

April 2016-March 2017

# Bringing “a Future and a Hope” to Ukraine:

## Report on “I Care” Refugee Assistance Program



*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* – Jeremiah 29:11

*Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. (Isaiah 1:17 ESV)*

# Introduction and Update on the Conflict



**Three years have passed since the conflict erupted in eastern Ukraine in April 2014, yet war still rages on with no end in sight. Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014 followed by the pro-Russian military assault on eastern Ukraine a month later have led to these devastating results:**

- Nearly three million people have been forced to flee their homes, taking nothing with them, and are now struggling to survive in new, unfamiliar places.
- More than 1.6 million people, including 215,000 children, have been internally displaced.
- Hundreds of thousands of people have been stranded in the war zone, where they have limited or no access to food, water, electricity, and heat.
- Nearly 10,000 people have been killed by the ongoing violence, with half of those being civilians.
- Around 25,000 people have been injured, including many innocent children and elderly people.

All together, there are currently 3.8 million people who desperately need humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, including one million children. Sadly, the government has no way to address such a massive humanitarian crisis, so those in need must rely on churches and organizations like Mission Eurasia for help.

Yet even in the midst of the ongoing violence and uncertainty facing Ukraine, God is working in the hearts of devastated families, hurting children, suffering elderly people, and so many others because of your faithful partnership and generous support.

We hope that this report will encourage and inspire you as you read how God is using your partnership with Mission Eurasia to heal the hearts of so many people in Ukraine, despite their difficult circumstances. Your generous support is truly helping us bring the love of Christ to this nation that is so desperate for "a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

# Overview of the “I Care” Program



**Since the “I Care” Refugee Assistance Program was established in 2014, Mission Eurasia has been mobilizing resources and forming partnerships with local churches to provide holistic care for those who are suffering in Ukraine by:**

- Bringing relief aid, including family food packs, clothing, wheelchairs, and other household goods to refugees and those who are trapped in the war zone.
- Distributing Scripture pieces designed specifically for refugees, children, and soldiers serving on the front lines of the conflict.
- Organizing and hosting training seminars to prepare local pastors for effective outreach to refugees in their own communities.
- Developing Christian counseling materials for local pastors who are providing counseling for refugee families.
- Bringing *Gifts of Hope* to orphans and other children who are hungry for their Father’s love.
- Building pre-fab houses for homeless refugee families through our Homes for the Homeless project.
- Providing desperately needed bread, Scripture, and jobs for those living in impoverished cities in the war zone through our Bread of Life Bakery Project.
- Organizing and hosting reconciliation seminars for Russian and Ukrainian pastors to encourage them to pursue reconciliation and serve as agents of reconciliation in their own nations.



Your generous support of the “I Care” program, along with the committed, sacrificial efforts of our partner churches, School Without Walls (SWW) students and graduates, and dedicated volunteers, has helped us reach approximately 420,000 people in need in just this past year alone! We can’t thank you enough for helping us shine the light of Christ into the lives of so many people who are desperate for the eternal hope offered only in the gospel.



# Relief Aid for the Hungry in Body



**Even as violence escalated and the number of refugees flooding western Ukraine grew last year, God has continued to bless our relief aid distribution efforts in 2016-17. Through partnerships with generous supporters, foundations, and partner ministries in the US, Mission Eurasia was able to provide life-saving aid for refugees and those trapped in the war zone by:**

- **Distributing 12,410 family food packs, which included enough food and personal care items for 37,200 people for one week.**
- **Shipping eight 40-foot containers filled with 2,177,280 individual rice meals donated by a partner ministry in the US.**
- **Shipping one 40-foot container filled with 20,620 pounds of clothing and shoes donated by a partner church and organization in the US.**
- **Shipping and distributing two 40-foot containers filled with 1,100 wheelchairs donated by a partner ministry in the US.**

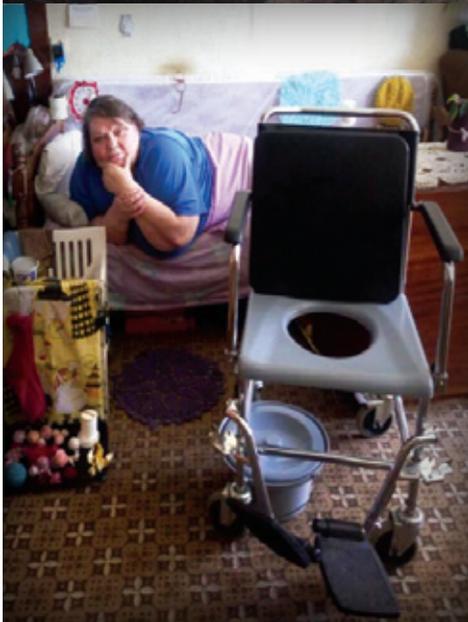
In their own words, those who received this desperately needed relief aid share their deep gratitude for your help:

## **Nina from Eastern Ukraine**

Even though Nina lost one of her legs 20 years ago, which resulted in severe physical limitations, she is still very hopeful and optimistic. Before her leg was amputated, Nina was working in an orphanage, but after her surgery, she had to quit her job. While Nina had very limited mobility, and she was often unable to leave her bed without help, she still opened her home to her former coworkers, as well as the children from the orphanage. For more than 10 years, Nina dreamed of being able to leave her home so she could continue serving the children. But without a wheelchair, this was impossible.

After the conflict erupted in eastern Ukraine, things became even more difficult. Because she couldn't leave her home, Nina was forced to stay in the war zone, where she had to rely on the help of local churches and Christian organizations, like Mission Eurasia, in order to survive. Before the conflict began, Nina's immobility was an inconvenience, but after the conflict broke out, it became life threatening.

When our SWW students and volunteers arrived at her home with a wheelchair, it was truly an answer to Nina's prayers. "I couldn't hold back my tears of joy," she shared. "I had been bedridden for so many years that I started to think I would never be able to leave my home again. But now, my dream has come true, and I am able to go out in my yard! I want to thank Mission Eurasia, as well as the volunteers, for bringing me this wheelchair. You helped me remember that there is still hope for Ukraine."



# Nina

  
Train to lead. Equip to serve.



Before

Inessa



**Inessa from Yelenovka**

The Inessa that our SWW students visit today doesn't in any way resemble the same child they first met two years ago. Today she is full of smiles, whereas two years ago at a refugee camp in Verovka, she looked completely different. She was afraid of everything, her hair was dirty and tangled, and she often mumbled under her breath about bombings.

Inessa and her family are originally from Yelenovka, a village located in the war zone in eastern Ukraine. Her parents were very involved in their local church, but sadly, after the conflict erupted and bombing attacks became more frequent, they were forced to flee the village, along with the rest of the congregation. After arriving in Verovka, Inessa's parents, along with the rest of the congregation, turned an abandoned school into a refugee center. Last year, our SWW students brought clothing, Scripture, and rice meals to those living in this center, including Inessa and her family.

Sadly, the center had to close recently, so Inessa and her family moved to the city of Belozersk, where her father found a job at a construction site. Her mother works there as a seamstress, and she and her older sister, Natasha, are going to a local school. Inessa's parents make very little money, but thanks to the rice meals that our SWW students are bringing them, they are finding hope, even in the midst of the challenges they are facing.

Inessa has already made many new friends at school, and she isn't afraid of loud noises anymore. She still has bad dreams sometimes, but now she says, "I don't remember them, because I have even more good dreams, especially the ones where I am swimming in the pond at my grandma's house . . . One day, peace will come back to Ukraine and we won't have to hide in dark cellars anymore."

**Victor's Family from Donetsk**

Victor, his wife, Nina, and their five children live in a rickety house not far from the front lines in Donetsk. To feed his family, Victor takes any jobs he can find in this small village, but he barely earns enough money to even buy food. Victor shared that his family has been on the brink of starvation many times, but every single time, God has provided enough food for them through Mission Eurasia.

Our SWW students regularly visit Victor and his large family, and we can see God at work in their hearts. Ever since we brought them a Bible, Nina has been reading it to the children. One of the young boys, Sergei, hardly ever puts down the children's Bible that we brought him. "It is terrible to think about what would have happened to our family if you hadn't come to us," shares Nina. "We recently met another Christian family that moved to our village, and we became friends with them. Now we help each other and share our food when there is little to eat. Thank you for introducing us to God, bringing us the Bible, and providing food for us!"



Victor

# Scripture Distribution: God's Word for the Hungry in Spirit

Along with great physical needs, the people of Ukraine are in even greater need of the hope and healing offered only in Christ. Because so many refugees, children, soldiers, and other hurting people are longing for true peace and restoration, we are continuing to develop, print, and distribute specially designed Scripture pieces including:

- Bibles in the Russian language: 58,000 copies
- Bibles in the Ukrainian language: 10,000 copies
- *Word of Peace* New Testaments in the Russian language: 14,300 copies
- *Word of Peace* New Testaments in the Ukrainian language: 5,000 copies
- *Sola Fide (By Faith Alone)* New Testaments in the Russian language: 20,000 copies
- *Sola Fide (By Faith Alone)* New Testaments in the Ukrainian language: 9,500 copies
- *The Greatest Stories of Hope* in the Russian language: 10,000 copies
- *The Greatest Stories of Hope* in the Ukrainian language: 15,000 copies
- *The Jesus Storybook Bible* in the Russian language: 8,000 copies
- *The Jesus Storybook Bible* in the Ukrainian language: 2,000 copies
- *Finding the Light in the Darkness of Night* in the Russian language: 4,000 copies
- *Finding the Light in the Darkness of Night* in the Ukrainian language: 3,000 copies

**Total Copies:**  
**158,800**



# God's Word for the Hungry in Spirit



Because of your generosity, our SWW students and other volunteers are able to bring God's Word to every single person who receives relief aid through the "I Care" program. Here are some stories from those who experienced Christ's love through the Scripture pieces you helped us provide:

## **Sasha from Avdeyevka**

Sasha, who lives on the outskirts of Avdeyevka, has experienced a great deal of grief since the war started. He has seen many homes destroyed, and many of his friends and neighbors have been killed in shelling attacks. He has gotten used to the sound of gunfire and is very familiar with hunger. Even though he is only 10 years old, Sasha can already distinguish between the sounds of the weapons used by the Ukrainian soldiers and those used by the pro-Russian separatists.

When our SWW students brought a family food pack and Scripture to Sasha's house, he was eager to tell his story, even though it was very sad. "My mom is always at work, and for the last two weeks, we haven't had any school because the lights aren't working and our village is under fire," he shared. "I've been staying at my grandfather's house. He's my best friend, because all of my other friends left.

"Recently, a loud explosion shattered our windows in the middle of the night and woke me up. I was very frightened, and I could hear people shouting in the street. My mother told me to stay on the floor while she went out into the street. It turned out that the shell had hit my grandfather's house. He was okay, but I know that some people on our street died that night. It was very scary, dark, and cold. I sometimes feel very afraid, but now I can read *The Greatest Stories of Hope* that you gave me."

## **Natasha from Skelki**

Natasha lives in the village of Skelki with her mother and three siblings. Since she is the oldest, Natasha often helps her mother around the house and looks after her siblings. Ever since the war started, they have been living off of the vegetables they grow in their garden and the small amount of money they receive from the government, but they are still struggling to survive, especially during the winter.

Our SWW students recently visited Natasha's family, bringing them a family food pack, *Gifts of Hope*, and Scripture. Natasha's siblings started jumping for joy when they opened their *Gifts of Hope*, and Natasha was speechless when our SWW students handed her a brand new Bible. She carefully opened it and said, "My dream came true today! I love to read and I've always wanted to learn about God, but I've never had a Bible. Now I will read the Bible to my siblings before they go to bed, and on my own. Maybe my mom will want to read it too!"



Our SWW students also invited Natasha and many other young people in Skelki to study the Bible at a local church. The students had no idea what to expect, but on the day of the first meeting, 20 young people came to the church! Natasha was the first to arrive, along with five of her friends. She shared, "I took my Bible to school this morning and I told everybody that I would be going to church to study it tonight. My classmates were very interested and wanted to come with me, so here they are!" Now, our SWW students are leading regular Bible study meetings for Natasha and the young people of Skelki, many of whom have also started attending the church where the meetings are held.



## Yaroslav from Andreyevka

**Yaroslav is 11 years old and lives in Andreyevka with his grandmother and older sister, Dasha. Tragically, Yaroslav's father died three years ago, and not long after, his mother left.** "One day my mother said she was going to the store for bread, but she never came back," Yaroslav shared tearfully. He can also remember the first time that Andreyevka was bombed and the horror of the dead bodies lying around the city. "I don't understand what made so many people hate each other. I am very worried, and I don't want to have to see my classmates hiding under their desks anymore. We all hide in our basements at night and hear the rumble of tanks going by. Our city is dripping with the blood of children, parents, the elderly, and soldiers. Our childhood has been stolen by this war."

Despite the trials he is facing, Yaroslav still finds peace in prayer, and he believes that God will provide all that he needs. He is also very friendly and has big dreams for his future. "I want to learn about the structure of our universe and make new discoveries in the field of astronomy," he shared. Right now, Yaroslav has a lot of questions about Christianity, so he is reading the Bible we gave him and is excited to learn more about God. "More often than not, God can only help us in hopeless situations when we admit that we need Him," he observed. "So, we're never really alone, and we can have peace that will never leave us."

## Pavel,\* Officer in the Ukrainian Army

**Pavel is currently stationed in the war zone. Sadly, because he has had to spend so much time away from home, his wife left him, taking their two children with her.** Pavel was filled with despair, because he never imagined that he would lose his wonderful wife and beautiful children. He had so many questions, but no answers.

One day, Pastor Roman, one of our local ministry partners, was on his way to distribute Bibles in the war zone, but he took a wrong turn and got lost. Some of Pavel's men found Roman and questioned him. After they learned that he was a Christian and wanted to bring Bibles to people in need, they invited him to their camp. This area was usually closed to all outsiders; however, the soldiers wanted to receive Bibles so badly and pray with Roman that they gladly welcomed him.

Pavel wasn't at camp during Pastor Roman's visit, so one of the soldiers asked for a Bible to give him. When he returned to camp, Pavel was so happy to receive this gift, because it was the first time that he had ever had a Bible of his own. Two weeks later, Pastor Roman returned with more Bibles, and Pavel asked, "May I bring these Bibles to the soldiers who don't yet have one? It is so important for each of them to have his own Bible." He was also so excited to talk with Pastor Roman about the passages he had been reading, and he shared that he was keeping his Bible in the most important place: right next to the map he uses for planning military action. Pavel now believes that God will answer his questions.

*\*Name changed for his safety*



# Training and Equipping Local Pastors for Gospel Outreach Among Refugees



**Following the eruption of the conflict in Ukraine, we started organizing and leading special training seminars for local pastors who felt God’s call to provide counseling services for refugees in their communities.** Since most of these pastors have no previous experience addressing psychological needs of this magnitude, our training seminars help to provide the information they need to give the most effective care possible.

With your help, we hosted 14 training seminars for 337 local pastors last year. Along with learning helpful skills, each of these pastors also received a copy of *Psychological First Aid for War Victims in Ukraine*, which was developed by the World Health Organization. We also distributed copies of *Children and War* (70 copies), which was developed by the Norwegian Children and War Foundation; *Caring for Souls: Counseling Under the Authority of Scripture* (50 copies), by Dr. Harry Shields, an American professor and theologian; and *Methodological Guidelines for Supporting Children and Teenagers Who*

*Have Lost Loved Ones* (60 copies), which was developed by Akershus University Hospital in Norway.

In order to encourage local pastors to share these counseling resources with their colleagues and partners, we also made them available for electronic download. Now, these pastors are providing psychological care for 8,700 refugees in their congregations. They are also encouraging those they serve to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation, rather than harboring anger toward those responsible for the difficulties they are facing.



# Here are the stories of two people, Yevgeniy and Irina, who are receiving counseling care from the local pastors you helped us train:

## Yevgeniy from Eastern Ukraine

Yevgeniy, his wife, and their five children moved to Kiev after fleeing the violence in eastern Ukraine. Yevgeniy had a very hard life, and the added stress of the conflict led him to start using drugs. "He couldn't escape his addiction on his own, so he came to us for help," shared Dmitriy, our SWW coordinator in Kiev. "We directed him to one of our partner pastors who could help Yevgeniy work through the psychological issues that led to his addiction."

This pastor encouraged Yevgeniy to complete a rehabilitation program and met with him regularly while he was receiving treatment. Thanks to his treatment at the rehabilitation center and his meetings with the local pastor, Yevgeniy decided to change his life. Now, he and his family regularly attend a local church, and they have even started participating in SWW events.



## Irina from Lugansk

In 2015, Irina and her five-year-old son, Ilya, were forced to flee their home in Lugansk and seek a safer life in Kremenchug, where they had no relatives or friends. After they arrived, Irina struggled to find a job, so she often didn't have enough money to buy food and other goods. To make matters worse, Ilya was suffering from post-traumatic stress and was often ill. He even had trouble speaking.



When our SWW students learned about Irina's desperate situation, they brought her food and other aid goods. She shared with them that she was concerned for Ilya's psychological health, so they also directed her to one of our partner pastors who provides counseling services for refugees. After regularly meeting with the pastor, Ilya became much calmer and he was able to adapt to his new environment. Now, he no longer has any issues speaking, and he is getting ready to start first grade in the fall.



# Sharing God's Love with the Fatherless

At least one million innocent children have been impacted by the crisis in Ukraine, and some of them have even been orphaned by the ongoing violence. Now, these children are living in orphanages, where they are starving for affection and love. To make matters worse, these orphanages are often so overcrowded that they are unable to provide for the children's physical and emotional needs. Along with these orphans, there are also hundreds of thousands of children who have been displaced from their homes, or remain trapped in the war zone, who desperately need their Heavenly Father's unfailing love.

Because Christmas is such a special experience for children, and a time when they are most open to the gospel, our SWW students partnered with local churches to bring *Gifts of Hope* to 25,000 orphans and hurting children throughout Ukraine last year. Along with sweets and toys, each *Gift of Hope* also included a Scripture piece, such as *The Greatest Stories of Hope* and Bible storybooks, designed specifically for children. In this way, not only did you help us share the joy of Christmas with children suffering from the horrors of war, but you also helped us introduce them to Jesus: the source of eternal hope.

In addition to bringing *Gifts of Hope* to children in need, our SWW students and church partners also hosted many Christmas events in eastern Ukraine, during which thousands of children, parents, caregivers, and orphanage staff workers heard the Good News for the very first time. We estimate that as many as 75,000 people were directly and indirectly impacted through our joint "I Care" and *Gift of Hope* efforts in Ukraine last year.

## Danil, Child with Cancer

Danil, a young boy whom our SWW students visited at a children's hospital, has been undergoing chemo, radiation, and other cancer treatments for about a year, and these

painful treatments have left him feeling very weak. When our SWW students got to his room, Danil was just staring out the window while his mother tried to cheer him up. The students gave him his very own *Gift of Hope*, which he was so excited to open, and he immediately started flipping through his copy of *The Greatest Stories of Hope*.

"This is the first time I've seen Danil smile in weeks," his mother shared. "I think it is because this is the first gift he's received this Christmas, and he doesn't feel as lonely and depressed as he has in past years." By sharing the hope of the gospel, we trust that God will bring Danil and his mother true peace and healing.



Danil

## Alina from Eastern Ukraine

Alina lives with her two children in a ramshackle house in eastern Ukraine. Alina's husband was recently released from prison. She hopes he will soon come home and find a job so they can buy enough food to survive. However, in the meantime, Alina and her children are living in poverty and misery, so the family food pack and *Gifts of Hope* that our SWW brought them were truly life-saving gifts.

"Without hope, you cannot survive," Alina shared. "And the more challenging that my life gets, the more I hope for positive change." When facing difficult circumstances, people often start searching for God, because they have nothing else they can do. We hope and pray that the gospel message that our SWW students shared with Alina and her children will help them find new hope in Christ, and that God would transform their hearts and bless them, even in the midst of their suffering.



Alina

## Natasha from Skelka

Natasha is just one of the many children living in the poor village of Skelka. Her father, Viktor, works in the fields during the summer, and during the winter they have to use wood to heat their stove, because their gas isn't running. Sadly, Natasha's parents usually use the money that Viktor makes to buy alcohol and drink their problems away.

When our SWW students arrived at their house, Natasha was overjoyed to receive a *Gift of Hope*, a Bible, and her very own copy of *The Greatest Stories of Hope*. She also couldn't believe it when she saw all of the food that the SWW students had brought for her family. After opening her *Gift of Hope*, Natasha started jumping for joy! Natasha's mother promised she would read *The Greatest Stories of Hope* to her, and she told the SWW students that she hopes God will shine His light into the darkness that her family is experiencing.



  
MISSION  
EURASIA  
*Train to lead. Equip to serve.*

Natasha

# Homes for the Homeless: Restoring Homes for Refugee Families



**Ongoing shelling attacks in eastern Ukraine have damaged and destroyed thousands of homes, leaving many families with nowhere to live, even in the bitterly cold winter months.** But thanks to your faithful partnership and the help of Good News Church in Slavyansk, we are using our Homes for the Homeless project to restore houses for hurting families and provide repairs for apartment buildings that are home to dozens of other refugee families. We are also using this project to provide jobs for refugees, who are using the tools you help supply to build these homes and provide repair services for their hurting neighbors.

During the past year, we repaired the roofs of many homes in eastern Ukraine that were damaged in the ongoing fighting. We also provided desperately needed roof and interior repairs for several apartment buildings, many of which are now home to 40-60 refugee families. In total, we estimate that you helped us serve approximately 1,200 families through Homes for the Homeless in the past year alone!

# Bread of Life Bakeries:

## Bringing the Bread of Life to Hungry Hearts



In the spring of 2016, we responded to the devastating economic and humanitarian challenges facing Ukraine by opening our first Bread of Life bakery in the frontline city of Maryinka, where 6,000 people are struggling to survive. With your generous support, we are using this bakery to distribute fresh, locally produced bread to those in need, provide jobs for 15 people, and, most importantly, share the gospel with the unreached.

During the past year, the people of Maryinka have endured frequent shelling attacks, which often leave them without electricity. This increased violence has also caused the price of flour and other materials used at the Bread of Life bakery to rise, so the staff has had to cut back on bread production. Despite these challenges, they remain committed to serving those in need by producing at least 100 loaves of bread each day. Along with the staff, 15-20 dedicated volunteers serve in the bakery on a daily basis and even bring the loaves of bread directly to those in need. Because everyone who receives bread also receives one of our specially designed Scripture pieces, many people are coming to know Christ, and the local church in Maryinka has been steadily growing throughout the past year.

**We are also delighted to share that we are planning to open three more Bread of Life bakeries in the frontline cities of Dobropole, Mariupol, and Myrnohrad.** By partnering with local churches in these cities, these new bakeries will help us reach even more of those in need with the true bread of life: Jesus. In fact, our partners in Myrnohrad are already actively serving in their community, and they have even planted a church near Donetsk International Airport, where some of the fiercest fighting takes place. Our Bread of Life bakery will help them expand their outreach efforts and reach many more hurting people in their city and the surrounding area.





Despite the escalating violence in eastern Ukraine, God is using our Bread of Life bakery project to shine the light of Christ into the darkness, and we thank you for helping to make this strategic initiative a reality.

## **Svetlana from Maryinka**

After the war broke out, Svetlana and her husband fled to Maryinka with their two children. Sadly, her husband was unable to find work there, so he had to move to a different city to look for a job to provide for his struggling family. While he did find a job, it doesn't pay very much, so Svetlana also decided to look for work.

One day, Svetlana heard about our Bread of Life bakery, so she visited and asked if there were any jobs available. While there weren't any open positions, the staff informed her that she could serve as a volunteer and receive a free loaf of bread. She was very excited about this opportunity, so she started serving on a daily basis. The free loaves of bread that Svetlana received were such a blessing for her and her two children.

While volunteering at the bakery, Svetlana heard a lot about God, and the staff even gave her a Bible, along with a children's Bible for her kids. After reading God's Word, Svetlana and her children started attending the local church. Not long after, Svetlana accepted Christ into her heart. And now when she serves at the bakery, rather than doing it just to get a free loaf of bread, she also wants to serve her Heavenly Father. Svetlana was recently baptized, and now her prayer is that her husband would also come to know the Lord.



# Encouraging Reconciliation and Healing in Divided Nations



**Ever since pro-Russian separatists launched their violent campaign in eastern Ukraine and asserted that Russian Orthodoxy is the only legitimate religion, Protestant pastors in the region have been suffering extreme religious persecution, including abductions, torture, and even murder.** Along with these atrocities, the separatists have also seized numerous Protestant churches, which they now use for military housing and storing their weapons. While many Protestant pastors have fled from eastern Ukraine, some still remain in the war zone, where they are faithfully serving those in need, even in the face of persecution.

The harsh persecution endured by Protestant pastors in the war zone, along with ongoing political tension between Russia and Ukraine, continues to divide the churches in these two nations. In an effort to reconcile these churches so they can work together to care for those in need and advocate for peace in their own nations, we used "I Care" and our Religious Freedom and Reconciliation Initiative to host 14 special reconciliation seminars for Russian and Ukrainian pastors last year.

Thanks to your support, 600 pastors learned about the importance of reconciliation and how they can work together to practically encourage other pastors and civil leaders in their nations to pursue this goal during these seminars. We also distributed copies of our *Sola Fide* New Testament (5,000 copies) and Mission Eurasia's *Overview and Analysis of Religious Persecution in the Occupied Territories of Eastern Ukraine and Crimea* (50 copies) to create greater understanding about the nature and importance of reconciliation.

Now, these pastors are holding reconciliation presentations in their churches and encouraging their fellow pastors and civil leaders to actively pursue reconciliation.



*Pictured above is Joseph Nyamutera, head of LeRucher Reconciliation Ministries in Rwanda, who came to Ukraine to present the seminar, "Healing the Wounds of Ethnic Conflicts" in partnership with Mission Eurasia and Christian Reformed World Missions.*

# Training and Equipping Local Pastors for Gospel Outreach Among Refugees



Pictured above is Dr. Rhiannon Lloyd, a pioneer and consultant for Le Rucher Reconciliation Ministries, who shared the experience of ethnic healing in Rwanda with our staff and partners, in partnership with Mission Eurasia and Christian Reformed World Missions.

## The following national pastors express their understanding of the importance of Christian reconciliation as a result of the seminars you helped us to present:

*"The cross is where forgiveness and reconciliation can be found. True forgiveness takes place when the offender and the offended rejoice together at the table of restored relationship. Ukraine and Russia still have a long way to go on this path, but as Christians, we are the agents of healing and peace who can bring about this reconciliation."* – **Senior Pastor Dmitriy Laptev, Light of Life Evangelical Church in Poltava, Ukraine**

*"We are always on the lookout for strategic steps that we can take to facilitate forgiveness and reconciliation in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As for the relationship between Russian and Ukrainian churches, it*

*should be noted that there is a determination on both sides to start a dialogue about this process, but we still have a lot of work to do."* – **Igor Bandura, Vice President of the Baptist Union of Ukraine**

*"The healing of wounds produced by ethnic conflicts must start with reconciliation, and the conflict between Ukrainians and Russians is perhaps the most sensitive one at present. This war has left deep wounds that need to be healed. At our church, we often talk about the importance of forgiveness, as it is the first step toward reconciliation in this conflict."* – **Pastor Victor Zaichuk, Bethlehem Reformation Church in Rivne, Ukraine**



# Overall Impact of the “I Care” Program



**Even as violence escalated and the number of refugees fleeing eastern Ukraine grew last year, God has continued to bless our relief aid distribution efforts in 2016-17. Through partnerships with generous supporters, foundations, and partner ministries in the US, Mission Eurasia was able to provide life-saving aid for refugees and those trapped in the war zone by:**

- **Relief Aid Distribution:** 37,200 refugees and other hurting people impacted
- **Scripture Distribution:** 635,200 refugees and other hurting people impacted
- **Training Seminars for Local Pastors:** 337 pastors trained, and 8,700 refugees impacted
- **Gifts of Hope for Children:** 25,000 children impacted, and 75,000 total people impacted
- **Homes for the Homeless:** 1,200 refugee families impacted
- **Bread of Life Bakery Project:** 81,000 refugees and other hurting people impacted
- **Reconciliation Seminars for Russian and Ukrainian Pastors, and Other Ministry Leaders:** 600 pastors and ministry leaders trained

## Financial Report

***I Care Financial Summary***  
*April 2016 - March 2017*

<b>Humanitarian Aid (GIK) – Non-Food Items &amp; Wheelchairs</b>	<b>\$230,744</b>
<b>Humanitarian Aid - Family Food Packs &amp; Bakeries</b>	<b>\$708,035</b>
<b>Container Shipping &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>\$86,769</b>
<b>Scripture &amp; Literature Publishing for Refugees</b>	<b>\$316,150</b>
<b>Pastoral Training Events &amp; Counseling Resources</b>	<b>\$21,319</b>
<b>Reconciliation Seminars</b>	<b>\$12,179</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$5,688</b>
<b>Promotion &amp; Mobilization of National Resources</b>	<b>\$2,474</b>

**\$1,383,358**

# Conclusion



  
*Train to lead. Equip to serve.*

**On behalf of millions of hurting men, women, and children who are struggling to survive in the midst of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your faithful prayers and financial support of our "I Care" Refugee Assistance Program.** Because of your compassion for those in need, we are able to continue caring for suffering people throughout this hurting nation. Despite the many challenges Ukraine is facing, God is using this time of uncertainty to draw people to Himself, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership in bringing "a future and a hope" to the people of Ukraine.

*Thank you for your eternal investment in the people of Ukraine!*