Feb 24, 2022 - Feb 24, 2024

### Two-Year Report on Mission Eurasia's iCare-Ukraine Program







## Message from President Sergey Rakhuba



#### Dear Friend,

On that cold, fateful day of February 24, 2022, an unexpected storm descended upon Ukraine, marking the start of a full-scale invasion that would test the resilience and unity of the Ukrainian people. Russia's unprovoked aggression not only threatened Ukraine's sovereignty, but also its very existence, igniting a war that drew worldwide attention and concern. A midst the unfolding humanitarian crisis and chaos, Mission Eurasia–with an outpouring of support from our faithful donors and partners–quickly adapted our ministry approach and launched practical ministries to bring holistic help and hope to those caught in the cross hairs of this unprecedented crisis.

This report summarizes two years of relentless struggle and unwavering perseverance by the Ukrainian people. It underscores the collaborative efforts of our ministry teams, who launched innovative, effective and tangible ministry initiatives, and our ministry partners, who faithfully prayed and generously supported these initiatives. This report reflects the courage and strong faith required to transcend adversity, and truly shows God at work.

The invasion that began in February 2022 immediately created hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees who fled to other countries for safety. Mission Eurasia responded to this crisis by developing creative, tangible ministry initiatives. These initiatives have spanned the borders into Poland and Moldova, where we mobilized Christian communities and churches to serve as steadfast beacons of hope, offering practical assistance to the endless lines of refugees streaming into their countries. We also partnered with local churches in Ukraine to transform their places of worship into shelters and sanctuaries, offering solace and support to displaced and distressed individuals and families.

Now, two years later, we rejoice that the church in Ukraine has remained steadfast and that its resolve has been unbroken. In close partnership with many local congregations, Mission Eurasia's iCare-Ukraine program has been instrumental in mobilizing resources to provide physical assistance as well as spiritual and emotional support for the people of Ukraine. Together, we have distributed hundreds of thousands of iCare family food packages, provided medical assistance and trauma counseling to tens of thousands of suffering Ukrainians, and provided countless loaves of freshly baked bread and copies of Scripture to homeless and refugee families through our Bread of Life bakeries. Through all of these ministry efforts, our mission has been clear: to deliver everything to the suffering Ukrainian people in the name of Jesus.

This report is more than just a document that summarizes our ministry efforts during the past two devastating years of war. Instead, it is a powerful testimony of the strength and resilience of the national church that shines brightly as a beacon of hope in the midst of destruction. It also testifies to the power of partnerships in the name of Christ and to the tremendous strength and spirit of the Ukrainian people who are fighting for their freedom. Finally, this report reflects the milestones achieved and the lives touched, thanks to the faithful and generous support of our ministry partners.

As we present this account of our two-year journey, we also look forward to the road ahead– inspired by the faith, resilience, and compassion that have guided us thus far. Let this report remind us about what we–as the family of Christ and by God's grace–can accomplish together, even in the face of crisis and tragedy. Let us continue to support Ukraine and stand in Christian solidarity with the church and the people of Ukraine.

On behalf of the countless lives you've helped transform, we extend our deepest gratitude. Together, we have shown that the light of Jesus' love and His gospel shine the brightest in the darkest of times.

Most gratefully in Him,

Sergey Rakhuba President

# Introduction

The Russian-Ukrainian War, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has become the largest conflict in Europe since World War II. In two years, according to the Office of the President of Ukraine, more than 11,000 civilians have lost their lives, 31,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed, and nearly 1,760 children have become orphans. It is believed, however, that the actual number of Ukrainian casualties exceeds 150,000 people.

In addition, 5 million people have been internally displaced, and 6 million people have become refugees around the world, with children representing one-half of these numbers. It is reported that around 20,000 children have been forcibly deported to Russia, although it is believed that the actual number is much higher and could reach hundreds of thousands. Tens of thousands of women have been widowed during the war. More than 2 million houses and 630 church buildings have been destroyed, and entire cities have been razed to the ground.

The last two years of full-scale military conflict have affected all spheres of Ukrainian life and have become a challenge for the Christian community.

Ukrainian Christians continue to seek answers from God to their theological and ethical questions, while immediately responding to the need for practical service among the suffering people of the church, courageously proclaiming, "Here we are, Lord, send us." Seeing the sacrificial service of Christians in their country, Ukrainians are responding by saying, "Through them [Christians], we see Christ who loves and cares for us. How can we become part of His church?"

Even though the war has destroyed many houses of prayer and entire communities of Christians have become refugees, we have observed the phenomenal growth of new Christian churches, the repentance and baptism of many people, and the emergence of new young leaders.

It is with deep gratitude to God for His faithfulness and for the countless prayers for peace in Ukraine that we present this report of our ministry during the past two years since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion. In two years, according to the Office of the President of Ukraine, more than 11,000 civilians have lost their lives, 31,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed, and nearly 1,760 children have become orphans. It is believed, however, that the actual number of Ukrainian casualties exceeds 150,000 people. In addition, 5 million people have been internally displaced, and

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## **Volunteer Initiatives and Partnerships**

The volunteer movement in Ukraine became a real phenomenon after the start of the war, with many people volunteering to help with evacuation, providing accommodations, food, clothing, medicine, and other essential aid, and repairing and restoring destroyed housing. But even against the backdrop of these numerous volunteer initiatives, the volunteer movement of Christian churches stood out for its sacrifice, organization, consistency, and motivation in delivering aid right to the front line. It is no surprise that one of the Christian volunteer initiatives was named "Ants" to represent the many Christians in the world and in Ukraine who united to provide sacrificial assistance to internally displaced people, military personnel, widows, and orphans—often at great risk to their own lives.

One of Mission Eurasia's key local partners, the "We are Near" ministry, has worked with one of our local iCare centers to **provide assistance to more than 50,000 people** during the past two years of full-scale war. Like most Christian volunteer initiatives, the "We are Near" team began by evacuating people from the combat zone, helping refugees find housing in a relatively safe region of Ukraine, and providing them with food packages, medicine, and other essential aid. Today, they continue providing spiritual, psychological, and social support for war-affected children, women, and the elderly.

Mission Eurasia has also partnered with the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary (UBTS) led by Dr. Slavik Pyzh, to provide help and hope for the people of Ukraine by training leaders and staff for **17 WeCare Centers**  located throughout the country. These WeCare centers, in cooperation with local churches, community and governmental organizations, provide relief aid, spiritual and trauma counseling, education and childcare, legal services, and other essential assistance for thousands of internally displaced people. These centers use a network of **more than 500 Ukrainian volunteers**—many of whom are internally displaced themselves–and currently serve **more than 22,000 internally displaced Ukrainians each month**.

During the past two years, Mission Eurasia has helped train and equip an army of **3,990 volunteers**, who represent young Christian leaders from our School Without Walls (SWW) Program, Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI), local churches, the "We are Near" Mission Eurasia iCare Center, Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary, and many other volunteer initiatives. Vyacheslav Nagirnyak, a Mission Eurasia partner who is the head of the "We are Near" ministry, believes, "The war will end and these trained iCare volunteers will become the driving force for the restoration of Ukraine."

Hundreds of thousands of Christian volunteers have become a true "fifth gospel" since the start of the war. During this time, the Christian community has become recognizable and authoritative. This is thanks to the consolidation of Christians, their sacrificial help, and their effective presence in all spheres of society and social institutions, including the armed forces.

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# **Chaplaincy Ministry**

The chaplaincy movement in Ukraine is another phenomenon that has emerged during the past two years of war. When former Ukrainian President Yanukovych was in power, the pro-Russian Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate was given priority over all religious affairs in Ukraine, including the chaplaincy ministry. Now, during this time of war, the Ukrainian government has given churches representing every religion, equal opportunity to place chaplains on a proportional basis in hospitals throughout Ukraine. The main purpose of these chaplains is to serve soldiers in hospitals on the front line, if these hospitals are accessible. This is a dynamic manifestation of a new generation of leaders and their interfaith consolidation.

In recognizing the important role of the church in the chaplaincy movement, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Education established an Institute for Chaplaincy to train representatives from all religions so they can become involved with the war relief efforts.

Churches have already sent about **200 chaplains** to the Ukrainian armed forces, who have become battalion-level military chaplains and spiritual leaders for the Ukrainian military. Along with this, there are more than **1,000 volunteer chaplains**. These faithful and



courageous men and women represent the majority of Ukrainian churches, constantly sacrificing their time, resources, health, and even their lives.

Their ministry during this war is to support Ukrainian soldiers and their families, provide them with everything they need, and show the care and love of Christ. Mission Eurasia is providing Scripture, Christian literature, and support for all of the volunteer chaplains who are serving during this time of war.





# Story of Denis Gorenkov

Denis Gorenkov, the former executive director of Mission Eurasia Field Ministries and an ordained minister, was mobilized to join the Ukrainian army after Russia's invasion. Soon, Denis' superiors recognized the spiritual influence he had among new recruits through his mentorship skills along with his ability to comfort other soldiers who were looking to him for support. As a result, the leadership of the Ukrainian army approved an order to transfer Denis to serve as a chaplain trainer at the Ukrainian Military Institute, where he has been training other chaplains to provide spiritual support to soldiers who are involved in combat on the front line.

As Valery Antonyuk, president of the Baptist Union of Ukraine, expressed, "We are grateful to God that there are leaders in the churches who have answered this special call and dedicated themselves to this ministry. Today, they are the ones who care for the souls of those who defend our country."



## iCare Refugee Assistance Centers

When the war in Ukraine began, our young School Without Walls (SWW) and young professionals trained through our Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) formed a network of refugee assistance centers to provide essential humanitarian aid to those affected by the war, and to restore hope to them through the preaching of the Good News.

Immediately after the full-scale invasion in February 2022, young SWW leaders launched the first refugee assistance centers under the umbrella of our iCare Refugee Assistance program in the following locations:

- UKRAINE: Zaporizhzhia, Chernivtsi, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Mukachevo, Lviv, Odesa, Vinnytsya, and Korosten
- MOLDOVA: Chisinau
- POLAND: Krakow and Warsaw



Visit this link to view a video about a recent report by CBN News on our iCare refugee center in Moldova: https://youtu. be/oAtIBQ2Y2t0?si=sZsHkOJGVYLdOobb During the first days of the war, our ministry headquarters in Irpin, Ukraine was captured by the Russian occupiers and destroyed. This beautiful building served as a hub where new ideas and ministry strategies were developed and implemented, where many ministry events were held, where thousands of young leaders were trained, and where millions of copies of Scripture were published and distributed to people throughout Eurasia. Despite this devastating setback, our mission has grown exponentially since then, responding to the challenges of war and developing the ministries of our young leaders.

Teams of young leaders, including SWW students and alumni, who mobilize their churches for holistic ministry, have provided the following services during the past two years through our refugee assistance centers:

- Evacuating people from the combat zone
- Assisting refugees with finding housing
- Providing food, medicine, clothing, and other basic necessities
- Offering trauma counseling for refugee children and families
- Providing resources and support for pastors and ministry leaders
- Printing and distributing Christian literature and Bibles

All of these ministries require many active volunteer teams. During the past two years of war, we have recruited, trained, and deployed more than **3,990 Christian volunteers** who participate in all areas of our holistic ministry programs.

From the very first days of the war, our iCare centers focused on evacuating and providing crisis counseling for victims of the war. Also, during the past two years, **more than 510,000 Ukrainian refugees** have received essential assistance through these centers after losing their homes and jobs, and needing basic necessities just to survive.

As a result of God's grace and the generous support of our ministry supporters, we were able to provide the following relief aid to victims of the war in Ukraine from 2022-2024:

- 275,500 family food packages
- more than 3,000 tons of food (6 million pounds)
- more than 2,000 tons of clothing (4 million pounds)

In addition, through our iCare-Ukraine Refugee Assistance Program, we have provided holistic help to the people of Ukraine in the following ways.

(See next page).







### Wood-Burning Stoves

For the past two years, Ukrainian families have been struggling to stay warm during the cold, winter months and have had difficulty preparing hot food since much of the country's energy grid has been heavily damaged or destroyed as a result of Russia's attacks. That's why Mission Eurasia began this program to manufacture, install, and deliver woodburning stoves for families most in need. During the past two years, Mission Eurasia has **delivered and installed 6,000 wood-burning stoves** that have provided both heat and a cooktop for preparing food for churches, families, and shelters across the country.



### Here is the story of one family whose lives were touched by the gift of a wood-burning stove:

The Mahazinov family is a displaced family with eight children from the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine. Recently, this family moved to a rural area further from the war where they could find inexpensive housing for their large family. Living conditions in their newly rented house were very modest, but the family was grateful for these accommodations. The only thing that worried Natalia, the mother, was that the old stove in the house was not safe. It filled the house with dangerous smoke and produced little warmth. So Natalia turned to the Mission Eurasia volunteers who recently visited her family and gave her children gifts through our Gifts of Hope Christmas outreach. Little did she know that the volunteers would deliver and install a new wood-burning stove for her family. Through God's providence, this stove gave the Mahazinov family just what they needed: warmth for the remaining cold winter months, coupled with a way to heat and cook food for everyone. As Natalia gratefully explained to the volunteers, "I really don't know what we would do if you hadn't brought the stove. Now we'll make it through to spring. We'll be able to cook and won't get cold!"

The radiant eyes of her children expressed gratitude for yet another miracle. As they ran toward the volunteers who had just delivered the wood-burning stove, they eagerly interrupted each other to tell the story they now know—the story of the birth of Jesus, including the wise men, the angels, and how baby Jesus was born in a stable. The only thing they didn't realize yet was that Jesus was already being born in their tender, young hearts.



### IMPACT

Each wood-burning stove has provided heat and a means to prepare hot food for at least 6,000 Ukrainian families, or an estimated 30,000 people during the past two years. In addition, each family who received a wood-burning stove was exposed to the gospel message, received food and copies of Scripture, and was connected to a local church for ongoing support and follow-up.

### Mobile Kitchens

During the past two years of war, Mission Eurasia has been working tirelessly to provide food and hope for tens of thousands of internally displaced Ukrainians who have been struggling to survive without these basic necessities. As part of this effort, we launched our Mobile Kitchen initiative through which we equipped 12 teams with special mobile kitchens to prepare and offer food to large groups of people in strategic locations across Ukraine, with each kitchen feeding up to 300 people per day. Through this outreach, hungry Ukrainians not only received hot meals for their bodies, but they also received encouragement for their souls as Mission Eurasia teams shared the Good News of the gospel and gave each person a copy of Scripture.



# Story of Ivan and Khrystyna

Ivan and Khrystyna have two young children and live in Irpin, Ukraine. Although their home was badly damaged by bombing in the area, they were able to repair a small addition to their home and they live there now. Ivan lost his job when the war started, and has not been able to find regular work, but he is always looking for any type of work to sustain his family.

Mission Eurasia brought one of our mobile kitchens to Irpin, knowing that many people in the area don't have jobs, are in need of food, and often don't have electricity, which makes it difficult to cook. When Ivan and Khrystyna heard about the mobile kitchen, they came with their children and enjoyed a hot meal, tea, cookies, and freshly baked bread. They also brought a small pot from home that they filled with hot food to sustain them for a few more days. In addition to receiving physical food for their bodies, they received food for their souls as our ministry volunteers shared the gospel with them, gave them copies of Scripture, and showed them in tangible ways that God loves them and will take care of them.



Visit this link to view a video about the ministry of Mission Eurasia's mobile kitchens: https://youtu.be/ 9ePQYYqOWwQ?si=rC7IWTkTECH6oFWN



#### IMPACT

Through feeding up to 300 people a day for the past two years, we estimate that our 12 mobile kitchens have provided both physical and spiritual nourishment for as many as 2,628,000 suffering Ukrainian men, women, children, and the elderly.

### Bread of Life Bakeries

Mission Eurasia first established Bread of Life bakeries in 2016 in eastern Ukraine to provide physical and spiritual nourishment for those suffering from Russia's first invasion in 2014. During Russia's second full-scale invasion—a time when supply chains were disrupted by war and many businesses were forced to close—we used this cost-effective and self-sustaining ministry model to launch seven bakeries in Ukraine and two bakeries in Moldova–not only to meet the urgent physical and spiritual needs of thousands of displaced people and refugees, but also to provide much needed jobs for the unemployed, helping to bolster the local economies.

Through Bread of Life bakeries, our ministry teams share lifesustaining loaves of freshly baked bread as well as copies of Scripture and the Good News of Jesus Christ—the Bread of Life—with refugees, displaced families, and others suffering from the trauma of war and conflict, bringing them the help and hope they desperately need.



# Story of Oleksiy

Before the war started, 16-year-old Oleksiy used to attend church occasionally in his hometown of Lebedyn, Ukraine. But when the war started, his father began to drink heavily, leaving his family in great need. So Oleksiy and his mother decided to go to church to receive bread that was provided by Mission Eurasia's Bread of Life bakery in Lebedyn. With time, Oleksiy became interested in spiritual things, and started regularly attending Bible studies.

Last year, he came forward in church to receive the Lord into his heart, and was baptized. His mother has also started to study the Bible seriously. Today, Oleksiy helps to deliver loaves of bread to the elderly in his community that were baked in the local Bread of Life bakery, and he eagerly shares the gospel with them as well. Because of Mission Eurasia's Bread of Life bakery, this teenage boy is now an evangelist to his community.



#### IMPACT

During the past two years, through our Bread of Life bakeries in Ukraine and Moldova, our ministry teams have provided freshly baked loaves of bread, copies of Scripture, and a gospel witness to more than 6.5 million people across these nations.

# **Scripture and Christian Literature**

Hunger for the Word of God has increased significantly since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion as victims of this terrible war seek comfort, strength, and answers to difficult questions from God. As a result, the Bible and New Testament in the Ukrainian language have been in huge demand. In order to help restore hope and faith among the Ukrainian people devastated by war, Mission Eurasia has focused on publishing and distributing specialized copies of Scripture and Christian literature for adults, children, and teens in the Ukrainian language. These Scripture versions have included full Bibles, New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs, children's Bibles and New Testaments, devotionals for children and teens, and a special prayer booklet in Ukrainian called Molitvoslov, that contains special prayers for a time of war and materials on discipleship and spiritual comfort. During the past two years, our leaders and partner churches **delivered 2,269,495 copies of specialized Scripture and 1,970,040 copies of Christian literature to displaced and refugee families and children** through our various iCare initiatives. These copies of Scripture and Christian literature have provided comfort, hope, and salvation for countless women, children, soldiers, and the elderly traumatized by the war in their homeland.

# Story of Svitlana

Svitlana, age 50, and her mother, age 83, both lived in Kramatorsk, a city in eastern Ukraine that has been relentlessly shelled by the Russians. Svitlana really misses her life in Kramatorsk and her work: "Trains have always been a big part of my life. I worked as a dispatcher at the Kramatorsk railway station, making sure all the trains ran smoothly." When the war started, people like Svitlana became heroes, helping millions of people evacuate by train to safer areas in Ukraine. Some stayed in Ukraine, while others went to different European countries. Svitlana stayed in Kramatorsk as long as she could, organizing groups of people for evacuation. But eventually when the last train left Kramatorsk, they had to leave, too, and ended up in western Ukraine.

### As Svitlana continued her story:

"I often remember the people I met at the train station in Kramatorsk during that time. Many of them told me something that stuck with me: 'God loves you.' At the time, I didn't pay much attention to those words. But now, after all the stress and challenges we've faced since the war started, those words are very meaningful to me.

"Lying in bed one night, I started thinking about everything that had happened in the past year, and remembering those words, I started crying like never before in my life. I then felt an incredible peace and warmth that I can't even describe. I know that God filled my heart with His presence."

Svitlana then turned to the Ukrainian Bible she had received because she now knew that she could find comfort and hope in God's Word. This was a confirmation in her heart that God truly loved her. Since then, she has attended church as often as possible.



### IMPACT

Since each copy of Scripture or Christian literature we distribute is shared with an average of four other people, we estimate that nearly 17 million hurting Ukrainian people were exposed to the Word of God during the last two years.

## **Ministries for Children of War**

### Summer Bible Camps and Gift of Hope

Children are among the most vulnerable victims of the war in Ukraine. Many have seen death and destruction up close, resulting in physical and emotional trauma that may take a lifetime to overcome. About one-half of Ukraine's refugees are children who fled from their homes with just their mothers. These children have experienced the loss of their homes, the loss of loved ones, hunger, and constant fear. In addition, it is reported that more than 20,000 children have been forcibly deported to Russia and 1,760 children have become orphans.

That's why over the last two years, one of our key priorities has been to minister to vulnerable refugees and internally displaced children and teenagers affected by the war. As part of this important effort, our leaders have evacuated, supported, comforted, and fed large numbers of Ukrainian children on a daily basis through our iCare Refugee Assistance Centers and through special children's programs, including summer Bible camps and our Gift of Hope Christmas outreach.

For example, as part of our Gift of Hope program this past Christmas, more than 400 widows and their children were invited to take part in a special Gift of Hope event at St. Michael's Cathedral, a large Orthodox monastery in the capital city of Kyiv. During this event, children who had lost their fathers in the war received special Gifts of Hope, which included warm clothes, sweets, toys, and a children's Bible.

Twelve-year-old Lera received her Gift of Hope directly from Metropolitan Epiphanius, head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Lera lives in the city of Kharkiv and saw her beloved father only once after the war began. He died during a large-scale offensive during which the Ukrainian army managed to recapture significant territories. At a time when many people rejoiced at these victories, Lera mourned her father. Though they now live in Kharkiv, Lera and her mother decided to come to Kyiv to celebrate Christmas and the New Year holidays.

As Lera's mother, Irina, shared: "We never expected Metropolitan Epiphanius to give Lera a gift himself. And we didn't expect it to contain a children's Bible. Metropolitan Epiphanius said that God would be pleased if Lera began to read this book so, for the past month, my daughter and I have been reading God's Word and praying to the Lord. The Christmas celebration was wonderful, thanks to everyone who helped make it so special for us. I want to convey my gratitude to everyone who provided this gift for my daughter and ask them to pray for us. We are going through a very hard time, but I believe in the power of prayer, which gives me strength."



### Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion:

49,000 children and teenagers received help from trained trauma specialists during 615 special summer Bible camps in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova.

190,000 children and young people and their families in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova were holistically impacted through our Gift of Hope Christmas outreach program.



# Medical Ministry in a Time of War

Another strategic focus of our ministry over the past two years has been to provide holistic medical and counseling services to those who have suffered, both physically and emotionally after being displaced and trapped by the war. These include poor families with many children, the elderly, and the ill who either chose not to leave Ukraine, or were not able to leave because of their physical limitations. Our team has been greatly blessed to partner with the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine (CMA of Ukraine), as well as with several key Christian pediatric military trauma specialists during the war. Our Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI), which began in 2014, received new impetus with the outbreak of the full-



scale war in Ukraine as more young professional leaders received training and began ministering to the suffering. Through our partnership with CMA of Ukraine and NGPLI, more than 1,000 young medical volunteer professionals received training and became involved in our medical ministry since February 2022.

### Through our medical partnership ministry during the past two years, we have:

- served hundreds of hospitals and clinics
- provided 2,000 tons of medicine for Ukrainian war victims
- distributed 22,500 iCare boxes containing hygiene kits
- conducted two international medical projects with the participation of Christian doctors from Kazakhstan and the US. These projects provided medical care and shared the gospel with more than 1,000 internally displaced people.
- Iaunched 10 mobile medical clinics that have provided medical assistance to an estimated 100 people per visit in the most challenging regions of eastern Ukraine and other regions throughout the country.

# Visit this link to view a video about the ministry of our mobile medical clinics: https://youtu.be/9ePQYYqOWwQ?si=rC7IWTkTECH6oFWN

### IMPACT

Since the start of the fullscale invasion, we have provided some form of medical assistance with the gospel message for more than one million ill and wounded displaced children, families, the elderly, and other Ukrainians suffering from the effects of war in their homeland.



## Trauma Counseling Ministries for Families, Widows, and Children

During the past two years of war in Ukraine, our iCare Refugee Assistance Centers and teams of young leaders have faced an urgent question: *How do we not only feed and ensure the physical safety of victims of the war, but also take care of their souls*? Through extensive engagement with Christian professionals working with our NGPLI program and local churches, we are effectively and consistently answering this question. As a result, we have created 15 resources which have effectively trained more than 2,200 volunteer and trauma counselors. These counselors constantly interact with families, widows, and children at our centers, providing both spiritual and emotional support, in addition to food and medical assistance.





#### IMPACT

From 2022-2024, these specially trained Christian trauma counselors have provided holistic assistance to 54,000 traumatized women, children, and elderly people in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova.

# Story of Sonia

Sonia, a 10-year-old girl from Mariupol, Ukraine loves to draw. So she 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, but only Sonia and Natalia, her trauma counselor, know the truth about this picture: all of the people in the drawing are dead, except Sonia.



Sonia is the only person in her family who survived a

Russian missile attack. No one else did. This lonely, shell-shocked girl was then taken from her destroyed city of Mariupol to a children's shelter in Kyiv, where she has been attending special trauma counseling classes with Natalia a few days a week.

Natalia is a trained Christian psychologist who completed a special program to provide trauma counseling for victims of this war. Like many other professional counselors, she is an iCare partner who has been helping children and teenagers affected by the war.

Natalia met Sonia during a summer camp that the Mission Eurasia iCare team organized for children traumatized 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, which is one of the first steps toward 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, and 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 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."

Sonia and many children who were affected by the war need qualified help from compassionate, trained Christian adults who have experience with emotional and psychological restoration. That's why part of 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 as well as Sonia's did. But we continue to work and hope that our Lord Jesus Christ will continue healing young victims of the war through the adults who participate in our relief initiatives.

## Leadership Development in a Time of War

In the midst of this horrible war, the church has experienced a significant need for new leaders. Through our School without Walls (SWW) program, we have been able to train and equip Next Generation leaders who are capable of responding to the challenges of war. During the past two years, these young leaders have shouldered the primary burden and have carried out the majority of war ministry initiatives. Mobilizing their churches, these leaders have been an essential part of our iCare ministry center teams across the nation. As the war has continued to rage, these trained young leaders have tirelessly applied principles of biblical leadership to assist those affected by the war. When the full-scale invasion began two years ago, Mission Eurasia quickly adapted its SWW ministry model to respond to the unexpected harsh realities that the war imposed on our ministry. As a result, the seven new iCare/SWW training centers listed below were launched in Ukraine. These centers have trained 189 young leaders in the last two years. Due to the huge response to the gospel by Ukrainian displaced and refugee communities, five of these centers are now involved in planting new churches, in cooperation with local churches.

### NEW SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS TRAINING CENTERS IN UKRAINE

### 1. Chernivtsi

In partnership with Mission Eurasia's iCare center and local churches, the SWW training center in Chernivtsi is training 30 young leaders who are applying their biblical knowledge to assist victims of the war in practical ways. During the last two years, these young leaders have provided more than 50,000 Ukrainian people with food, clothing, medicine and medical assistance, temporary housing, trauma counseling, and more. The ultimate goal of this center is to train these young leaders to take the baton, during this challenging time for their community and nation, and expand practical, tangible ministry outreaches to children, adults, and families, leading many of them to Christ. As a result, many new Bible study groups will form which will lead to the establishment of many new churches in the region.

### 2. Zaporizhzhia

The SWW training center in Zaporizhzhia is training 25 young students who represent five local churches. It has been operating since the first months of the war at the Reimer Ministry Center, which was established right before the war began and is located near the front line. The Reimer Ministry Center has also engaged in a number of essential, tangible ministries to tens of thousands of IDPs who fled from the active, Russian-occupied war zones in eastern Ukraine, such as Mariupol, Kherson, and Mykolaiv. These brave young SWW leaders are involved in leadership training, which is led by experienced pastors and funded by Mission Eurasia. This leadership training involves applying biblical principles of leadership and service, sharing the gospel of Christ, and taking ministry leadership responsibility during this devastating time for the nation. These SWW students constantly serve the needs of residents living close to the front line. After assessing the most pressing needs of victims of war in their community, they developed an initiative to serve the growing number of war widows and orphans in their midst.

### 3. Kropyvnytskyi

The SWW training center in Kropyvnytskyi has 25 student leaders in its training program. This center was established in the fall of 2023 in response to the needs and invitation of local churches. Its training program specializes in equipping Next Generation leaders for local churches, specifically focusing on ministries whose outreach is to aid families with children, teens, and youth during a time of war.

### 4. Mykolaiv

The SWW training center in Mykolaiv—a region that was recently liberated from Russian occupation—has 27 students. Many residents, especially young people, left the city when Russians first occupied it at the beginning of the war. When the Ukrainian forces were able to reclaim Mykolaiv, many residents returned, and it became evident then that there was a tremendous need for local church leaders. As a result, some churches, including the church that is hosting the SWW training program in partnership with Mission Eurasia, began a new SWW training program called "Church and Gospel Ministries in a Time of Turmoil" under the SWW motto, "Train to Lead. Equip to Serve." These young leaders, many of whom are new believers, immediately began receiving training and becoming involved in practical ministries after this training center was established. For example, when Samaritan's Purse-US came to this region to drill water wells on the premises of some churches, these young leaders mobilized their network of young Christian volunteers to help. While the water wells were being established, these young leaders provided help by organizing the daily delivery of water and food to the elderly and families who were trapped or living in places that were cut off from fresh water. Each family and person who received fresh water also received a Bible or New Testament, a word of encouragement, hope, and prayer. Mykolaiv is still frequently bombarded by air raids, jobs are scarce, and the war has severely impacted its social infrastructure. In partnership with Mission Eurasia, the church that is hosting the SWW training program in Ukraine has " adopted a vision that motivates these young leaders to grow in their faith and ministry experience. By gaining this valuable training, these young leaders are equipped to effectively serve as ambassadors of the gospel: offering practical assistance and the hopeful message of Jesus Christ to those living within their designated region. In addition, these SWW Next Generation leaders are serving villages around Mykolaiv that have been severely impacted by the war. They have already identified five villages where new small groups of believers have formed which, they believe, will grow into new churches.

### 5. Odesa

The SWW training center in Odesa opened in 2023 as Russian missiles were shelling this Black Sea port city in Ukraine. This SWW training center is training 22 young leaders who represent five different evangelical churches in the city, and is focused on equipping leaders who will primarily serve families with children, youth, and church planting ministries.





Visit this link to view a video about CBN News on the church in Odesa: https://youtu.be/h6OONhbqZQ?si=RRv1Q3dxpolHhSs0

### 6. Irpin/Kyiv

The SWW training center in Irpin/Kyiv is training 30 young leaders. Several of these students recently joined the church and wanted to get involved in ministry to help others as a result of the church's ministry to their own families. This SWW training program is focused on biblical knowledge, personal evangelism in a time of crisis, and principles of leadership. In addition, it is focused on the application of biblical principles through practical ministries to large communities of internally displaced people (IDPs). After the intense bombardment and atrocities committed by Russian forces in the occupied territories on the front line, these hurting, displaced people fled the front line and flooded this city and region in search of refuge. This center operates one Bread of Life bakery and two mobile kitchens. After their Bible training each week, SWW leaders deliver hope to devastated families in the region through practical resources, such as bread and food, and words of encouragement. Every weekend and several times during the week, a group of volunteers, mobilized and led by SWW leaders, sets up the mobile kitchen on Mission Eurasia's property. Here the ruins of Mission Eurasia's field ministries headquarters stand with a large sign attached to one of its heavily damaged walls, which reads, "They destroyed our building, but they will never destroy our spirit or our mission." Here our SWW leaders and volunteers offer food for weary residents, helping to nourish their hungry bodies. They also offer words of encouragement, hope, and comfort for their exhausted, devastated souls. The mayor of Irpin, who led the resistance during Russia's occupation of this Kyiv suburb, stopped by the mobile kitchen and offered a word of gratitude on behalf of the city authorities, saying, "We are so grateful for you 'angels of light.' It is so good to see that our church and believers in our community are tirelessly serving their neighbors. Your light is warming many tired and weary souls in our community."

### 7. Vilkhivtsi-Lazy in the Transcarpathian region

The Transcarpathian region is located in western Ukraine and has been flooded by hundreds of thousands of displaced people since the start of the war. The SWW training center in Vilkhivtsi-Lazy is training 30 young leaders who represent three local churches. This center focuses on training and mobilizing youth from local churches throughout the entire region to effectively serve and share the gospel with refugee families. Every two months, this team of young SWW leaders organizes a larger regional conference/outreach event for 500-700 young people. Many young people who attended these events have repented and dedicated themselves to Christ. Currently, our SWW leaders are working on their vision to establish new churches across the region.



### SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS (SWW) TRAINING CENTER IN WARSAW, POLAND

In addition to the seven new SWW training centers established in Ukraine during the past two years, Mission Eurasia established one new SWW training center in Warsaw, Poland. Since the start of the war, the nation of Poland has received more Ukrainian refugees than any other country. Churches in Poland initially served as hubs for receiving and assisting this large number of refugees. But they soon realized they lacked determined, compassionate young leaders who had enough training and energy to serve the growing number of refugees flooding their country. That's when these churches invited Mission Eurasia to introduce School Without Walls in Warsaw. Currently, the SWW training center has 100 students who are ministering to large refugee communities located within the cities of Warsaw, Krakow, and Gdansk. Additionally, this center is training and equipping these young leaders for more effective ministries while partnering with local churches to establish new churches among the large Ukrainian community in Poland.

### TRAINING AND EQUIPPING PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS IN A TIME OF WAR

In order to help restore, train, and empower pastors and church leaders near the front line of the war who are ministering 24/7 to their local congregations and communities, Mission Eurasia has developed a church leadership training program to help them lead during this time of war. During FY2024, this program has targeted 200 pastors serving in these seven regions of Ukraine:

- Kharkiv Kherson Mykolaiv Zaporizhzhia
- Odesa Dnipro Kyiv

An experienced mentor is assigned to every 10 pastors. These mentors are responsible for meeting regularly with the pastors and offering support through prayer and encouragement, both on an individual and group basis. In addition, one training session has been offered every month to pastors in each region, for a total of 84 training sessions per year. These training sessions are taught by experienced pastors, seminary professors, and Christian leaders from other regions of Ukraine. Pastors in this program also attend an annual retreat/ forum where they have the opportunity to fellowship with one another and experience encouragement and restoration. While there, they are equipped with ministry resources to use in their counseling ministry, humanitarian relief work, and community outreach.



# **Religious Freedom and the Role of the Church**

Russia's full-scale invasion in Ukraine not only caused the mass death of civilians, the large-scale destruction of infrastructure, and humanitarian and migration crises. As a result of Russia's invasion in the occupied territories of eastern Ukraine, there also have been serious violations of religious freedom, the systematic persecution of clergy, and the destruction of hundreds of church buildings. Clergymen in these territories are subject to constant threats, interrogations, arrests, and illegal detention. Buildings are taken away from religious communities and their activities are prohibited. There are known cases of physical abuse and the murder of pastors. The deportation of those who disagree with the new government has become a common practice. People in the occupied regions of eastern Ukraine are actually suffering more today than during the Soviet era. Sadly, many of these religious freedom violations are not reported in the media today.

Mission Eurasia launched its Religious Freedom Initiative not only to raise awareness about these violations while monitoring the situation in Ukraine, but also to train pastors and community leaders about how to lead the church under these difficult circumstances, and to mobilize support for those who are defending the Christian community in the face of Russian aggression.

As part of its religious freedom efforts, Mission Eurasia conducted extensive research in partnership with the Institute for Religious Freedom of Ukraine and produced a comprehensive report, *Faith Under Fire* that documents religious freedom violations in the occupied territories of Ukraine since February 2022.

### According to Faith Under Fire, during the past two years:

- 630 church buildings have been damaged or destroyed.
- Dozens of pastors and church leaders have been under the close watch of the Russian special services, and have been subject to threats, interrogations, detentions, and arrests. For example, two Ukrainian Greek-Catholic priests have been illegally detained for more than 15 months.
- A policy of genocide has been pursued against Ukrainian Orthodox churches not associated with the Moscow Patriarchate. As a result, churches in Mariupol, Berdyansk, Melitopol, Primorsk, Energodar, Molochansk, Tokmak, Kakhovka, and Oleshki have been closed.
- Russian authorities have seized church buildings and documents, after which ideological blackmail has begun. Pastors have been required to obtain Russian passports and register their churches according to Russian legislation. However, there have been cases where churches, which have fulfilled all of these registration requirements, have still been confiscated.



Visit this link to read *Faith Under Fire*: https://missioneurasia.org/wp-content/ uploads/2023/12/2023.12.15-Mission-Eurasiareport-on-Ukraine-ENG-web-version.pdf Rev. Mykhailo Brytsyn, Director of Mission Eurasia's Religious Freedom Initiative, has experienced firsthand the results of Russia's attacks on religion. Before the war, Rev. Brytsyn served as the pastor of historic Grace Evangelical Christian Baptist Church in the city of Melitopol, Ukraine. When the war broke out, the church served as a shelter and refuge for countless residents who were in need of food for both their bodies and souls. However, Russian forces who invaded the city soon cut off water, electricity, and communications. They prohibited prayer gatherings and began to arrest pastors. By the summer of 2022, they began to confiscate homes and expel Christians.

As Rev. Brytsyn relates, "September 11, the day of the New York Trade Center tragedy, became a tragic day for our church, too. It was the day when our church was seized by armed Russian soldiers." Rev. Brytsyn was then interrogated, arrested, and told that he had two days to leave the city of Melitopol because he was an extremist and was leading an extremist organization, Grace Church. Even though its building was confiscated, Grace Church still exists through its 654 members who are scattered throughout 15 different countries, reaffirming the words of Jesus who said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, ESV).



To counter violence and oppression against Christians, Mission Eurasia is developing the Department of Religious Freedom (DRF). The focus of the DRF is to maintain contact with pastors of churches in the occupied territories of Ukraine and to assist their ministries, since the network of pastors in the occupied territories (about two dozen contacts) is constantly increasing. Specifically, the goals of the DRF are to:

- provide counseling and counseling assistance to those under occupation
- provide humanitarian aid (mainly medicines and treatment) for those in need
- provide support for specific pastors and their families
- provide support for special church events, including children's programs and camps, Bible studies, and more
- evacuate believers who are in serious danger
- provide spiritual counseling and restoration for pastors in the liberated territories. This has been a challenge since it is difficult to use methods of counseling developed for peace time during a modern armed conflict.

Mission Eurasia has been using the *Faith Under Fire* report, personal testimonies, and other information to raise awareness among government officials, the media, the public, and religious circles both in Ukraine and abroad. For this purpose, dozens of interviews have been conducted and articles have been published.

Mission Eurasia has also organized seminars, workshops, training events, and prayer breakfasts for pastors, representatives of Bible colleges and seminaries, and local authorities on the essentials of religious freedom. The Religious Freedom Initiative not only allows us to construct a dialogue around the ministry of churches in the occupied territories of Ukraine, but also to look to the future and talk about the role of the church in the restoration of post-war Ukraine.



# Church Growth in a Time of War

Another strategic focus of our ministry over the past two years has been to provide holistic medical and Tertullian, one of the leaders of the early church, wrote: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." As such, we have noted the phenomenal growth of some churches in the de-occupied territories. Some rural churches in the liberated territory of the Kherson region now have hundreds of parishioners, including adults, youth, and teenagers. Before the war, these churches were only attended by dozens of elderly believers. People who have survived the pressure of the "Russian world" and have received enormous help and support from Christians are literally drawn to Christian communities. We believe that when Christians provide humanitarian aid and care for children and the elderly, God will one day build His church. Our

young SWW leaders have been actively helping with this through the seven iCare/SWW training centers in Ukraine described previously in this report.

Our partner teams have also made church planting a priority. We estimate that 140 small groups, and at least 45 new congregations, have been established during the past two years of full-scale war, both in Ukraine and abroad.

Reflecting on the phenomenal growth of churches since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, Igor Bandura, Vice President of International Affairs for the Baptist Union of Ukraine, believes that "amid the horrors of war, the growth of evangelical Christian Baptist churches is one of our great blessings."

### He cites several reasons for this:

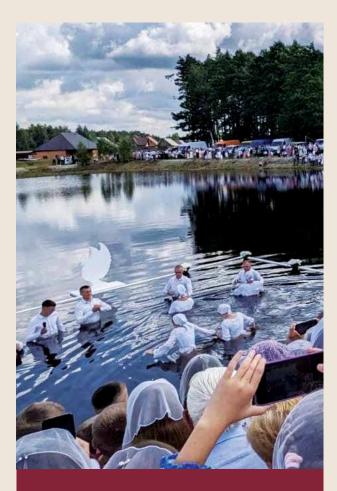
- 1. The first reason is the grace of God, which works through the gospel. We are experiencing what the entire history of the Christian church testifies to: evil can kill a person, but it cannot kill his desire to seek God and seek answers from Him when other sources cannot provide any answers. Because of the grace of God, during the most difficult times in life, a person's heart begins to seek God. No war, no evil can stop the power of the gospel. For the second year in a row, we estimate that our fellowship churches have baptized more than 3,000 people. This number is significantly more than in the years before the war, and it can be easily multiplied tenfold to account for all of the baptisms that have occurred during the past two years of war.
- 2. The second reason is the presence of the church in people's lives. The church empathizes, supports, and prays. During the past two years, evangelical churches, unlike other churches, have responded strongly to the needs of the people, helping with evacuation, resettlement, and feeding. In the first weeks of this full-scale war, churches gave away all their resources because they did not consider anything to be theirs, so they shared everything they had with people in need. Through these simple and effective ministries, victims of the war experienced their selfless love. Believers have found themselves everywhere: on evacuation roads, in shelters, and in trenches. They were on the Ukrainian side of the border, helping refugees reach other safe countries, and on the other side of the border, accepting refugees, and providing further care for them.

**3.** The third factor is humanitarian assistance, which has been combined with communication, prayer, and the Word of God. Churches had exhausted their resources by the end of the second week of this full-scale war, however, thanks to our large Baptist family and our international partners, churches began to receive new resources to serve people. I remember how, after the liberation of Irpin, two large trucks with food were sent there. But the question then became: How can people prepare this food, when there is no electricity, gas, or water? Then the church implemented other solutions by using generators, distributing wood-burning stoves, and drilling wells for water in communities. As a result, more and more people came to the church for food and water. But after the horrors of occupation and loneliness, people also developed a strong need for relationships with other people, communication, and the opportunity to share their own experiences. And here the church community, once again, served as a unique place where people could find comfort by being with others who cared about them.

There are many stories of people who found refuge at church from the war, heard the gospel, accepted Christ, and were baptized. Salvation Church in Poltava, Ukraine is just one of many such churches.

Salvation Church, located in Poltava, Ukraine, is nearly 100 miles from the front line. This church has served as a beacon of hope for countless displaced Ukrainians fleeing death and destruction since February 2022. When the war began, Salvation Church started distributing Mission Eurasia's iCare food boxes containing food and Scripture to those who had nowhere else to turn for food or hope. But as the war dragged on, Salvation Church was not able to meet the growing needs of the masses of people who came to its doors for help.

That's when Mission Eurasia helped establish a Bread of Life bakery in Poltava to provide for the ongoing physical and spiritual needs of this growing church. As a result, church membership has now tripled, 50 believers were recently baptized, and there is standing- room only during Sunday services.



As Igor Bandura states, "The love of God, the power of prayer, and sacrificial service these are the 'ingredients' of today's church growth."



**4.** The fourth reason is the effectiveness of churches in serving people traumatized by war. The war has been going on for two years now, resulting in more and more tired and traumatized people. Our churches have started special ministries and centers that are focused on helping veterans–especially disabled veterans. Serving displaced people has been an ongoing process. Russian troops in eastern and southern Ukraine are intensifying their attacks, and believers in the western regions of the country are again preparing to accept displaced people. Widows and orphans are another extremely vulnerable category to whom churches have been ministering. Churches have also been incredibly effective in people who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as from a lack of prospects and hope. As a result, the church has been growing rapidly as more victims of the war, whom Christians have served, attend these churches.



Visit this link to view this video from CBN News: "Besieged Church in Kherson Rises from 100 to 500+ Attendees as God Moves in War Zone": https://www2.cbn.com/news/world/exclusive-besieged-church-khersonrises-100-500-attendees-god-moves-war-zone



## **The Big Picture:** The Importance of Your Support *Dr. John A. Bernbaum*

Throughout our 30+ year history, Mission Eurasia has had the privilege of working with a number of experts on issues related to the post-Soviet world. Dr. John A. Bernbaum is one of these experts who has been involved in higher education in both Russia and Ukraine for the past three decades. Dr. Bernbaum served as the founder and president of the Russian-American Christian University in Moscow, and currently serves on Mission Eurasia's Advisory Council. Below he shares his valuable insights about causes of the war in Ukraine, and why your continued support of Ukraine through Mission Eurasia is so critical at this time.



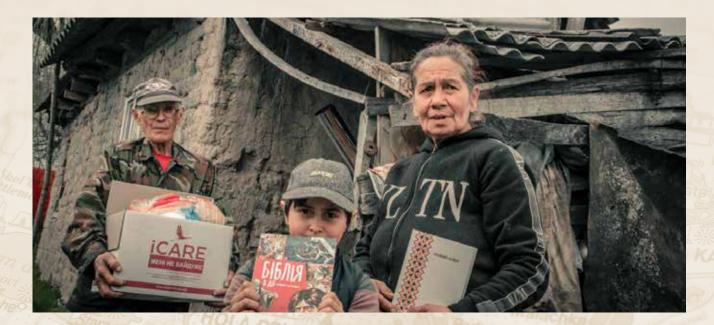


"By partnering with Mission Eurasia, you have made a wise decision about how to strategically invest in Ukraine and support their resistance to the brutal invasion of their country by Russia. Mission Eurasia has "boots on the ground" in Ukraine and in neighboring countries where Ukrainian refugees have found housing. With years of experience working in the post-Communist world, Mission Eurasia is uniquely equipped to serve the vulnerable, the needy, and the children who are caught in the middle of this painful war.

"It is important for you to understand that this war is a 'war of choice.' Like most autocrats, Putin is a pathological liar who creates false explanations about why Russia has the right to invade Ukraine. He refuses to recognize Ukraine as a real country and insists it has always been a part of the Russian Empire. This is simply not true. He is also fearful about having a prosperous democratic country with a vibrant economy on his border which would influence Russians to wonder why they cannot live like their neighbors.

"The deeper motivation behind the decision to attack Ukraine was the need for Putin to use war to repress political opposition, as the Russian economy is weakening, and to protect the stolen Russian assets which he and his national security allies have stolen from the Russian people. A conservative estimate is that Putin's autocracy has hidden assets which total over \$1 trillion, assets that are now hidden in offshore accounts and used to buy yachts and valuable properties in the West. In addition, in Putin's mind, this is not just a war against Ukraine, it is a frontal attack on Western democracies, particularly the United States and its NATO allies. Russia and its partners (Iran, North Korea, and China) want to defeat Western security alliances and replace them with policies they will create that serve their interests.

"The remarkable courage and bravery of the Ukrainian armed forces and thousands of volunteers who blocked the Russian attempt to seize Kyiv and assassinate Volodymyr Zelensky in February 2022 surprised the world. Having gone through the Orange Revolution in 2004 and the Revolution of Dignity in 2013-2014, Ukrainians refused to accept Russian interference in their national life and began to build their own defensive forces and local governing structures. The "Independence Generation" of young people born after the collapse of the Soviet Union made it clear that Ukraine would never again be subservient to Moscow and its colonial claims over the country.





"Putin had no idea that the Ukrainians would resist as forcibly as they did.

"In contrast to Russian life, where the Russian people are pressured to stay out of politics and allow Putin's regime to manage the country's domestic and foreign policies, Ukraine's civil society matured in 2015-2016. Local and national institutions, including a vast network of civic groups, were created to launch Ukraine on its path to independence and democratic development tied to the West. The result was the amazing heroism of the army and ordinary people who did not wait to be told how to resist the invaders.

"A key role in Ukraine's struggle to preserve its freedom was grounded in the rich and diverse network of churches and their shared view of freedom of religion. Pastors, priests, and lay leaders from different religious communities began working shoulder-to-shoulder to help the vulnerable, especially the elderly, the children, and the poor. Mission Eurasia was prepared to use its considerable experience and extensive network of Christian leaders to work with orphans, youth, and the elderly who were unable to flee the invading Russian armies. Food, medical supplies, lodging, counseling–even breadmaking and the provision of wood-burning stoves–became life-sustaining for those trapped in war areas.

"When male seminary students became soldiers, many of their wives refused to become refugees and stayed on campus to make food, provide lodging, locate needed medicines, and offer counseling for those who lost their homes and family members. Their theological education became incarnational–being the presence of Jesus amid conflict.

"The courage of ordinary citizens who worked together, and the fortitude of their soldiers who were often lacking in needed weapons and ammunition, helped to generate considerable international support from NATO and the European Union, aided by American military and political leaders. Most of the American presidents since 1945, both Republicans and Democrats, recognized that our country had a leadership role in the world and that democracies on every continent look to the Americans to build coalitions to prevent atrocities against vulnerable countries and ethnic communities.

"If the Russians win the war in Ukraine, Putin will continue his 'forever wars' and the United States will be drawn into future conflicts to protect our own security and that of our allies. People of faith need to stand up to aggression, and partnering with Christian organizations that care for the vulnerable, like Mission Eurasia, is a wise investment."

## Conclusion

This report represents just the tip of the iceberg for all that has happened during the past two years of fullscale war in Ukraine. As its pages document, this war has created many difficult challenges for all Ukrainians, especially those displaced within the country and refugees living abroad.

But it also represents the wonderful miracle of the gospel. Because you so generously responded to God's call to support Mission Eurasia and our partners during this critical time, our teams have been able to shine the light of the gospel into the darkness of war, bringing holistic help and hope to millions of suffering people.

And for that—on behalf of millions of Ukrainian families, including children, widows, and orphans whose lives have been touched at this most critical moment by the love of Jesus through this ministry—we are truly grateful. As this war enters its third year, we hope that you will continue joining us through your prayers and partnership so that we can continue spreading Christ's gospel—the gospel of hope and love—to all Ukrainian people who are still suffering and in great need.





#### **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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