

Feb 24, 2022 – Feb 24, 2023

War in Ukraine: A Year in Review

Report on iCare-Ukraine Program



“I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.”

— Jeremiah 31:13

Message from President *Sergey Rakhuba*



Dear Friend,

One year ago, the whole world watched in shock and disbelief as Russia used all of its might to launch a fierce attack against my homeland, Ukraine. Nobody knew what would happen since military strategists and politicians were predicting that Ukraine would fall within three days.

So, in March 2022, I jumped on the first available plane and was soon standing at a check point on the Polish border, watching thousands of refugees pour into the country. My heart was broken as I saw young moms pushing strollers with little children as well as wheelchairs with elderly parents, and babushkas limping behind with their canes. It was hard to explain, describe, and measure their fear and despair. As I watched this unprecedented scene unfold with partners from other mission organizations, we all wondered what could be done.

An entire year has now gone by, and, against all odds, Ukraine still stands. It has won the admiration of the world by continuing to fight fearlessly against the Russian invader on the battlefield and win many victories. The church in Ukraine stands strong as well, shining as a beacon of hope in the midst of all of the destruction. Throughout this past year, the church has continued to bring the gospel and life-saving, practical help in the name of Jesus to the suffering Ukrainian people.

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It has been Mission Eurasia's privilege to partner with the church in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova to provide food, shelter, medical assistance, trauma counseling, and Scripture to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced people. Standing at the Polish border one year ago, I never imagined that God would use Mission Eurasia in such a powerful way to share the gospel and bring help to so many suffering people of my homeland.

Looking back on this extremely difficult year, I am deeply grateful to you, our supporters and partners, for your prayers and financial support that have enabled us to help the Ukrainian people on such a massive scale, even as the war continues to rage.

On behalf of the Ukrainian people, who are profoundly grateful for all of the help they have received from Mission Eurasia and the global community this past year, I would like to present this report. In this report, you will read the many ways your faithful prayers and generous support have been used to proclaim the gospel and build God's church in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova during the past year, despite any challenges we have faced. We hope you will be encouraged by the stories of those who were impacted by the strategic ministries you helped make possible, and that you will continue to pray for Ukraine and support the work of Mission Eurasia as we work tirelessly to equip and empower the church to bring the gospel and practical help to the suffering victims of this tragic war.

Most gratefully in Him,

Sergey Rakhuba
President

Introduction

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, violating its territorial integrity and sovereignty, and unleashing unimaginable suffering and devastation across the nation. During the past year, Russia's relentless aggression against the people and civilian infrastructure of Ukraine, including hospitals, schools, residential buildings, and the power grid, has continued to bring widespread death and destruction, creating the worst humanitarian disaster since World War II.

Here are some current statistics that reflect the suffering this war has inflicted on the people of Ukraine in the last year:

- **Ukrainian refugees across Europe (Poland, Russia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Moldova, Belarus): 5,352,000**
- **Ukrainian IDPs (internally displaced people): 8,054,405**
- **Ukrainians forcibly deported to Russia: 1,300,000**
- **Ukrainian civilians killed: 7,100 (official number); 40,000+ (US estimate)**
- **Ukrainian soldiers killed: 100,000**

Behind each of these numbers is a man, woman, or child whose life has been upended by the tragic events of this war. But, sadly, these numbers cannot adequately describe the immense toll this war has taken overall on the nation of Ukraine, or the impact it will have for generations to come.

These statistics also don't convey the important role the church in Ukraine has played during the past year. The church has served as a key pillar of support during this humanitarian crisis, given its position of spiritual leadership. People and communities trust churches, rely on them because of their integrity, and have been filling churches since the beginning of the war.



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As Pastor Edmund Rudinskiy from the war-torn city of Mykolaiv shared:

"When the war began, many people fled for their lives from Mykolaiv and Kherson, and two weeks later, my church, which used to have 300 people, barely had 50. But now, our church building, which can accommodate as many as 500 people, doesn't have enough room for everyone who is coming to prayer meetings and worship services, and most of these people are new. That's because the church is preaching the gospel in a very practical way."

Throughout the war, various churches and denominations have worked together, united by one urgent cause: to preach the gospel and to offer practical help to those in need. However, according to the Institute for Religious Freedom of Ukraine (IRF), nearly 500 religious buildings, theological institutions, and places of worship have been destroyed in Ukraine during this war, and religious leaders in Ukraine are now being tortured and killed "on a scale much worse than in 2014" when Russia first invaded Ukraine.

That's why, during the past year, Mission Eurasia has partnered with the church in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova, as well as the Institute for Religious Freedom of Ukraine to raise more awareness about those who are living under occupation in eastern Ukraine and to provide them with spiritual, emotional, and financial support.

For more information about the work of the Institute for Religious Freedom of Ukraine, please visit this link: <https://irf.in.ua/>.



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Mission Eurasia's Field Ministry Headquarters



**For a look inside our
destroyed headquarters
building, visit this link:
https://youtu.be/Qe_PdfRiVok**

In late March 2022, Mission Eurasia's field ministry headquarters located in Irpin, Ukraine, a suburb of the capital city of Kyiv, was destroyed by Russian forces. This beautiful facility, which was made possible by the generous gifts of our donors, served as the hub for planning and coordinating Mission Eurasia's ministry activities throughout Eurasia. It also served as the location for many ministry training, retreats, and other events. As President Sergey Rakhuba shared, ***"This was a beautiful building provided by God from which our ministry to all of Eurasia originated. So much time, energy, hearts, and souls were invested in the ministries that flowed out of this building, which many of our generous and faithful supporters made possible."*** Here new ideas and ministry strategies were developed and implemented; thousands of young leaders from all over Eurasia were trained; and millions of copies of Scriptures were published and distributed to people throughout all of the countries of Eurasia/former Soviet Union.

*"The Lord preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy."*

— Psalm 145:20

Not only did Russian forces destroy our headquarters building, but they also burned the nearby warehouse that stored thousands of copies of Scripture for distribution to unreached people in Ukraine and other countries of Eurasia. But as Sergey Rakhuba concluded, ***“They may try to destroy us, they bomb and demolish our buildings, but they will not stop us from continuing to preach the gospel.”*** A sign has now been placed in front of the remains of our headquarters building that reads in Ukrainian and English: ***“Even though they destroyed our building, they will never destroy our strategic mission to train the Next Generation of leaders and help those in need.”***

The site of our former headquarters is now serving the Irpin area, helping the elderly and providing food and counseling for those in need. In January 2023, Sergey and his son Dmitri visited this site and personally helped to distribute food to many local residents through a mobile kitchen that had been set up for those in need.



Today, Mission Eurasia’s ministry headquarters for Eurasia is located in the neighboring country of Moldova from where all of our ministry activities for all of the countries of Eurasia are coordinated and implemented.



Ministry Network

Refugee Assistance Centers



Within the first days of the war in Ukraine, Mission Eurasia began partnering with local churches in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine to establish a network of ministry and distribution centers in locations that were best suited to help meet the overwhelming physical needs of the Ukrainian people who were being forced to leave their homes because of Russia's relentless assaults on civilian infrastructure, including homes, apartment complexes, shopping centers, hospitals, and schools.

In order to reach these people most effectively and efficiently with life-saving humanitarian aid, housing assistance, trauma counseling, and spiritual care, Mission Eurasia established:

- **Three refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova**
- **Nine regional food packing/humanitarian aid distribution centers in Ukraine**
- **Seven local food distribution hubs in Ukraine**



The refugee assistance centers in Poland (Warsaw and Krakow) and Moldova (Chisinau) have become places of refuge and hope for thousands of Ukrainian refugees, mostly women, children, and the elderly, who have fled from the violence in their homeland.

The work of these centers takes many forms. Trained volunteers care for the physical needs of refugees by providing them with food, medical assistance, housing assistance, and job placement. Professional and trained volunteer counselors, as well as pastors, care for the emotional/psychological and spiritual needs of refugees by providing trauma counseling for families and individuals, as well as encouragement and prayer for the traumatized and sick.

In addition, these refugee assistance centers regularly hold special evangelistic and worship programs, Bible studies, English lessons, and special teaching events for children and



adults on various topics from the Word of God. In the summer of 2022, our refugee assistance centers and partnering churches in western Ukraine held **344 special Bible camps in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine for 21,540 Ukrainian refugee and displaced children**, helping to bring them hope and healing from the trauma of war. In January 2023, our refugee assistance centers focused much of their efforts on our Gift of Hope children's Christmas outreach through which our staff and volunteers organized and presented special programs, introducing refugee and displaced children and their families to the story of Jesus' birth. Through Gift of Hope, **100,000 displaced and Ukrainian refugee children received special gifts, including toys, sweets, school supplies, hygiene items, and a children's Bible, and many heard the gospel for the very first time.**

Since the beginning of the war, Mission Eurasia's refugee assistance centers have provided physical, emotional and/or spiritual help to more than 370,000 refugees.

*"You open your hand; you satisfy
the desire of every living thing."*

— Psalm 145:16



**To hear the stories of refugees
who have come to our center
in Warsaw, please see this link:
<https://youtu.be/wX8khuVK15s>.**

Ministry Distribution Centers

In addition to establishing refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova, Mission Eurasia also established a network of regional food packing/humanitarian aid distribution centers and local food distribution hubs in Ukraine to help displaced people and those trapped by the war right where they were located.

There are currently nine regional food packing/humanitarian aid distribution centers located in Korosten, Lutsk, Lviv, Mukachevo, Chernivtsi, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. Seven local food distribution hubs are located in Kyiv, Vinnytsya, Lebedyn, Kharkiv, Poltava, Novomoskovsk, and Dnipro, Ukraine (see map at the end of this report).

Through these centers and food packing/distribution hubs, Mission Eurasia staff and trained volunteers receive, pack, and distribute food, clothing, medicine/medical supplies, hygiene kits, and other essential items to those who need them the most. Just as importantly, Mission Eurasia staff and trained volunteers from regional and local ministry hubs deliver copies of Scripture and share the Good News of the gospel with those who are unwilling or unable to evacuate, including the elderly, the disabled, and the sick.

Trained Volunteers

The ministries of our refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova as well as our ministry distribution hubs in Ukraine are carried out by an army of trained volunteers who form the backbone of our efforts to assist hundreds of thousands of displaced and refugee families from Ukraine. These courageous volunteers from our School Without Walls (SWW) leadership training program, Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) and its partnership with the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine (CMA), as well as from local churches throughout the region participate in a variety of ministries, often at great risk to themselves.

These ministries include:

- **Evacuating people** from Ukraine.
- **Receiving refugees at our centers in Poland and Moldova** and helping with their immediate needs, including food, clothing, and housing.
- **Providing trauma counseling and medical care** for those in need.
- **Sorting, packing, and delivering food** to and from our regional and local food distribution hubs and humanitarian aid centers.
- **Distributing Scripture and sharing the gospel** with refugees and the displaced in Ukraine.
- **Leading evangelistic outreach programs** for displaced and refugee children, such as summer Bible camps and Gift of Hope Christmas outreach.
- **Leading Bible studies, English classes, worship services**, and other ministry activities for refugee families.



Since the beginning of the war, Mission Eurasia has trained more than 3,300 volunteers, including more than 2,400 volunteer counselors. We are deeply grateful for the courage and sacrifice that these volunteers have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate as they bring hope and healing to the suffering people of Ukraine.

Story of Olya Mykholska

Olya Mykholska, 25, is from Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. She is in her last year of medical internship and works as a family doctor at one of the hospitals in Zaporizhzhia.



Olya comes from a Christian family. Having seen the role model of her parents, their faith, and values, she also became a Christian. She loves the Lord wholeheartedly and considers it a privilege to walk this life with Him. Even during her studies at the medical university and evening work at a pharmacy, she always found time to serve others. It was at that time she received a phone call with an invitation to take School Without Walls (SWW) leadership training classes, and she gladly accepted. Her studies at SWW greatly influenced her understanding of practical Christianity.

Olya already had the desire to serve God and people, and tried to do both, but SWW gave her all the skills and opportunities she needed to be effective. She understood the importance of growing both personally in her relationship with God and in ministry to others. She also learned to understand people in her team and help them reach their potential. During her time at SWW, she became convinced that she wanted to live her life for others and not for her own comfort, which she called an “empty life.”

And it was during this time that Olya first went to the streets to share the gospel with other people. She learned to be stronger, even physically, when she went outside in the rain or on cold, snowy days to talk to people and share with them about God.

SWW became a foundation that prepared her to respond to the challenges of today, and she is grateful to be part of God’s amazing work in people’s lives.

Reimer Center in Zaporizhzhia



“And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

— Matthew 10:42

When the war broke out in Ukraine, Olya joined the ministry to internally displaced people at the Reimer Center in Zaporizhzhia.

She sees this ministry as an opportunity to share with people about the Lord and to show them in tangible ways that Christianity means being there with people in their grief and pain. She is humbled to see how God is working through her and helping her to care for other people.

As Olya shares, *“I’ve noticed that many people come to our center not just to get food but for the opportunity to talk about their pain and loss. They want to know that they are not alone during this war and that someone cares about them.”*

Olya participates in Mission Eurasia’s iCare Refugee Assistance Program by receiving people at the center and responding to their needs. She also visits the families of internally displaced people (IDPs) and local families who are in much need and distributes food and Scripture to them, while offering words of encouragement. People are always very grateful for her care and assistance.

During Christmas, Olya took part in Mission Eurasia’s Gift of Hope program for children. She helped organize Gift of Hope events with her team and went door-to-door in Zaporizhzhia and its outskirts to bring the Good News of Christmas to children and their families.

Olya felt so honored to share the joy of Christmas with these children and spend time with their families to help them through these difficult days. Olya’s family lives far away, and her brothers are serving in the army. She has learned to courageously live with blackouts, curfews, air ride sirens, and even Russian missile attacks from time to time. Her whole world has changed since the war began, but her desire to serve the Lord has only grown.



Humanitarian Relief

Food for the Hungry

On February 24, 2022, the day the war began, Mission Eurasia launched its **Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund** to help provide for the urgent, immediate needs of Ukrainians still living in the country, as well as refugees from Ukraine who have fled to Poland and Moldova, where we established three refugee assistance centers. The initial goal of this fund was to provide 10,000 emergency iCare food packages for vulnerable Ukrainian displaced and refugee families.

Each food package contained enough food to sustain a family of four-five for a week, as well as a copy of Scripture to provide spiritual comfort during this crisis. Since then, and as a result of the generous financial gifts and Gifts in Kind of our ministry partners and supporters, Mission Eurasia **has delivered more than 220,000 iCare food packages and more than 2,600 tons, or five million pounds, of food** to Ukrainian families in need, providing life-sustaining nourishment for nearly one million Ukrainian men, women, and children.

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Story of Anna

"My mom and I are refugees from Kharkiv. I had an apartment there and lived with my dog Chaki. My mom lived in another area of the city. I am 57. I worked in a store, looked after my mom, and enjoyed my life.



"On February 24, I woke up to the sounds of explosions and couldn't believe that the war had started until I saw the tanks on our street. The first thought was about my mother. I quickly grabbed the most important thing, my dog, and rushed to see her. Life then stopped... We spent 10 days in a cold basement, sometimes without electricity. Those were the scariest and hardest days of my life. I was really worried about my mom as she felt worse every day. On one of those days, my neighbor called me and said some words that were hard to process: **"Our apartment block was hit by a missile. There is nowhere to come back to."** Praise God, mom's apartment was fine, so we would go there in the morning, make some food, and go back to the cold cellar. It was getting colder, and I was becoming even more worried about my mom. That morning we went outside, and when we were coming back to the basement, we saw the body parts of some of our neighbors, who did not make it to the basement, scattered on the street. Four people died that day. After witnessing that horror, we decided to leave Kharkiv.

"On day 15, some volunteers from Poltava took us out. So, my 86-year-old mother, my dog, and I were in a completely unfamiliar place. What were we supposed to do? We didn't have a place to live, we didn't have the basic necessities for life, and we didn't know anyone. But we were fortunate. We met some people from the Light of Life Church, and they provided us with accommodations, other things we needed, and they regularly brought us food. I started attending their church services, talking with pastors, brothers, and sisters, and my soul found peace; the fear and uncertainty finally left me. One time when the pastor gave an invitation to receive the Lord, I said, **"Yes."** My life has changed since then. I feel peace knowing that the Lord will not leave me. Thank you so much to everyone for what you are doing. Since I don't have a job anymore, we live on my mom's pension, which is very little. Food is expensive, and we are struggling, but the food you are providing for us is a huge blessing. We know that you care for us in our pain and grief, and we are very grateful!"



Bread of Life Bakeries

Bread of Life Bakeries have been part of Mission Eurasia's "iCare" Refugee Assistance program since 2016, when they helped provide a sustainable source of food for Ukrainian people suffering from Russia's first invasion in eastern Ukraine. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, six more bakeries were established in Lutsk, Mukachevo, Lebedin, Irpin, Poltava, and Kyiv, Ukraine.

Each Bread of Life bakery is capable of producing from 1,000-1,500 loaves of bread per day, five days per week. This self-sustaining ministry model not only provides physical bread for Ukrainians in need, but it also allows our staff and volunteers to share spiritual bread, copies of Scripture and the gospel of Jesus Christ, with those in need of hope, encouragement, and support.

Bread of Life Bakery in Lutsk, Ukraine

The Bread of Life bakery team in Lutsk, Ukraine regularly makes large batches of bread that volunteers then take to different places. They recently took 1,000 loaves of bread to villages in the Kharkiv region that are still under constant shelling, and they shared these two brief touching stories:

"In one village, a 90-year-old man came up to us. He asked to exchange his honey for a loaf of bread and some food. He said he had eaten all the food that he had at home, and honey was the only thing that he had left. His neighbors told him about us and he came, thinking he could exchange his honey at least for some food. He couldn't believe we gave him food and bread for free...."

"Another elderly lady lived with her blind and bedridden husband. They didn't have any bread in their village for eight days. The elderly man said to his wife, 'Maybe go and see if the soldiers have some they could give us.' She answered, 'Maybe God will send us some bread today instead.' And He did. That was the day we came and visited them. We always include encouraging Bible verses with the loaves of bread, and the local pastor always prays for people and encourages them."

In addition to distributing bread to people in places of need, the team from Lutsk regularly distributes physical and spiritual bread in their church. They hold special meetings for internally displaced people, and many people come to hear beautiful Christian singing and an encouraging word from the pastor, to pray together, to hear testimonies, and to have fellowship. At these meetings, the team often witnesses how people often see someone they have lost touch with, and they cry with joy. They also meet new people, listen to their stories, and share their own personal stories, which bonds them together and makes them stronger. Before they leave the meeting, each person receives freshly baked bread from the Bread of Life bakery as well as a New Testament in Ukrainian.



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Humanitarian iCare Fleet

To facilitate the delivery of food, clothing, medicine, and other humanitarian relief, Mission Eurasia purchased 24 vehicles, including 12 box trucks and 12 large-capacity cargo vans, with the generous funds provided by our ministry partners and supporters. These vehicles have been used 24/7 to deliver urgently needed food and food packages, as well as clothing, medicine, and other forms of humanitarian aid to displaced and trapped families in need throughout Ukraine, including those living near the front lines of the war. With the “iCare-ministry of Mission Eurasia-humanitarian aid” logo painted in red on their sides, these vehicles are a symbol of hope for hungry, war-weary Ukrainians who welcome their arrival in every village and community they visit.



Clothing

Since the start of the war, more than 21 million Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes, with most only taking the clothes on their backs. Half of those are vulnerable displaced and refugee children. Many were unprepared to face the harsh winter weather in 2022 when the war began, and many are still unprepared today, now that Russia has destroyed much of Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, leaving little access to heat and electricity.

That’s why Mission Eurasia, as part of its iCare-Ukraine relief efforts, spearheaded an initiative to provide clothing and emergency winter clothing kits for children and their families, which include a blanket, warm coat, hat, and mittens. **Each kit also includes a children’s Bible or children’s literature to warm their hearts with God’s love.**

Your generous support this past year made it possible to provide a 40-foot container filled with clothing, weighing about 20 tons, just in Moldova alone. Plus, we distributed 5,000 blankets through our center in Mukachevo, Ukraine, and about 2,000 emergency winter clothing kits for those in need.



Story of Yulia

Yulia lived in the Kherson region with her husband and their two small children. Her husband was an officer, so when the war started, he was drafted.



In the first few days of the war, they were surrounded by Russian troops, but Yulia's husband managed to miraculously escape. Fleeing the area, Yulia's husband went through a very traumatic experience: he saw the bodies of soldiers who had given their lives for their country. He was physically sick for a whole day after what he had seen and experienced.

Russian soldiers came to Yulia's village in the first days of the war. But she stayed there with her children until March 30, hiding in the basement and afraid to go outside. And only at times, her relatives took her to a place in the village where they could pick up the phone signal, and Yulia could text her husband or talk to him, since the Russians muted the main phone lines.

The last time she spoke to him, a Russian tank came right at them, pointed its muzzle at their car, and 19 Russian soldiers surrounded them, putting their machine guns to their heads and interrogating them. Yulia just quietly prayed to God, asking Him to protect her life for the sake of her two little children waiting for her at home. And God answered her prayer. The Russians let them go.



*“The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.”*

— Psalm 145:14

After that incident, Yulia decided to leave the area no matter what. Right before the war started, Yulia’s husband taught her to drive, and although she didn’t have her driver’s license yet, she got into the car and drove her two children and her mom to safety. It took two long days to leave the occupied territory of Ukraine. From there, they went to Moldova.

Yulia cries bitterly, sharing her story of what they had to endure and how they are now trying to survive. When they left, they didn’t even think about bringing any personal belongings, so they had to start their lives all over again. Because of donations from our ministry partners, Mission Eurasia teams were able to provide Yulia and her family with warm clothing, a family food package, and hygiene items.

They cried together and prayed that God would protect her husband’s life and keep him safe while he is protecting his country, and that He would bless Yulia, her mother, and her children here.



Wood-burning Stoves

As cold weather approached in the fall of 2022, Russia launched a targeted campaign against Ukraine's power grid, destroying up to 50% of its energy infrastructure. As a result, millions of Ukrainian people have been deprived of regular access to heat, electricity, and water. That means that families have had to survive in sub-freezing temperatures this winter with no heat, cooking gas, electricity, or communications. Not only have families been affected by this targeted attack, but vital institutions like hospitals, have also been impacted. For example, doctors in a hospital in Izyum, a village in northeastern Ukraine where a mass grave was found, had to wear winter coats and hats to treat the sick and wounded in their unheated facilities, where the temperature inside the hospital was as cold as the temperature on the street.

To help alleviate the suffering caused by the destruction of the power grid in Ukraine this winter, Mission Eurasia launched a wood-burning stove project.

These stoves are manufactured in a factory located in one of Mission Eurasia's regional ministry hubs, using a workforce made up of displaced people. Not only do these stoves provide a source of life-saving heat and hope for Ukrainian people trying to survive the harsh winter weather, but they also serve as cook tops. Each stove is delivered and installed by Mission Eurasia volunteers along with a two-week supply of firewood and an iCare food package.

Because of the generous and timely response of our ministry partners and donors, we have already built and delivered 2,000 stoves to the Kherson region, Mykolaiv, Odesa, the Zaporizhzhia region, Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, and other regions in Ukraine.

Because of the generous response of our donors and the urgent need to provide more Ukrainian families with wood-burning stoves, we plan to manufacture another 2,000 stoves within the next two months.



To see how wood-burning stoves are providing life-saving help for the people of Ukraine, please see this link: <https://youtu.be/Y8-gUicfpIM>.

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Story of Sergey and Svitlana

Sergey and Svitlana are a young Christian couple who have dedicated their lives to serving street people, including those addicted to drugs and alcohol. And now, with the war raging in Ukraine, they also serve internally displaced people.



When Mission Eurasia met the couple and saw their servant's hearts in the midst of the cold and constant outages, we provided a wood-burning stove to help provide warmth and a hot meal for those who come when there is a power outage. Every morning, Sergey opens the doors of their shelter to welcome everyone who needs help, prayer, and warmth.

Every morning, Svitlana makes a fire in the iCare stove and puts a kettle on the stove to have a hot drink ready for their visitors. The local church helps Sergey and Svitlana provide food for people who come to them. They also pray for people and provide spiritual support to everyone who comes to their shelter. And they give everyone copies of Scripture provided by Mission Eurasia that they can take with them for comfort and support.

The people who come to Sergey and Svitlana's shelter are all very different: some are all alone, others are sick or addicted to drugs or alcohol. The men and women who come have one thing in common: they all need physical and spiritual help.



*“But whoever would be great among you
must be your servant.”*

— Matthew 20:26

When they come, they often sit quietly by the warmth of the stove with their eyes closed. When they are ready, they talk with Sergey and Svitlana about their problems, God, and His love. Many people who come to the shelter take the next step and go to church. A few men and women have started a journey of faith that has resulted in baptism.

Please pray for Sergey and Svitlana and their ministry as they use the wood-burning stove provided by Mission Eurasia to reach countless hurting souls with the warmth of God’s love.



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Medical iCare Ministry

iCare-Ukraine program

With the outbreak of full-scale war in Ukraine in February 2022, Mission Eurasia's iCare-Ukraine program was focused not only on providing life-saving food and clothing for displaced Ukrainians and refugee families, but also on providing medical assistance for the people of Ukraine.

When the war began, it became apparent that there was an enormous shortage of available medicines. But through our partnership with the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine (CMA), a vast network of about 1,000 young Christian health professionals, whom our Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) strategically assisted, we have been helping to meet that need. Today, CMA is actively working throughout Ukraine, helping to purchase and distribute hundreds of tons of medicines and medical equipment, and deliver them to regions where hostilities are most active. As a result of our partnership with CMA, it became possible to provide medical supplies for the sick and injured, including hospitals that treat wounded soldiers.

Here are two examples of how Christian doctors from Eurasia, the United States, and Ukraine joined forces to bring physical and spiritual healing to the wounded in Ukraine: In May 2022, a group of Christian doctors from Kazakhstan and America arrived in Ukraine to provide assistance to internally displaced persons from the military zone. Bakytzhan, one of the doctors from Kazakhstan, shared his thoughts on this partnership:

"The Mission Eurasia team invited us to come and serve with a group of young Christian doctors in Ukraine, and we agreed. It was very important for us to help the people of Ukraine with our professional skills, but it was just as important to show our support and tell them that we love them with the love of Jesus. Our team raised funds and bought a large number of medical supplies. Many people in Kazakhstan willingly donated when they heard where we were going. We went to a remote village in the western part of Ukraine and spent two days there. The Baptist church in this village received more than 100 refugees from Mariupol, a city that had been sacked by Russian troops. We provided them with assistance related to the exacerbation of chronic diseases, contusions from the blast wave, and our psychologists consulted along with church leaders who prayed for people."



In addition to providing medical assistance, these young Christian healthcare workers also share copies of Scripture and Christian literature with those in need.

Through your prayers and partnership, the CMA has helped more than 250,000 people with more than 200 tons of medical supplies, more than 14,000 hygiene kits, counseling, and copies of Scriptures.



The medical mission division of iCare-Ukraine and NGPLI also served people and churches in Mykolaiv and Kherson in southern Ukraine from November 28 – December 5, 2022.

For a long time, Kherson was occupied by the Russian army, and Mykolaiv (a neighboring city) was subjected to fierce shelling. Therefore, many people left these cities, including many doctors. Refugees who come from these destroyed villages only increase the pressure on the infrastructure of the cities. However, churches actively help these people and witness about Christ to them.

A young businessman and doctor—the director of a clinic from Almaty, Kazakhstan—gathered a team of Christian doctors from Kazakhstan and the US, and went to Ukraine. This was their team's second visit after first coming to the Chernivtsi region in June. This time, the team included five doctors from Kazakhstan, four doctors from the US, and three doctors from Ukraine. CMA provided the team with a large quantity of medicines and equipment for examining people.

The team received people in churches in Mykolaiv and Kherson, and once they were received under fire in a bomb shelter. The team also received patients on the premises of a new assistance center, where a new church is now being built. Doctors prayed with each patient, shared the gospel, and church volunteers gave iCare-Ukraine food packages to these people for their families. Each patient received his or her prescription medications free of charge. In all, the team received more than 1,000 patients. Doctors worked from early morning until late at night, along with church volunteers who received people, invited them to church, and provided spiritual assistance. **Pastors of churches report that more than 400 patients who received medical care now attend worship services.**

Dr. Rudi Mihovich, president of the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine, shared this amazing story from the occupied city of Kherson, demonstrating his belief that ***"medicines are expensive, but human lives are priceless"***: When the Russian army occupied Kherson and other towns and villages in southern Ukraine, that region was hit by a humanitarian crisis. Their biggest need was medicine. The Russian occupiers didn't allow medicine to be brought from Ukraine, and medicine from Russia was either in short supply or very expensive. Of course, the most vulnerable people suffered the most. These included elderly people who don't have families to help them, orphans, and people with cancer. Churches in Kherson contacted the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine (CMA), and Rudi and his team responded right away. Risking their lives, Christian volunteers began taking medicines through Russian checkpoints to people in need. These volunteers are continuing this work today, which is why details about this program can't be shared. But because of the efforts of the medical team, the lives of patients in one home for the elderly were literally saved. For two weeks, Christian volunteers took medicines to them, and then the churches in the south of Ukraine were able to evacuate those people to Ukrainian territory.





We are grateful to God and our ministry partners that, during the past year, we have trained 2,412 people in trauma counseling, and have printed 15 counseling materials for Christian counselors from 411 churches in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova.

Trauma Counseling Ministry

Psychological/emotional trauma is one of the most common consequences of the war in Ukraine. Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons, including many children, have witnessed the horrors of war and are under intense emotional stress. That is why, since the beginning of the war, Mission Eurasia has focused on holistic ministry to the Ukrainian people, developing a special component of pastoral care and counseling to help, comfort, and give hope to traumatized people and families.

Beginning in April 2022, Mission Eurasia has conducted 12 training events for young professionals through our Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) who are involved in providing trauma counseling assistance for refugees from Ukraine at our refugee assistance centers.

These training sessions were led by practicing Christian psychologists and combat training specialists for **450 volunteers who were already serving refugees from Ukraine**, and who wanted to improve their skills.

Through NGPLI and partnerships with local churches and church leaders, we have trained and deployed a network of professional and volunteer counselors to work with refugees at our refugee assistance centers in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova, and the internally displaced throughout Ukraine.



During the first nine months of the war, we estimate that these counselors provided emotional help and support for 50,000 people, including women, children, and the elderly.



Story of Sonia

Many children love to draw. Sonia, a 9-year-old girl from Mariupol, Ukraine also likes to draw. Her city was completely destroyed during the war. Sonia now lives in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. A few days a week, Sonia attends special classes with Natalia, a children's trauma counselor.



Sonia drew a picture of her family that includes her mother, two sisters, her father, their dog, her aunt and herself. It's a beautiful colorful drawing and Sonia did an excellent job. However, only Natalia and Sonya know the truth about this picture: all of the people in the drawing are dead.

Sonia is the only person in her family who survived a Russian missile attack. No one else did. This lonely, shell-shocked 9-year-old girl was taken out of her destroyed city of Mariupol by friends of her family. Sonia is now in a children's shelter in Kyiv. Natalia is the only person whom Sonia would approach at the shelter. Natalia is a Christian psychologist who completed a special program to provide trauma counseling for victims of this war.

Natalia, like many other professional counselors, is an iCare partner who provides assistance to children and teenagers who have been affected by the war. She met Sonia during a summer camp last summer that the Mission Eurasia iCare team was holding for children affected by the war. Natalia began working with Sonia after the summer camp, and she continued working with her for several months.

As Natalia shared, ***"This was an incredibly difficult case for me. I even had to turn to my Christian colleagues for help because of the immense pain that Sonia felt. I started internalizing Sonia's pain, so I needed help as well. Sonia and I journeyed together on an incredibly hard and long path to healing, but we were not alone. Jesus was walking with us."*** With Natalia's help, Sonia moved from despair and denial to recognition of what happened and the healing of her heart.

Natalia explained, ***"The main reference point for us was the story of Jesus, who also lost His home and the people close to Him; who endured much grief and suffering. We read stories about Jesus' life and prayed that the risen Christ would heal this little girl and give her hope that she would one day see the people in her drawing once again. And in the end, with His strength, Sonia was able to return to normal life."*** Right now, Sonia is in the process of being adopted. Everyone has pitched in to help her: the government, volunteers, and churches. As Natalia shared, ***"We are solving a lot of issues and are giving Sonia the chance for a new life."***

Note: Sonia and many children who were affected by the war need qualified help from faithful and experienced Christian adults who have experience with emotional and psychological restoration. That's why part Mission Eurasia's iCare-Ukraine program focuses on training trauma counselors, creating and adapting counseling resources, and supporting holistic care centers for children traumatized by the war. Sadly, not all stories end well as Sonia's did. But we continue to work and hope that our Lord Jesus Christ will continue healing little victims of the war through the adults who participate in our relief initiatives.

Scripture & Christian Literature

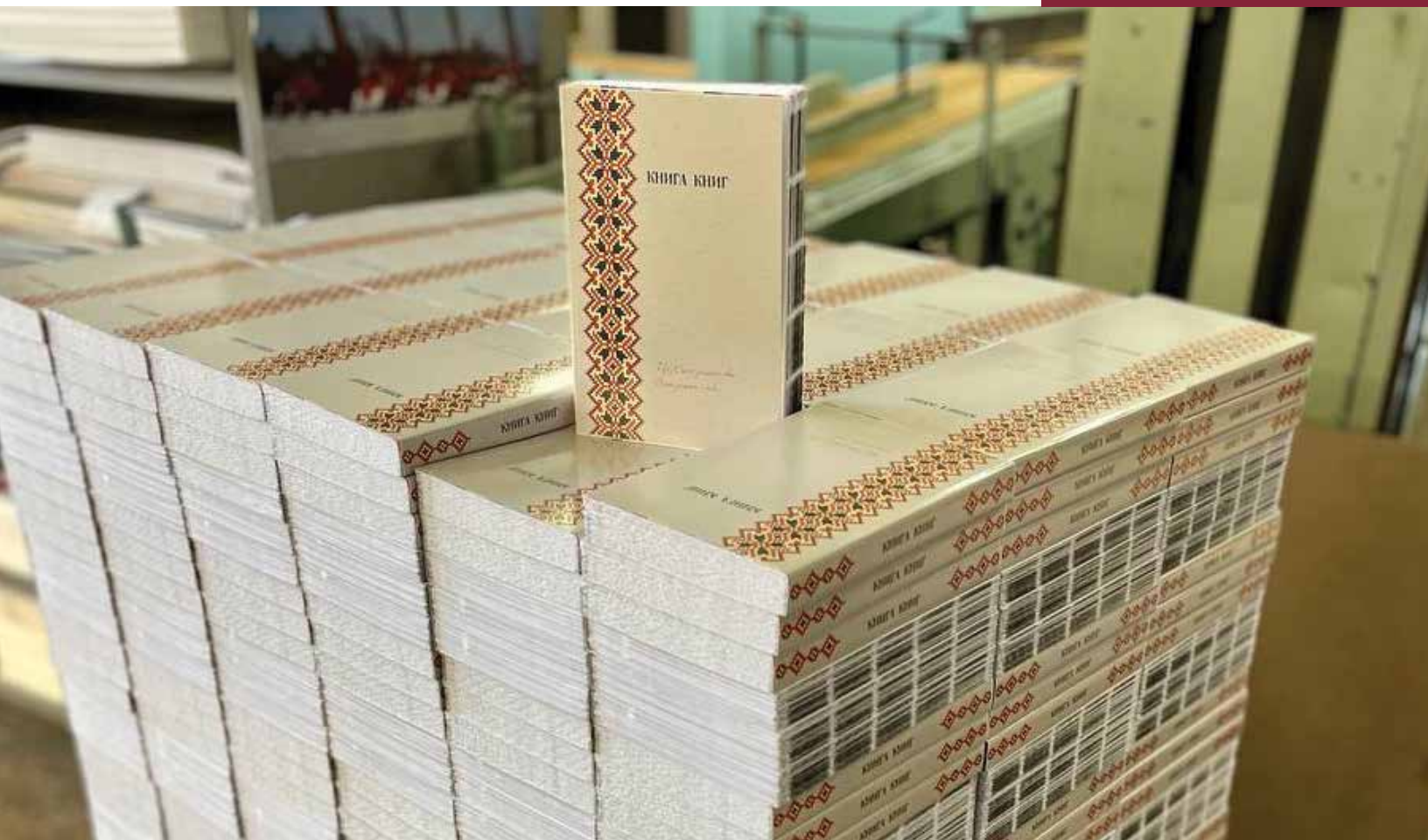
The living Word of God provides true hope for the suffering people of Ukraine. Through the pages of Scripture, the weary and hopeless search for answers to their questions and find the spiritual strength they so desperately need. That's why the Bible and New Testament are the books in highest demand now in Ukraine.

To help meet this demand, when war in Ukraine broke out last February, Mission Eurasia began publishing various versions of Scripture and Scripture-based materials in the Ukrainian and Russian languages specifically designed for adults, children, and teens. These Scripture versions included Gospels of John, New Testaments, and children's Bibles. In addition, Mission Eurasia has published gospel magazines, devotionals for children and teens, and a special prayer booklet in Ukrainian called Molitvoslov, that includes special prayers for a time of war and a link to materials on discipleship and spiritual comfort.

Altogether, during the past year, **Mission Eurasia has printed 1,493,529 copies of Scripture and distributed more than one million of these copies** to hurting refugee families through our refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova, as well as to internally displaced persons in Ukraine. We have also **printed and distributed more than one million copies of Scripture-based materials** for adults, children, and the elderly through our ministry outreaches in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine.



Mission Eurasia has printed 1,493,529 copies of Scripture and distributed more than one million of these copies to hurting refugee families.



Story of Olga

Olga is the mother of three adult boys. Two of her sons are in the Ukrainian military and her third son is going to fight on the frontlines very soon, too.



Her daughter-in-law is about to give birth to her first grandson, but there is not much joy around this wonderful event. Olga's future and the future of her family are very uncertain. Apart from worrying about her sons, she has some serious health issues.

When Mission Eurasia volunteers brought Olga an iCare food package, she was very moved. When they tried to talk to her, she started sharing her heart right away: ***"I am so tired... I don't even know how to live and what to do. I heard that praying can help, but I don't even know how to pray!"***

But God had already prepared an answer for her. When our volunteers opened the iCare food package, they showed her the Bible and a prayer guide inside, and shared with her about God's Word and prayer. They then prayed for her and encouraged her. Olga felt peace and promised she would read the Bible.

Olga's story is just one example of many that our volunteers have shared. They often hear heartfelt words of gratitude from those they help, especially for the physical food and copies of Scripture, or spiritual food, they received with their iCare packages. Countless people have shared that, when fear paralyzes them and despair grips them, they feel peace, comfort, and God's presence by reading the New Testament and the special prayer guide that includes the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 91, and a prayer of repentance.





Nashville Consultation on Ukraine



On November 10–11, 2022, Mission Eurasia held the **Nashville Consultation on Ukraine** in Franklin, TN to analyze the causes of Russian aggression against Ukraine, discuss the challenges Ukraine is facing as a result of that aggression, and consolidate efforts to continue helping suffering Ukrainian people and churches.

More than 120 participants from Ukraine, the US, Moldova, and Poland attended this strategic event, including prominent representatives of the Ukrainian government, church, and NGOs.

The Nashville Consultation helped to strengthen existing channels of support for Ukraine and develop new initiatives that will continue to help the people and church for years to come.

At the conclusion of this strategic and timely event, participants signed a Resolution of Christian Solidarity, Religious Freedom, and Humanitarian Compassion to ensure ongoing support for the nation of Ukraine and its people. We are grateful to all of our ministry partners and friends who attended this special event, as well as those who supported it with their prayers.

Together, we believe that God will continue to sustain the people, church, and nation of Ukraine.

Evangelistic Outreach for Refugee and Displaced Children

Summer of Hope Bible Camps

Children are among the most vulnerable victims of the war in Ukraine. Many have suffered unimaginable trauma and loss during the events of this past year. To help bring hope and healing to these hurting displaced and refugee children, our School Without Walls students and volunteers, trained through Mission Eurasia's Empower camp program, held special summer Bible camps in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine this past summer.

Through these special camps, hurting children received their very own children's Bibles and enjoyed games, sports, nutritional food as well as faith-building activities. Many also received special care from volunteer counselors trained by Mission Eurasia to help them heal from the trauma of war.

Because of your prayers and generous support, a total of **21,540 displaced and refugee children from Ukraine attended a total of 344 special Bible camps this past summer, and 3,400 of these children made decisions to receive Christ.**



Please visit this link to see the impact that your support of our summer Bible camps made for the hurting children of Ukraine:
<https://youtu.be/EddxtMvDJ18>

Story of Victoria

Victoria, her sister, mother, and aunt had to flee her city in Ukraine at the beginning of the war. Victoria, a teenager, now knows what explosions sound like and what it was like to leave home.



Victoria knows what it was like to leave home in haste with just a small bag of her most important things as well as her cat in a cat carrier and documents hidden under her clothes.

Sadly, Victoria lost her father just before they left, and her neighbors had to bury him right by their house, since the local cemetery was being shelled. This was an extremely traumatic experience for Victoria. Volunteers from a local church, which partners with Mission Eurasia, received Victoria and her relatives, who helped them find accommodations and who visited them every day, bringing food, warm clothes, and encouragement.

When Victoria was younger, she had attended church services, but she stopped when she became a teenager.

When the volunteers got to know Victoria's family a little better (and in spite of the fact that Victoria and her sister did not want anything to do with Christians), they invited the girls to youth meetings and even celebrated their birthdays with them. As they were making plans to hold a special summer camp for displaced children and youth, they invited Victoria to help, and she agreed!

During the camp, Victoria beamed with joy when other children would ask her to paint their faces with different shapes, animals, hearts, etc. When Victoria started talking to these children and trying to encourage them, the Lord touched her heart and ministered to her. When each day at camp came to an end, she couldn't wait for the next day to continue blessing the other children.

At the end of the camp, Victoria prayed to receive the Lord into her heart with our Christian volunteers. That was the amazing beginning of her new life in Jesus that started when she began serving other children at camp.

From that moment on, Victoria started coming to services at the church and her attitude toward Christianity changed completely. She felt the joy of serving others. She is now a member of the church and is actively involved in the youth group and other ministries. Victoria is growing in the Lord and sharing the gospel with others. She will never forget her time at our summer Bible camp where she ministered to other refugee children, and the Lord ministered to her.

*“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,
and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”*

— Mark 9:37

Gift of Hope

To help bring hope and healing to displaced and refugee children suffering from the horrors of war in their homeland this past Christmas season, Mission Eurasia presented its Gift of Hope evangelistic program in western Ukraine as well as through our refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova.

Through Gift of Hope, each child received a specially designed colorful gift box filled with toys, sweets, school supplies, hygiene items, and most importantly of all, a children’s Bible in Ukrainian. These gifts were distributed by Mission Eurasia volunteers who also presented festive Christmas programs, introducing many of these children and their families to Jesus, the greatest gift of all, through plays, puppet shows, songs, testimonies, and holiday gatherings.

As a result of the generous support of our supporters and partners, **a total of 100,000 Gifts of Hope were distributed to hurting Ukrainian children in Ukraine (75,000 gifts), Moldova (15,000 gifts), and Poland (10,000 gifts).** Through our partnership with local churches, these children and their families will have ongoing support from the Christian community and the opportunity to grow in their faith.



**To see the impact that our Gift of Hope program had on the suffering children of Ukraine this past Christmas season, please visit this link:
<https://youtu.be/FzZCbJI-SCw>**



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Story of Igor

Igor is standing in the building of a village school, and he is holding a Gift of Hope gift. The windows of the school are covered with plywood because the glass was shattered from the explosions. There is a badly damaged bus in the schoolyard.



Igor is from a village in southern Ukraine that was liberated from the Russians. His home was destroyed, so he lives with his parents at their neighbor's house. The school doesn't function because there is no heat. And although the village was not shelled, the children still cannot meet for their classes. The villagers only have electricity for two hours each day, and they have difficulties connecting to the internet and finding enough food for their families. But Mission Eurasia's iCare team comes to this village every week to provide food for the villagers and to encourage them spiritually.

At Christmas, the team held a very special celebration for the children. They sang Christmas carols with them, presented plays, and played games. Also, each child in the village received a Gift of Hope filled with sweets, toys, and a children's Bible. Igor was overjoyed to receive this gift and promised to read his Bible.

Now, whenever Igor hears our iCare team's car approaching, he gathers people from the village and exclaims with joy, ***"Our friends have arrived!"***

Igor now has hope. He knows that there are people who remember him and his parents, appreciate them, and pray for them. Two weeks after the special Christmas celebration, Igor joyfully told our iCare team that he and many other children from his village now pray to Jesus themselves. Through Gift of Hope, God visited this destroyed village in Ukraine and brought hope to its hurting children.



War in Ukraine: A Year in Review

[Feb 24, 2022 – Feb 24, 2023]

Pray for Ukraine



People evacuated: **22,691**

Refugees assisted: **370,064**

Volunteers trained: **3,367**

Hygiene kits delivered: **14,492**

Volunteer counselors trained: **2,412**

Copies of Scripture printed: **1,493,529**

Trauma counseling materials printed: **15**

Copies of Scripture distributed: **1,062,735**

Wood-burning stoves delivered: **2,000+**

iCare family food packs delivered: **220,413**

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People assisted with medical care: **250,000+**

People assisted through trauma counseling: **50,000**

Bulk food delivered: **2,500 tons** (5 million pounds)

People reached through Bread of Life bakeries: **400,000**

Medicines/medical supplies delivered: **200+ tons** (400,000+ pounds)

Gifts of Hope distributed: **100,000** to children in Ukraine, Moldova, and Poland

Copies of Christian literature (other than Scripture) printed and distributed: **1,083,462**

Clothing delivered: **20 tons** (40,000 pounds), plus 2,000 emergency winter clothing kits

Summer Bible camps: **21,540** children reached through 344 camps in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine

Mission Eurasia's Response to the War in Ukraine 2023



MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

The ministries described in this report were made possible only through the Kingdom partnership of hundreds of individuals, churches, ministries, and organizations who so generously shared their efforts, talents, skills, and financial resources/Gifts-in-Kind to help alleviate the suffering of millions of displaced and refugee families from Ukraine this past year. Mission Eurasia just served as the conduit, but it is God who brought everything together. We are profoundly grateful to God and to all of our ministry partners for enabling us to bring physical relief and the hope of the gospel to the suffering people of Ukraine. We rely on your continued prayers and faithful support to help us as we continue restoring Ukrainian families, churches, communities, and the nation in the months and years ahead.

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