



## Weekly update #3: 25th March

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*You can find all the information about our appeal, the work being done, articles and video updates on the Ukraine Appeal section of our website [here](#).*

**Homes for Ukraine Scheme:** Many Christians in the UK have contacted us with offers to host Ukrainian refugee families, asking if EMF can help link them to named Ukrainian refugees. We have been working hard to assess whether and how we can support this in a safe and effective way, with a small UK staff.

**We will be beginning to support this next week, helping to link evangelical Christians in the UK and other countries to Ukrainians seeking temporary homes. Please bear with us while we finalise our forms and process, and review these thoroughly with our missionaries in the Ukraine region.**

But please be aware that we are seeing relatively few Ukrainian refugees wanting to come to the UK, probably because of language barriers, and the fact that it is so much easier for them to travel to other European countries.

In the meantime, if you are considering acting as a host, [this site](#) provides some helpful information about the scheme, and the implications of hosting refugee families.



The military landscape may not have changed dramatically over the last week, but the refugee picture, and the role of churches in supporting refugees, certainly has changed - and could change again simply with a few air-strikes affecting the sense of danger which Ukrainians perceive.

The latest [UNHCR](#) figures tell a story in their own right:

- 3.7 million refugees have fled Ukraine
- 6.5 million people have been displaced internally
- over 12 million people have been affected in areas hardest hit by the war.

Last week our missionaries and partner churches in Ukraine and Moldova reported a slowing-down of refugees. This has been coupled with governments and relief agencies becoming more organised to provide immediate care for refugees. In many places, this has relieved the pressure on churches in the front line of support, like the Imago Dei church in Chişinău, where [Mihai Chisari](#) is the pastor. But their role has already changed - now needing to care for the refugees who don't have the money or links to move beyond these first-line areas of refuge. These are often the poorer refugees, who need daily support for an indefinite period. In Poland, they are still seeing large numbers of refugees needing immediate support from the churches.

Within Ukraine, the danger has been focused on areas we hear about in the news - Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kyiv, etc. - and there have been relatively few air-strikes on places like Chernivtsi and Ternopil. But as traumatised refugees from these hard-hit cities tell their tragic stories, there is a strong sense of the brutality of the Russian invasion, and fear of what may come next, with the horrors of chemical and biological weapons not far from people's minds.

But we are also hearing stories of many people seeking the Lord in the midst of this suffering. [Vitalii Mariash](#) who is now in Chernivtsi was asked to preach at a local church last Sunday - and came to find the usually empty church filled to overflowing with people, eager to listen to Vitalii as he opened up the prophet Nahum to them! Many evangelical churches are introducing both Ukrainian and Russian services. **Please continue to pray for the witness of those in the front line.**



### Donations Received:

£510,000 has been received since the start of the appeal.

### Funds Disbursed:

£142,000 has been disbursed since the start of the appeal.

46%	to Ukraine
39%	to Moldova
12%	to Poland
2%	to Romania
1%	to Italy

We are now beginning shipments of aid supplies into Ukraine, including items such as generators, washing machines, as well as food, medicine and hygiene supplies (see next section for more details). We are also continuing to increase our network of churches through which are channelling support, whilst ensuring that this is used effectively by evangelical churches. Next week we are hoping to transfer money to allow at least one minibus to be bought to help carry supplies right into the warzone area around Donetsk, working with Gennadij Prosjanko. In addition, we are intending to support refugee needs for the medium to long term, as much as funds allow.

You can find an **interactive map** of all the work which your donations are being used to support [here](#).

**Thank you to everyone who has donated. 100% of donations will be passed through to support refugee work in the region.**



**Our Approach** is to work through our network of missionaries, their churches and sister evangelical churches to distribute support for refugees. This has proved an effective way to channel support to trusted evangelical churches. We are continuing to build up this network of evangelical churches, with our missionaries acting as local coordinators with good visibility of the current needs.

**Our Immediate Priority** is to ensure that our partner churches who are on the front line of providing emergency support to refugees get the financial support they need. In most cases, especially outside Ukraine, they can access all the provisions they need locally, but need financial help. This includes providing transport, in a context where fuel costs are increasing dramatically, and many refugees, especially outside Ukraine, have no money for onwards travel.

But in certain areas, the need for supplies from outside Ukraine has been made known to us. We are now transporting aid supplies into western Ukraine, with our first shipment due to arrive on Monday into Ternopil. This is being used for evangelical churches in the Ternopil region, as well as being passed through to evangelical churches in the East of the country. These shipments contain a mixture of food supplies, bedding, hygiene products alongside hardware such as generators and washing machines.



**Spiritual Need:** Alongside the great physical need, people's greatest need remains their need of salvation in Christ, and evangelical churches on the front line are asking for Bibles and other literature in Ukrainian. We have just placed an order with [10ofThose](#) for several thousand copies of John Blanchard's *"Ultimate Questions"* booklet, translated into Ukrainian and Russian, to be sent to churches in Poland and Ukraine. [Dawid Koziol](#) is acting as a distribution hub for these in Poland, sending on to evangelical churches in Poland.

**For more details of how we are working, to make effective use of the generous donations entrusted to us, please [click here](#).**



### Gennadiy - Bringing Spiritual Hope and Physical relief in War-ravaged Eastern Ukraine

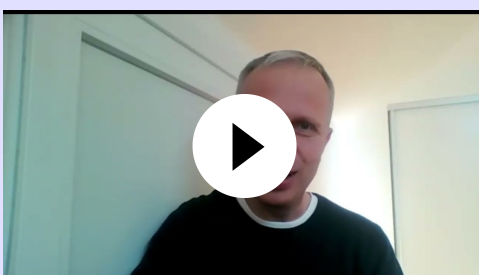
You may not have heard of Gennadiy (in Ukrainian 'Hennadii') Prosyanko, but to some of the churches EMF has been associated with for many years, his name is very familiar. He was often prayed for in the Reformed Baptist Church in Palma Mallorca, for example, where our mission director Andrew Birch was pastor until his return to the UK some eighteen months ago.

The congregation in Palma knew all about his work as the pastor of a Baptist church in the eastern Ukraine town of Pereshchepyne, and of how he would regularly make trips to what was already a zone (the Donbass region) racked by war, to minister to the Ukrainian troops and police who were stationed there; Gennadiy, seen as a kind of chaplain, would go right up to the frontline. From 2014, when Russian-supporting separatists took over parts of this region, until war broke out on 24th February 2022, the area was a forgotten battleground, an ongoing bloody conflict in which thousands died. It was a dangerous, forlorn, and poverty-ridden place; it is now so much worse than that.

The other day, we received a request for help, not from Gennadiy himself, but from someone in Spain who knows him well. She told us of how his already-rickety van had at last come to an end of its life. Could we do anything?

The people who are looking after our appeal funds have said 'Yes!', so a large part of what Gennadiy needs to replace the van with another 2018 model that he has found in the city of Dnipro is already going through the complex banking process. Soon, we trust, he can reach those dozens of people ringing him up to request help, either for food in 'the hotspots', or for transport away from what they fear may be death and destruction.

**Read more Gennadiy [here](#).**



**Volodia Kostyshyn** talks to Phil Dunn (EMF Northern Ireland Representative) about the current situation in Western Ukraine, and gives us some prayer points. He asks us to pray:

1. For him to understand the times, in order to better serve those who are around.
2. For the family members of pastors, including his wife Oksana, as they wrestle with their fears.
3. For the hearts of many to be opened to the Gospel, especially those most affected

Watch a recent interview between [Volodia Kostyshyn](#) and Phil Dunn.

by the tragedies of war, and for churches to be faithful in sharing the gospel alongside the humanitarian support they are giving.

**Phil Dunn**

*(EMF Northern Ireland Representative)*

**Martin Tatham**

*(EMF Church Partnership Coordinator)*



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