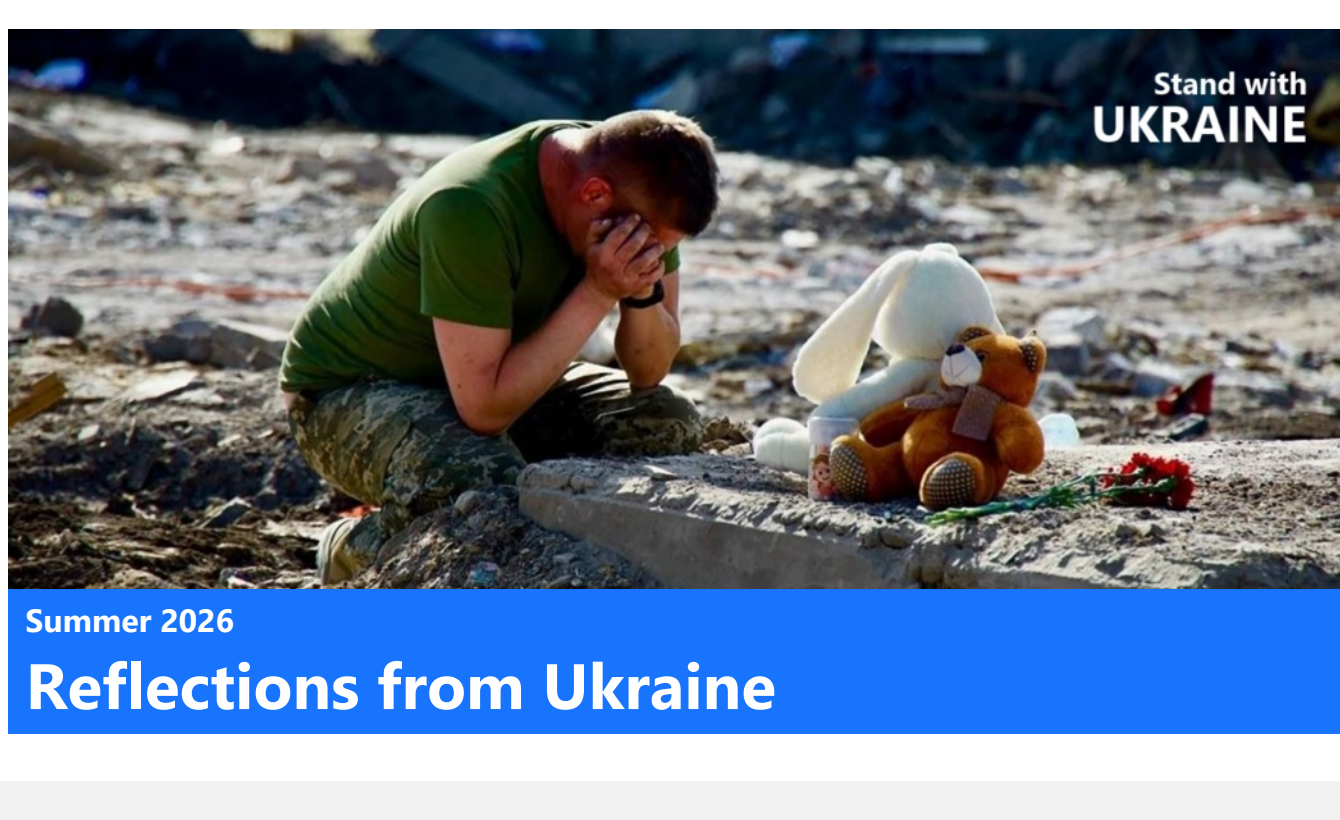




Summer 2026

Reflections from Ukraine

War is evil. It tears apart families, destroys communities, traumatizes children, buries sons and daughters, and leaves behind wounds that may endure for generations.

How do we overcome evil with good when innocent people continue to suffer—and our hearts are breaking with theirs?

There are moments when words seem painfully inadequate. War is more than tragedy. It is more than a political disagreement, a territorial dispute, or a conflict between nations...

War is Evil

Ukraine is striking oil refineries, military installations, weapons depots, and other facilities that help sustain Russia's war machine. Russia, meanwhile, continues launching missiles, bombs, and drones into Ukrainian cities and communities—killing civilians and damaging homes, schools, hospitals, and churches.

This is not warfare confined to distant battlefields. It is warfare that follows a grandmother walking home with groceries. In the Kherson region, the terror has become especially personal. Russian drone operators have reportedly pursued individual civilians, vehicles, ambulances, and relief workers with small attack drones. Residents have described this horrifying practice as a "human safari."

Imagine walking to a store, delivering food to an elderly neighbour or relative, or driving an ambulance—and realizing that a drone is watching and following you, with the intent to kill you.

This is the reality confronting many Ukrainians. Daily.

How do we make sense of such evil from a Christian perspective? How do we continue believing that goodness matters when hearts are breaking every day?



We Must First Call Evil What It Is

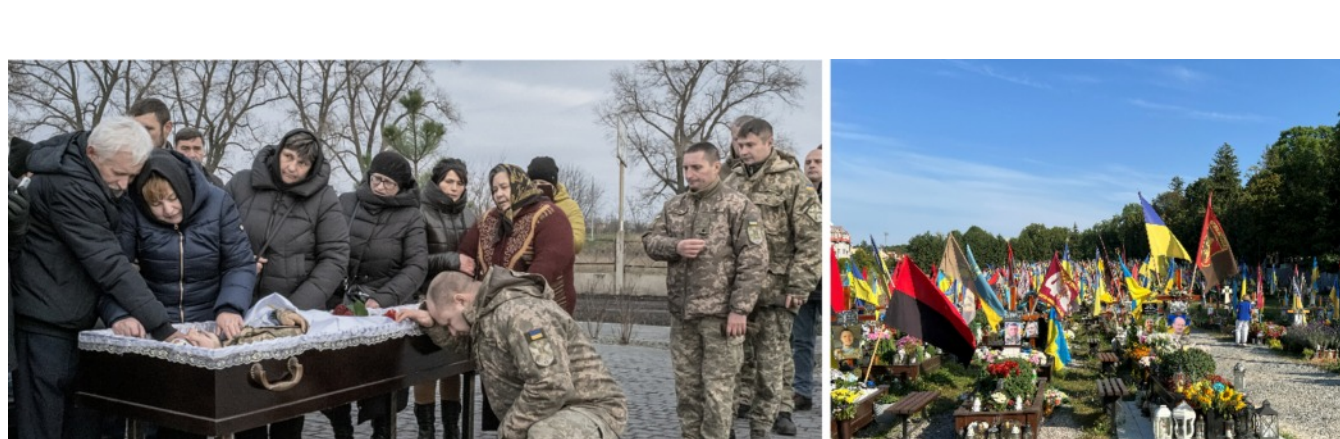
The Bible never asks us to minimize evil or disguise it with polite language.

The prophet Isaiah warned against those who "call evil good and good evil." The Psalms are filled with anguished cries from people who witnessed violence, injustice, and cruelty: *"How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?"* —Psalm 13:1

Biblical faith does not require us to look at murdered children, grieving mothers, shattered hospitals, and destroyed churches and pretend that everything is all right.

It is not all right.

There is a place for anger. There is a place for lament. There is a place for crying out to God for justice. Lament is not unbelief. It is the language of faith when the world no longer makes sense. It is the wounded heart turning toward God rather than away from Him.



Overcoming Evil Does Not Mean Ignoring It

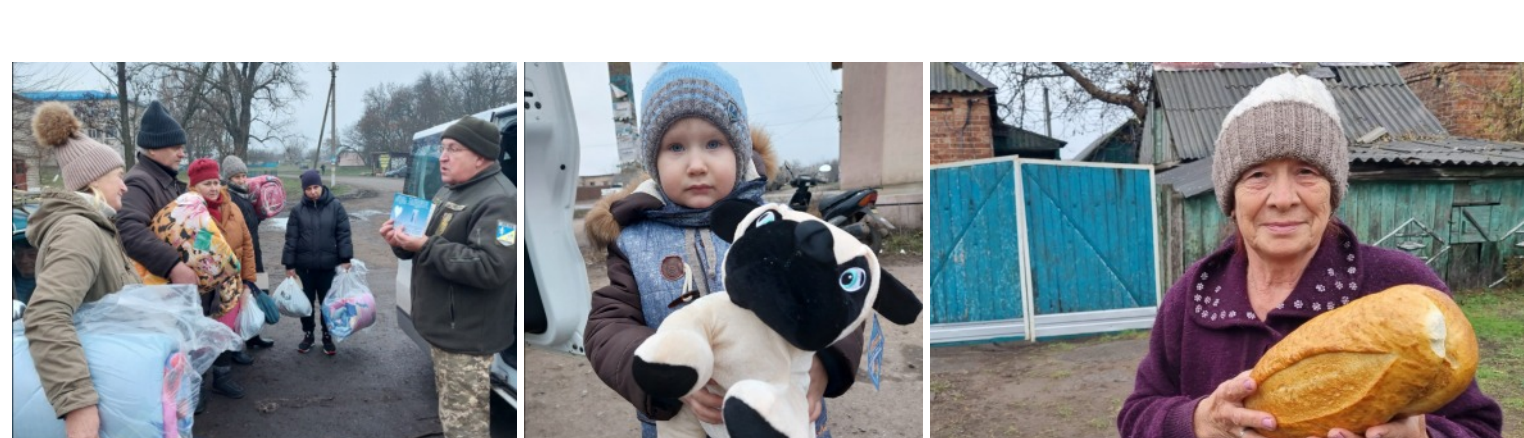
The Apostle Paul wrote: *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*—Romans 12:21. This does not mean Christians must remain passive while innocent people are attacked.

Protecting civilians, rescuing the wounded, defending one's home, confronting lies, and seeking justice are not contrary to goodness. Evil must sometimes be restrained so that the vulnerable may live.

But Paul is warning us about another danger: that while fighting evil around us, evil may begin to conquer something within us. **War tempts people to hate without limit.** It tells us that compassion is weakness, mercy is foolishness, and only vengeance will heal our wounds. **It will not.**

Overcoming evil with good means refusing to allow evil to determine who we become. It means pursuing justice without surrendering our souls to hatred. It means speaking truth when lies are everywhere.

It means continuing to recognize the image of God in human beings, even while resisting those who commit terrible acts. This is not weakness. It is spiritual courage.



What Does 'Good' Look Like During War?

Good looks like a Ukrainian pastor driving into a devastated community with food and medicine. It looks like a chaplain sitting beside a frightened soldier, praying with him and reminding him that he has not been forgotten.

It looks like church volunteers serving widows, displaced families, wounded veterans, traumatized children, and elderly people who cannot escape. It looks like Christians repairing damaged homes, operating shelters, providing generators, evacuating families, counselling the brokenhearted, and continuing to preach hope while air-raid sirens sound.

And it looks like people in Canada and the United States deciding that suffering thousands of kilometres away still matters.

Every prayer offered, every gift given, and every act of compassion becomes part of God's answer to evil. Through your support of HART and our church partners in Ukraine...

- hungry families receive food.
- vulnerable people receive shelter and warmth.
- children experience safety, joy, and the love of Christ at summer camps.
- wounded soldiers receive medical care and rehabilitation.
- pastors and chaplains are strengthened to continue serving.
- families who feel forgotten discover that they are not alone.

These acts may not stop every missile or silence every drone. They cannot bring back a son who has been killed. They cannot immediately erase the trauma from a child's memory. But they make a powerful declaration:

Evil will not be the only force at work in Ukraine.

Where war destroys, God's people will rebuild. Where hatred wounds, they will bring compassion. Where lies spread darkness, they will speak truth. Where people feel abandoned, they will stand beside them. Where death casts its shadow, they will proclaim the hope of Jesus Christ.

Evil Will Not Have the Final Word

Some days, overcoming evil with good does not look dramatic. It looks like preparing one more food package. Holding one more grieving mother. Rescuing one more family. Comforting one more frightened child.

Providing one more generator, medical kit, warm blanket, or safe place to sleep. Praying one more prayer when heaven seems silent.

Yet these acts are not small to the person receiving them.

For a hungry family, food is hope. For a displaced mother, shelter is security. For a traumatized child, a week at a Christian camp can be the beginning of healing.

For an exhausted pastor, encouragement and practical support can provide the strength to continue serving an entire community.

This is how evil is overcome—not always through one great act, but through thousands of faithful acts of love.

Your prayers and generosity make those acts possible. You do not simply give to HART. You give through HART—into the hands of courageous Christians who are serving on the front lines of human suffering.



You Are Part of God's Answer

We may not understand why God permits this war to continue. We may carry questions that will not be answered in this lifetime. We may weep with those who weep and sometimes find that we have no words left to pray.

But we can still choose faithfulness. We can still stand with the suffering. We can still protect the vulnerable. We can still give generously. We can still refuse to surrender to despair.

We can still overcome evil—one life, one family, one community, and one heart at a time.

War is evil. But evil does not reign unopposed.

God is still at work through His people. **And because you care, pray, and give,** darkness is being pushed back, lives are being changed, futures are becoming brighter, and God is being glorified.

Thank you for standing with Ukraine!

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