

The House of God's 'Care and Prayer'

The story of Ivan and Svitlana Baranov — a couple from the Kherson region (south Ukraine) who lost everything to war, found faith in the darkness, and discovered that prayer can be answered through the hands of people.



A Life Built on the Land

Ivan and Svitlana Baranov have been together for 25 years, spending their entire lives rooted in the Kherson region of Ukraine. Their world was built on honest, steady work — managing their farm, raising animals, and constructing a home and future for their family brick by brick, season by season.

Theirs was a life of purpose and belonging. The land was not just a livelihood; it was their identity, their legacy, and the foundation of everything they held dear. They were not wealthy by any measure, but they had built something real — a home, a routine, a sense of permanence in a place they loved.

Then the war came. The full-scale Russian invasion, like for all Ukrainians, arrived without warning. Explosions, fear, gunfire, and occupation shattered the rhythm of daily life. Everything they had spent a lifetime building was suddenly at risk — and soon, it would be gone entirely.



Liberation and Loss

November 11, 2022

An unforgettable and joyful day – the city of Kherson was liberated. People poured into the streets to celebrate their freedom, embracing one another with tears and relief after months of brutal occupation.

The War Was Far From Over

Despite the liberation, shelling and destruction continued across towns and villages. Many people remained in ruined homes, without food, warmth, or electricity. The celebration was real – but so was the ongoing devastation.

Ivan and Svitlana's home was destroyed. The neighborhood they had lived in was completely devastated. Years of work and building vanished in an instant. Living there became impossible. **Their car became their only "home"** – the one thing that survived.

Choosing to Help Others

Despite losing their home and living out of their car, Ivan and Svitlana made a remarkable choice: **they chose to help others.** Rather than retreating into despair, they began delivering bread and food to surrounding villages — places that many feared to enter because of the constant danger of shelling and conflict.

They continued to travel those roads, risking their lives day after day, driven by the belief that they were doing the right and good thing. Their generosity in the face of personal suffering became a quiet act of courage — a testimony to the kind of people they are at their core.

Over time, however, their own situation became critical. Living in the car grew extremely difficult — physically and emotionally. Winter was approaching, and the cold made everything harder. They were exhausted, discouraged, and internally broken. The weight of displacement, loss, and uncertainty had taken its toll.

A Prayer in the Darkness

"It was at that time, in the darkness, cold, and helplessness, that I began to pray. I didn't know if I was praying correctly or not. My prayer was short, simple, sincere — without fancy words: 'Lord, I know You exist. Please help us.'"

— Svitlana Baranov

In the depths of that difficult season — cold nights in the car, no home to return to, uncertainty stretching in every direction — Svitlana turned to prayer. Not a formal or rehearsed prayer, but a raw, honest cry from the heart. Simple words spoken in sincerity, reaching out to a God she believed was listening.

It was a moment of profound vulnerability and faith. And as the story would reveal, that prayer did not go unheard.

A Story That Changed Everything

One day, while distributing bread in the village of Myroliubivka, Ivan and Svitlana heard the story of a young, single woman whose home had been destroyed by a Russian missile. Her parents had died. She was left entirely alone, with nowhere to go.

But she was not left on the street for long. An evangelical church — "**Jesus, the Bread of Life**" — had given her a modular home, provided through the support of an organization called **HART**. The story stopped Ivan and Svitlana in their tracks. They were deeply moved.

"What kind of church is this? What kind of people are these?" they wondered. They began searching, asking, and calling — learning more about the church and its work. Through its good deeds, the church was already well-known in the area. They didn't have to look long.

Meeting Pastor Serhii

1

The Search Begins

Moved by the story of the young woman in Myroliubivka, Ivan and Svitlana began asking neighbors and local residents about the church "Jesus, the Bread of Life" and the people behind its remarkable acts of generosity.

2

A Meeting With the Pastor

Within a few days, they met Pastor Serhii Deinekin and shared their story with him – their loss, their months in the car, their exhaustion, and their hope. He listened with compassion and responded with action.

3

A Bed, Not a Car

Just days after that meeting, for the first time in months, Ivan and Svitlana slept not in a car, but in a bed inside a house – a modular home built through the support of a North American Christian agency called HART.

✔ "Today I visited their home – a warm, cozy house filled with love, joy, and peace." – Pastor Serhii Deinekin, "Jesus, the Bread of Life" Church.

More Than Just a House

Today, the modular home Ivan and Svitlana received is cozy, warm, and comfortable – a place where it is pleasant to live, sleep, wake up in the morning, and simply be together. The feeling of normal life has returned. Hope has returned.

For them, this home is far more than four walls and a roof. It became a powerful testimony – a sign that on that cold autumn night in the car, Svitlana's simple, sincere prayer had been heard. The mobile home arrived as a direct answer to that prayer.

An Answer to Prayer

Proof that a simple, sincere prayer spoken in darkness can reach the heart of God.

A Testimony of Love

A reminder that God loves – and that His love is expressed through the actions of people.

God Works Through People

The church, pastor, & HART donors – each became an instrument of grace in Ivan and Svitlana's story.



They Named Their House

Ivan and Svitlana gave their home a name that carries the full weight of their journey:

"The House of God's Care and Prayer."

It is the answer to a prayer. It is a testimony that God loves. It is a reminder that God is always near. It is proof that God works through people.



With Love and Gratitude

Ivan and Svitlana Baranov's story is one of war and loss, but ultimately of faith, resilience, and the extraordinary power of community. From a destroyed home and a car in the cold, to a warm house filled with peace – their journey is a testament to what becomes possible when people choose to act with compassion.

They are deeply grateful to everyone who became part of this joyful chapter in their lives. Each person who **gave, served, or prayed** became a thread in the story of their restoration.

HART Supporters

HART and its Community continue to provide mobile homes and support to displaced Ukrainians across the region.

"Jesus, the Bread of Life" Church

Pastor Serhii Deinekin and his congregation – the hands and feet that brought Ivan and Svitlana's answered prayer to life.

"With love and gratitude – Ivan and Svitlana Baranov"

[Learn More About Mobile Homes HERE](#)