to organize teams and buy tools and lots and lots of construction materials. Once again without the support of our brotherly churches in America and of course the Lord, we would not be able to do it."

We pray for peace and we trust that our God is good.

Thank you very much for all your help and the many, many prayers for Ukraine.

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26