

by Lloyd Cenaiko, Pres. HART

**"How do you
preach hope to your
congregation while
your country is at
war and so many
have lost sons,
husbands, and
fathers?"**

During a recent conversation with Andriy, I posed a question I felt many of our supporters are curious about.

His answer was both simple and profound.



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He said that during times like these, he returns again and again to the Psalms. The Psalms are remarkably honest. They don't ignore pain, grief, injustice, or fear. David cried out to God, questioned Him, lamented suffering, and poured out his anguish without pretending everything was alright. In many ways, the Psalms give voice to what millions of Ukrainians are feeling today.

But that is only half the story.

Running alongside the lament is an unwavering confidence in God's character. Again and again, the Psalms remind us of His mercy, His faithfulness, His sovereignty, and His unfailing love. Even when David couldn't understand what God was doing, he never stopped trusting who God is.

He preaches the whole counsel of Scripture.

Pastor Andriy explained that this is exactly what his congregation needs to hear. He cannot pretend that life is easy. Every Sunday he looks into the eyes of people who have buried loved ones, whose homes have been destroyed, or whose sons and daughters are still fighting on the front lines. To preach as though suffering doesn't exist would ring hollow.

Instead, he preaches the whole counsel of Scripture. He gives people permission to grieve, to ask difficult questions, and to bring their pain honestly before God. But he also reminds them that suffering never has the final word. The same God who sustained David through caves, battles, and overwhelming loss remains faithful today.

Hope, he said, is not found in denying the darkness. Hope is found in believing that God walks with us through it.

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As I listened, I realized that this is one of the greatest ministries HART's partner churches provide. They don't merely distribute food, shelter, medicine, or clothing. They help people make sense of suffering.

They remind broken hearts that God's mercy is new every morning, that His faithfulness has not failed, and that even in the longest night, the dawn will come.

It was one of the most encouraging conversations of my trip—and a powerful reminder that while war may shape the circumstances of people's lives, it does not have to define the condition of their hearts.