

February - November 2022

Reported by Gerard McNamara, Larry Winckles, Dee Dee Galloway, Josh Fajardo

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Russo-Ukrainian War continues unabated. As Russian missiles rained terror and destruction across Ukraine this week, our friends in Ukraine continued to serve. Valera and his team serve in Rivne and in Donetsk. Anton and his team serve in Odessa and Mykolaiv. The Free Methodist Church and our trusted partners are reaching those in need of food, medicine, clothing, and spiritual care. Refugees continue to flow out of the country and into Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova. More and more internally displaced persons are congregating in camps and shelters in the relative safety of northwest Ukraine. Others, who left Ukraine near the beginning of the war, are returning only to face rolling power blackouts and tenuous food supplies. *Ongoing prayer support and contributions to the Bishops' Crisis Response Fund are still needed.*

GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND RESOURCING

1. Larry Winckles administers funding for initiatives within Ukraine and throughout Europe, helping to meet the needs of internally displaced persons, of Ukrainian refugees, and of those in conflict areas. Katie Winckles assists with making bank transfers as needed.
2. Larry Winckles participates in the Crisis Response Group of the European Freedom Network on developing strategies for helping those affected by the war.
3. Gerry McNamara oversees the relief efforts taking place within Ukraine, in consultation with his numerous Ukrainian contacts.
4. Gerry McNamara participated in a webinar on CRSV (Conflict related sexual violence) sponsored by the European Freedom Network, serving as co-host and co-presenter.
5. The WelcomeTalk flipbook project for Ukrainian refugee children and their classmates has been developed in partnership with the European Freedom Network, Chab Dai, Tehila Trust, International Childcare Ministries, and the Set Free Movement. Implementation is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2023.
6. Both Larry and Gerry spoke about refugee related issues at the European Freedom Network's Bridge Conference in October, held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina.



UKRAINE

1. Since February, Gerry McNamara, along with a small team, have entered Ukraine a total of seven times (the last 5 trips all under near constant air raid sirens) - the following items were delivered -
 - a. Approximately 3,500 kilos of food (7,700lbs). Mainly canned goods, rice, pasta, UHT milk etc.
 - b. Approximately 500 kilos of hygiene products (1,100lbs). Mainly female hygiene products, toilet paper, disinfectant, toothpaste etc.
 - c. 3 generators 120 kilos total (265lbs). These were delivered to two separate locations. Very needed due to the regular electricity black outs.
 - d. Vitamins and medicines 100 kilos (220lbs).
 - e. Supplies delivered to Berehove help to feed 200 people a day for a week.
 - f. Supplies delivered to Munkachevo help to feed between 700 -1000 people a day for two to three days.
 - g. A total of seven EFN/Bread of Life display units warning of the danger of human trafficking for Ukrainians leaving the country have been placed in Ukraine. [Berehove, Munkachevo, Rivne, Odessa x2 and another location (withheld due to security reasons)].
2. Gerry McNamara has provided medical care on each trip into Ukraine to both military and civilians. This includes blood pressure checks, heart, lung and ENT checks, advice on caring for diabetes, high blood pressure, spinal injuries, depression, and war induced trauma.
3. Finances have been provided to host a camp within Ukraine for women who have lost their sons in the war. Gerry McNamara visited this camp (location undisclosed for security reasons) led by our leaders the Pedchenkos.
4. We continue to support the Pedchenko family, prayerfully and financially, as the leaders for our mission in Rivne. Valera writes:



It is difficult for us to count how many kilometers across Ukraine we have traveled recently. Almost every week we have different trips. Vova Maziy helps the military on the Belarusian border, supports them with the Word and prayer. My brothers from the church and I have frequent trips to the east to the Donetsk region to give aid and encouragement to our friends, and to those in the military. Each trip brings on the one hand joy from the fact that we had the opportunity to serve, on the other hand it is painful to see the crowds of children who live every day in the midst of war, to see destroyed houses, tired and angry people who live for months in inhuman conditions without water, light, and most importantly in constant danger. It all becomes very

difficult because it is your native land, and every time you return feeling you are losing a part of yourself... but God gives His children strength.

5. We continue to financially support the Free Methodist mission in Ukraine, including the alcohol and rehabilitation center in Rivne and the House of Mercy for elderly men, also in Rivne.
6. We partner with a pastor in Odessa who serves both in Odessa and Mykolaiv. He reports that our financial support helps up to 1100 people monthly.
7. We also financially support a refugee center for mothers and children in Rivne. This provides food, arts and craft supplies for the children and a place to get warm and have a hot drink.
8. In Mariupol, in partnership with SunErgos International, we provide food, medicines, etc. to those in need.
9. In Kyiv we partner with Children Mission, an organization that works to provide trauma care resources for families throughout Ukraine.



Currently the Free Methodist Church is reaching people in the areas you can see in green on the map. Please bear in mind that Ukraine and Texas are roughly the same size, now take into consideration that apart from the Pedchenkos in Rivne and Gerry McNamara travelling in from Hungary, we have no other Free Methodists in the country, and all is being done under the near constant threat of shelling, air strikes etc.



BULGARIA

1. Funding continues to support the hosting of Ukrainian refugees at the St. John's Home in Kyustendil. Originally eleven adults and children were being cared for, but after four months, one lady with three children left the house to go to Moscow (because she felt speaking Russian, she would be safer there and her in-laws live there). She has reported back that it was a horrible decision and would come back if she could.
2. It had been a struggle to get a license for the St. John's Home, as there were many governmental roadblocks. However, when social services came out to the house and saw that refugee children were being cared for, they rushed the license and issued it not only for adults, but also for children.



3. Currently two women and one child live at the safe house and they are so incredibly grateful for the safety, the food, the warm place, and for the internet to be able to connect with their loved ones. God is ministering to each of them in His special way.
4. The oldest lady's mother passed away a few weeks ago and she was not able to be with her because of the war. She had such grief, but we came around her and loved her and prayed with her. It is such a difficult time, but God is helping every step of the way. It is a seven days a week ministry for the whole team in meeting the physical, spiritual, emotional, and practical needs for the women and children in residence.

HUNGARY

1. In Hungary the team continues to serve Ukrainians displaced by the war. In Győr the church has worship in Hungarian, English, and Ukrainian and employs a translator on a weekly basis to help them fully participate in worship.
2. In Pécs, Stephen and Svetlana (they fled the war) came to know Christ as their Savior and were married by Gerry McNamara. They recently returned to Ukraine.
3. A total of four EFN/Bread of Life display units warning of the danger of human trafficking for Ukrainians refugees have been placed at locations in Budapest.
4. Ongoing financial support is being provided to the Oltalom Charity Association in Budapest for their work with Roma refugees from Ukraine and for their relief efforts taking place in Transcarpathia. (This organization is the charitable arm of the Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship.)



MOLDOVA

1. Gerry McNamara recently travelled to Chisinau, Moldova to work with a partner organization on teaching them PTSD care for those affected by the war.

SPAIN

1. Financial support has been provided to two Spanish non-governmental organizations that are working with Ukrainian refugees in Spain – Diaconia España and Mosaico.
2. Financial support has been Provided to two Spanish non-governmental organizations that are working with relief efforts in Ukraine – dtproject (Color Ucrania) and Remar S.O.S.

