

A Small Story in a Big War.

No story is truly insignificant in the context of this devastating war. Each one represents the human spirit's resilience, determination to survive, and willingness to support one another in the face of unimaginable hardship.

These small stories, woven together, create a tapestry of hope, courage, and the unwavering resolve of the Ukrainian people to persevere, fuelled by their faith in God. Here is another one of those inspiring stories.....



A Cat, a Prayer, and a Miracle

UNUSUAL RESCUE OF UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS

War brings devastation, loss, tears, and despair. Yet, even amid the grief, God can work miracles.

Recently, a group of ten Ukrainian soldiers on a combat mission in the Kharkiv region experienced such a moment. Under relentless Russian shelling, they advanced cautiously. However, as the Russian shelling intensified, they sought refuge in the basement of an apartment building to wait out the danger.

To their surprise, the basement was already occupied—by a gray cat. The feline welcomed its unexpected guests with warmth, likely longing for human company.

Grateful for a moment of solace after surviving the barrage, the soldiers found comfort in the cat's presence. They petted it, offered treats, and listened to its soothing purrs, finding a brief but precious escape from the grim realities of war.

However, this brief respite from battle was short-lived. The Russians launched a series of powerful air strikes on the town, and one of the bombs struck the very building where the soldiers had taken refuge.

The structure collapsed, burying the entrance to the basement beneath heavy cement blocks and debris.

Trapped inside, the Ukrainian defenders found themselves with no means of escape. With no Internet connection, they could not contact their commanders or comrades to alert them to their dire situation.



The mission had been planned as a short operation, so the soldiers had brought only minimal supplies. They knew that as time passed, their limited food and water would be quickly exhausted, leaving them in an increasingly desperate predicament.

The soldiers remained calm, assessed their situation, and considered their options. What resources did they have? After searching the basement, they discovered a jar of pickles, a small window near the ceiling—too small for a human to fit through—and, of course, the cat.

After much discussion, they devised a single plan to call for help. On a piece of paper, they wrote down their coordinates and a plea for rescue from beneath the rubble. They made a collar for the cat and carefully attached the note to it.

Saying their goodbyes, they urged the feline to hurry as if it could understand. With a final pat and the words, ***“Don’t let us down, brother!”*** they sent the cat through the tiny window, hoping against hope that it would lead them to salvation.

The soldiers were fully aware of how risky their plan was. The enemy positions were much closer than their own forces, and the cat, oblivious to the stakes, could have wandered in any direction. If it had reached the Russians with the note, the occupiers would have quickly discovered their location, destroyed the building, and buried the Ukrainian soldiers alive under the rubble.

There was another looming danger: the cat might dislodge the note and lose it along the way. In that case, the soldiers would face a slow and agonizing death from starvation and dehydration.

Desperate to survive, they turned to God, praying fervently day and night. They begged for the cat to head in the right direction, for their comrades to find the message, and for their lives to be spared.

Their hope—intensified by their unyielding will to live—was poured into every prayer they offered, both individually and as a group. Even when their situation seemed hopeless, they clung to their faith, trusting that their fate rested in God's hands.

And then, against all odds, He worked a miracle for them!

Help finally arrived three days later. The cat had indeed made its way to the Ukrainian military positions—proving itself to be a genuine Ukrainian cat—but it didn't happen immediately, nor was it noticed right away.

Even after the message was discovered, the search and rescue operation had to wait until the relentless shelling from the occupying forces eased.

Yet, every step of this rescue was nothing short of miraculous. The odds were overwhelmingly against them, but somehow, everything aligned just enough for them to be saved.

The soldiers, whose lives were spared thanks to an ordinary gray cat and divine providence, have returned to their duty of defending Ukraine. Now, they carry with them an unshakable certainty: ***God is with them.***