

WOOD-BURNING STOVES FOR UKRAINE



What Your Contribution Means

Thank you for stepping forward, in this time of dire need, to provide generous, timely, and practical help to people in the embattled nation of Ukraine.

As a result, **untold lives were saved.** And countless more women, children, and men were spared the agony of living without heat in the brutal Ukrainian winter.

But there is more.

Through your generous support, **the gospel of Jesus Christ reached people who desperately needed it.**

The message of hope in a time of despair came at just the right time. As Ukrainians faced a barrage of unceasing violence, they were reminded that God is still present and “mighty to save.” The light of God’s love pierced the darkness of war. Hatred and despair gave way to love and gratitude.

The life-changing impact of your partnership cannot be overstated. Most of those whose lives were impacted cannot express their thanks. They still struggle every day just to survive. But now, they can stay warm during the frigid winter nights. Their families can cook food on a stovetop and eat a warm meal, perhaps for the first time in months.

So, on their behalf, and from all of us at Mission Eurasia—**thank you!**

The Horrible Impact of War on Ukrainian Families

Part of the Russian strategy in its war on Ukraine has been to target the Ukrainian power grid and energy infrastructure. Through the course of the war, an estimated 50 percent of the nation’s power grid has been lost. As a result, hospitals, homes, churches, and entire communities have been deprived of electricity, water, gas, and the ability to communicate. This has paralyzed much normal activity and brought untold misery to ordinary Ukrainians, especially during the cold winter months.

Temperatures in Ukraine typically hover around freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit) in winter. They don’t get much higher during the day and can dip much lower at night. Without energy to heat their homes, Ukrainian families face hypothermia, which can cause permanent health damage and death. The lack of gas and electricity has also made it hard to cook food, which is already in short supply. So, people are often reduced to a miserable hand-to-mouth existence.



You Helped Answer the Call

In response to this human tragedy, Mission Eurasia launched an initiative to provide as many Ukrainian families as possible with a basic implement for fighting the winter cold—**wood-burning stoves**.

Each stove can heat an entire room, enabling the families to stay warm. The stoves can also be used as cooktops, so families can have hot meals again.

In a fitting development, the wood-burning stoves are manufactured in one of Mission Eurasia's regional ministry hubs—mostly by people displaced by the war.

The stoves are then transported to needy homes, churches, hospitals, and other locations, where they are installed by Mission Eurasia volunteers. Each stove is accompanied by **two weeks' worth of firewood and iCare packages with enough food for a week**.

Families also receive Scripture resources that tell them about the God who loves them, and many are responding in faith.

Thus, the impact of your generosity will resonate through eternity.



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Meeting Needs Wherever They Are

Wood-burning stoves have been distributed in towns and villages throughout four regions of Ukraine:

- **Eastern Ukraine:** Kharkiv, Pokrovsk, Poltava, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Izyum, and Liman
- **Southern Ukraine:** Zaporizhzhia, Orikhiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson
- **Central Ukraine:** Irpin, Bucha, Gostomel, Vasylkiv, Cherkasy
- **Western Ukraine:** Chernivtsi, Khotyn, Nedoboivtsi, Mukachevo

In addition to the major towns and cities, many smaller villages throughout the country received wood stoves. Priority was given to schools and churches that had been converted to migrant shelters, as well as individual refugee families.

God's Love in Action

Sergey and Svitlana: Serving the Distressed in Jesus' Name

Every morning, Sergey opens his doors to the troubled people of his community—the lonely ones, the sick, the ones addicted to drugs and alcohol—and lately, the ones displaced by war.

Together with his wife Svitlana, Sergey runs a shelter that welcomes people of all descriptions, offering them a caring heart, a hearty meal, and prayer.

The shelter was without heat when the Mission Eurasia team arrived. The team immediately saw the need and arranged for a wood-burning stove to be installed. Now, Sergey and Svitlana can offer visitors a warm refuge from the cold and a good hot meal, along with the everlasting love of God.

Hearts are being touched and lives transformed—through the dedication of this godly couple and your generous support.



Keeping Warm at a Refugee Camp

In the village of Luchky in western Ukraine, Christians organized a four-day camp for refugee teens at a local church. Newly constructed cabins, built by men from the church with the support of Mission Eurasia, housed 80 young people from the surrounding areas. The camp programs were held in the church hall—although electricity was limited to two hours each day.

When there was no electricity, people gathered together around the wood-burning stove, which always had a kettle boiling. There were songs and discussions on political and biblical topics, as well as earnest prayers to God. A lot of firewood was burned, and many liters of tea—with a slight scent of smoke—were consumed.

Most importantly, many hearts were touched by the warmth of sincere Christian compassion. Children and teenagers, who had lost everything in fleeing from the war, testified with tears in their eyes that they had gained Christ—a blessing a hundred times greater than all they had lost.



God's Love in Action

Zaporizhzhia: Focal Point of Terror

Zaporizhzhia in southeastern Ukraine has been hit especially hard by Russian attacks. The nuclear power plant there was disabled by Russian missiles, and electricity has been lost throughout the area. In response, Mission Eurasia and other groups have rallied to help the suffering people of Zaporizhzhia and the surrounding region.

The Reimer Center in Zaporizhzhia receives a daily influx of displaced and hungry people seeking food, warmth, and simple companionship. The team of Christians there offers them compassionate care, food, prayer, and the hope of the gospel through Christian literature and teachings. As people gather around the wood stove for warmth, they find a welcoming environment, perfect for tea drinking and discussion.

Meanwhile, 500 stoves have been received into the local warehouse and are being distributed to people in need throughout the area. Young Christians in western Ukraine are producing and packaging firewood to go along with the stoves.

In a time of great distress, the balm of God's comforting love is being felt as never before.



In Their Own Words

Vladimir, Team Leader, Zaporizhzhia

In one of the villages near the frontlines, we met a family with nine children and three adults. They lived very modestly, but they were very friendly and supportive of one another. Valentyna, the mother, introduced us to her children: Oleksiy, Daria, Natalia, Bogdan, Kiril, Oleksandr, Dmytro, Andrii, and Dominika. There are no jobs in the village, so the only way to earn some money is for the father to go to the city of Zaporizhzhia to look for odd jobs there. Despite the danger, the parents decided not to leave their small but cozy home, as well as their cow and calf, relying on the Lord for the speedy victory.

The stove that they have in their house was in need of repair, so the new iCare wood-burning stove was a very timely gift. Valentyna shared that they often struggle to make ends meet and sometimes they don't have food to eat. That was the case at that time when our team visited, so the iCare food package was a very timely help, too!

The team of Christian leaders at the Reimer center meets twice a week for prayer, asking God for His guidance in helping these families, especially in situations like how to convince them to evacuate when it's too dangerous for them, and how to help children who live through shelling and witness death up close.



The team estimates that more than 200 families are in similar situations as the family they visited. And these are the families they know of, which means the real number is much higher. Therefore, the team is praying to have more opportunities to effectively assist those who have been broken by the war and are hopeless and unable to make sound decisions.

“We gratefully accepted stoves [to provide warmth for] the refugees we serve. All the churches of our brotherhood are grateful to those partners, thanks to whom these stoves were purchased and made.” — Sergey Moroz, leader, Union of Evangelical Christian-Baptists of Ukraine.

“We serve people from a modular camp for refugees. This town is heated with electricity. Without electricity, people were freezing, but we were able to heat them with the wood-burning stoves. We thank Mission Eurasia and their faithful partners.” — Yuri Andrushchenko, pastor and chaplain.

“All the villages in the occupied Kherson region have had huge destruction, but people live there, and many return after the occupation. The warmth has become God's blessing for them. Thanks to the Mission Eurasia team; thanks to the donors—you literally saved people!” — Pavel Smolyakov, regional leader and bishop.

God's Love in Action

Novogradovka: A Testimony of God's Goodness

Although this village is close to the frontlines, believers in Novogradovka still gather regularly to hold services. Wood-burning stoves have been a great blessing to the church leaders and missionaries in this embattled area; they install them in people's homes, churches, and sometimes even outdoors. In several other villages near the frontlines, stoves have been installed in churches, where people come regularly to get warm and cook their meals.

And the practical impact of God's love continues to grow.



Sergey and Natalia: An Unexpected Blessing

Even though they are elderly and vulnerable, Sergey and Natalia don't want to leave their home in Novogradovka. This is where they have built their lives. It's their home. *"We also can't leave because of our animals,"* Natalia says. *"What would happen to them?"* Their village in the Donetsk region is close to the frontlines and gets hit with shelling regularly.

Though they're still in constant danger, as of today Sergey and Natalia can at least cook their meals and stay warm—thanks to a wood-burning stove provided by Mission Eurasia through your generosity.

Their experience has driven Sergey and Natalia closer to God. *"... Being in this danger changes us,"* Natalia says. *"We started looking for answers to the question about life after death. We started praying, and our hearts are in a better place. We started going to a church that we have here in the village. They have become a family to us. Everyone tries to help one another..."*

The simple blessing of a wood-burning stove has also made a huge impact on the lives of this brave couple. *"Thank you for the stove,"* Natalia says, wiping away tears. *"We'll now be warm in our house. And our hearts feel warm..."*



God's Love in Action

Nikolay and Svetlana: Courage in a Time of Hardship

Today is a rare day off for the family of Nikolay and Svetlana. Their time is usually occupied with helping the desperate people in their community. Their home was partially destroyed by shelling, so they live in the only surviving portion. Unfortunately, they lost their stove and source of heat, so they had no warmth or hot meals—until today.

Thanks to the iCare Team and your generosity, Nikolay and Svetlana have received a wood-burning stove to warm up their home and enable them to cook meals again. Now they can also invite their neighbors for a Christian gathering and prayer time with hot tea in a warm room. Nikolay recently suffered a stroke and underwent surgery. But they still decided not to leave their home in a frontline city. Instead, they will stay and help people who struggle even more than they do.

Today, love and warmth have come to their home as well.



In Their Own Words

From the iCare Kyiv Team:

Our Kyiv iCare team was recently approached by the administration of the village of Moschun, located in the Kyiv region, [begging] us for help. They explained that [the] situation in the area is dire, with much destruction and many families having lost their homes during the Russian occupation.

Although many have returned to their homeland to rebuild their lives, they have no other choice but live [to] in temporary shelters or parts of their homes that survived, or with their neighbors.

Many of them have nothing, and the challenges they face are overwhelming. Praise God, we were able to respond and send them essential supplies, including our wood-burning stoves and food packages. The people are so happy and grateful, and our hearts are filled with joy, knowing that we have made a positive impact on their lives and helped them experience God's love in that way.



Luchky, Western Ukraine: A Story of Redemption

There has been hardly any electricity in our village in the last month. We only get it at night for two or three hours. Even when there is electricity, there is still no cell phone connection. People start switching to the old means of survival, like using fireplaces and cooking on the fire.

The wood-burning stoves that are distributed through the iCare project are becoming more and more popular. Neighbors come to get warm by the fire and get some hot tea. The displaced people who live in big groups get together around the fire, make food, and talk about life.

Christians bring warmth into the homes of the people who have experienced much suffering, share with them about the eternal God who gives warmth and joy into the heart of each believer. Almost each household needs a source of warmth, and almost every person has a desire to get warm inside, shaking off fear and uncertainty.

The teams of Christians who spread the joy during summer camps, now go into cold homes of people with the **warmth of the stove for the body and warmth of God's Word for the soul.**

God's Love in Action

Natalia and Yulia: A Mother and Daughter in Peril

Yulia was born with cerebral palsy. Now 32, she has never been outside her home village of Lezhyne. Natalia, her mother, struggles to take care of her, but her task became much more challenging when the shelling started. A missile hit near their home, shattering their windows. Another missile hit their neighbors' house, killing them.

Despite the real danger, Natalia and Yulia don't want to leave. This is their home, where they have cows, goats, and a lifetime of memories. The iCare team that called on them accepted their wishes, and decided to do what they could to help them stay. They covered the windows with plywood to keep out the cold and debris. They brought food and a Gift of Hope for Yulia, who accepted it with joy. And they installed a wood-burning stove in the house. Now, Natalia can cook hot meals for herself and her daughter. And they can both stay warm during the cold winter nights.

Before they left, the Mission Eurasia team prayed that God would keep the family safe, show them an even safer place in His arms, give them eternal hope, and fill their hearts with His love.

God would keep the family safe, show them an even safer place in His arms.



God's Love in Action

Izyum: A City in Pain

There is no gas, electricity, water, or phone service in Izyum. This city, in the Kharkiv region, was occupied by the Russian army for six months. In the fall of 2022, a mass grave containing hundreds of bodies was discovered there. Many of the bodies showed signs of brutal torture and execution. In the course of the Russian onslaught, the city's infrastructure was destroyed.

The head doctor at the local hospital describes what happened: *"Russian soldiers took out absolutely everything from our hospital. They even pulled out aluminum wires from the walls."* But he and his staff continue to treat the sick and wounded, who keep coming. *"We try to help everyone, although we don't have even the most necessary things, and the temperature inside the hospital is the same as outside, which at night gets close to zero C (32 F)."* He speaks while wearing a jacket and hat even though he is indoors.

Other community leaders have similar stories of heroism in the midst of pain. Oleksandr is a pastor who helps more than 1,000 people in the area. *"People come to us to receive food packages and film to cover their windows shattered by the blast,"* he says. *"They would like to get warm. But it's cold in our center, too—just like in our homes."*

This was the scene that Mission Eurasia's iCare team encountered when they delivered **six large wood-burning stoves** to the people of Izyum—along with firewood and food packages.

Now, people of the town gather around their stoves at night, heating food, talking, and reading the gospel literature they've received.

Mission Eurasia's iCare team delivered six large wood-burning stoves.



A Legacy of Hope and Love

Gratitude for your far-reaching compassion

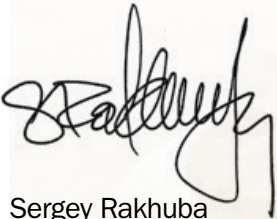
Providing for the most basic needs of our fellow human beings is an essential part of the Christian life. Serving others in humility gives credibility to our witness as believers. And I'm so glad that you have made this kind of service a priority, providing wood-burning stoves for the people of Ukraine who shiver in the cold even while they endure unspeakable violence.

Your generosity has made life bearable for countless Ukrainians, who now understand that God is present even in the darkest circumstances.

How can we express our gratitude? Words fail. But be assured, your gift has had an eternal impact on the lives of thousands of people in distress.

For this, we can only say **thank you**, again, in Jesus' name!

Most gratefully in Him,



Sergey Rakhuba
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“... Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers, you did it to me.”

– Matthew 25:40, ESV

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