



Weekly update #4:
1st April

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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](#).



Many Christians have contacted us with offers to host Ukrainian refugee families, asking if EMF can help link them to named Ukrainian refugees, particularly as part of the [Homes For Ukraine](#) government scheme. We have been working hard to find a way support this in a safe and effective way, with a small UK staff.

We're pleased to be able to announce that today, we are launching the [Cross Connect Ukraine](#) linking scheme, which will be operated jointly with our friends in the [Slavic Gospel Association](#).

In this scheme, we are inviting evangelical Christians, in the UK and other European countries, willing to offer accommodation for at least 6 months free of charge to Ukrainian refugees, to register with us with details of their accommodation. We are also inviting Ukrainians, individuals, families or groups, who are looking for temporary homes outside of Ukraine, to register with us, with details of their needs. Then we will endeavour to match and link the host offering accommodation to the refugee looking for accommodation.

If you are in a position to offer accommodation, please do consider opening your home to a Ukrainian family and showing compassion in this way to those who have sadly had these things taken away from them through the recent war and conflict.



As the conflict turns into more attritional warfare, the suffering of people especially in the hardest hit areas like Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Donetsk and Luhansk continues and refugees from these areas bring tales of tragedy and unimaginable sorrow. The refugee crisis, now the biggest refugee crisis since WW2, continues to escalate.

The latest [UNHCR](#) figures show that the exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries has slowed compared to previous weeks, but is still running at the staggering level of 400,000 refugees in a week. But perhaps the bigger picture is the far greater number of people displaced within Ukraine itself, more than 7 million people.

Our missionaries in Ukraine and growing network of partners churches we're working with are seeing the impact of this first hand as they seek to care for displaced people coming to the west of the country, often with little more than a few belongings and looking for places to stay. In Chernivtsi, the population of this relative safe city has grown by 25%, and this is putting enormous pressure on the people there looking to support refugees (you can read [this article](#) about Sasha Diankov and how he and his church are working tirelessly to care for refugees).

Until now, most of our partner churches had not been asking for supplies - they could buy all they needed locally, and what they needed was the funds to buy supplies, and to transport it to where it was needed. But now, we are seeing increasing need for supplies to be brought in. We think this is probably as a result of the normal supply and distribution channels getting stretched. In this context the city of Ternopil, where [Volodia Kostyshyn](#) is working hard with other evangelical churches in the area, is becoming a key location as a distribution hub for supplies - of food, medicine, clothing ... and Bibles and evangelistic literature.

But what of the spiritual need in Ukraine? By all accounts, the reaction of Ukrainian people to the crisis has not been to shake their fists at God, but to get on their knees to seek Him. Services at most of our partner churches are usually packed, and there is a seriousness as people seek answers and comfort. And the demand for Bibles and Christian literature reflects this. **Please continue to pray for the witness of those in the front line, and that there would be a powerful work of grace in this region.**



Donations Received:

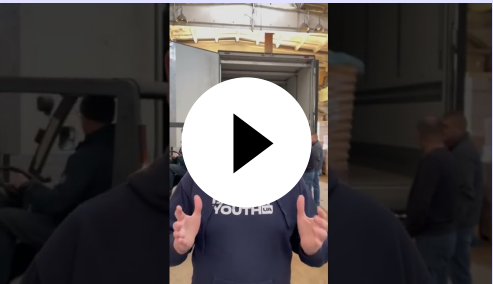
£568,000 has been received since the start of the appeal.

Funds Disbursed:

£164,000 has been disbursed since the start of the appeal.
51% to Ukraine
31% to Moldova
10% to Poland
7% to Romania
0.5% to Italy
0.2% to Hungary

We were thankful to the Lord to see the shipment of supplies from Netherlands arrive without any delay at the depot in Ternopil, with a full load of food, medical supplies, bedding, hygiene products alongside more expensive items such as generators and washing machines.

Significant items of spend last week included funds for Pastor Gennadij Prosjanko and his church near Dnipro to buy a new van to carry supplies right into the warzone area around Donetsk; we will be supporting Gennadij's brave work on an ongoing basis. From next week we are planning to begin regular shipments of supplies, along with Bibles and gospel literature into Ternopil as a hub for onwards distribution to evangelical churches throughout Ukraine.



Delivery of aid being unloaded in Ternopil. Ivan Gontar, who leads the "Light of Reformation" charity coordinating the aid distribution, tells us how the supplies will be used.

Literature: 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 awaiting delivery of several thousand copies of John Blanchard's "Ultimate

Questions" booklet from [10ofThose](#) 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. And we are planning to deliver several thousand more copies to Ternopil where [Volodia Kostyshyn](#) is planning to distribute these to churches along with aid supplies. 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.

[Donate](#)

Or [click here](#)



Our Approach is to work through our network of missionaries, their churches and sister evangelical churches to distribute support for refugees. In the past week we have extended support to evangelical churches in the Donetsk region, as well as beginning to support work in Hungary and expanding our network of partner churches in Poland.

Our Priorities to date have been primarily focused on providing financial support our partner churches on the front line of providing emergency support to refugees. In most cases, especially outside Ukraine, they can access all the provisions they need locally, but need financial help.

But as we see the situation change, we are now anticipating spending a greater proportion of the funds on bringing supplies into Ukraine and Moldova from outside these countries. Next week, we are planning to send a shipment of clothing from Romania to [Mihai Chisari](#) in Moldova (with the help of [Pal & Anna Borzasi](#)) - he can buy food for the many refugees his church is supporting, but clothing is in short supply.

And increasingly we are seeing churches organising shuttles of vans taking supplies from places like Lviv and Ternopil to the East, and bringing refugees back. So we are helping churches to buy vans like Gennadiy pictured here), and to buy the increasingly expensive fuel they need.



Pastor Gennadij Prosjanko taking his new van, packed with supplies, into the warzone in Donetsk.

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



Sasha, the deacon exemplifying sacrificial service in Chernivtsi

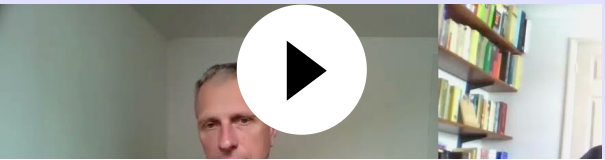
EMF missionaries Vitaliy Mariash and his wife Lyudmila arrived in Chernivtsi from Kyiv as refugees themselves some weeks ago. They found a new ministry there, one that is very different from their work in Kyiv Theological Seminary. They joined forces with the leadership of local evangelical churches, and have set to work helping to provide shelter, transport, food, and above all love and care to refugees, as they reach out in Christian love to suffering people. One of Vitalii's friends, a deacon in the 'Heart of Jesus' church, is **Oleksandr Diankov** (known to all as 'Sasha'). He has been leading the support work at the church, where they are almost overwhelmed by the numbers of refugees fleeing the East and South of the country.

Sasha says, 'Our situation is more or less calm. Thank God the rockets do not reach our region. But everything shows that the country is at war. Now there are a lot of people, immigrants in the city. Housing is almost impossible to find. We continue to receive people in all our premises, in the school where we have been allocated training facilities and a gym. Today, about 45 people permanently live there. Some of them stop for a short time and go further abroad. We try to support them morally and give them hope by talking to them about Jesus and life in him. Of course we try to provide everything they need'. Sasha tells us that they are using appeal funds to buy essential products (food and hygiene items) in Romania, which is about 280km from Chernivtsi. Aid packages are then made up and delivered to the places the refugees are living in. Some of those towns, like Beregomet, 40 km from Chernivtsi, are more remote, but news still reaches them that there is aid in the Chernivtsi churches. So when refugees from these more distant places call Sasha and his colleagues, they do not hesitate to drive out with supplies.

Read more about Sasha and the work in Chernivtsi [here](#).



Sasha (left) alongside Valeriy, the pastor of the Heart of Jesus Evangelical Church in Chernivtsi, and Vitalii Mariash (right)



Sasha Diankov and [Volodia Kostyshyn](#) talk to Martin Tatham in this short video and ask us to pray:

1. For Sasha and the people in the church in Chernivtsi who are helping support



refugees, for them to do the work wholeheartedly and for perseverance in this.

2. For Volodia and the brethren in the churches in Ternopil, as they work and support refugees there - again for perseverance, but also that their hearts wouldn't become hardened as they are constantly called to support those who have experienced such harrowing ordeals.

Watch Sasha Diankov and [Volodia Kostyshyn](#) talk to Martin Tatham in this short video.

Phil Dunn
(EMF Northern Ireland Representative)

Martin Tatham
(EMF Church Partnership Coordinator)



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