



Weekly Update #6:  
15th 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](#).



If you weren't able to join us last Monday at our special webinar: **UKRAINE: 46 Days of Human Suffering and God's Sovereignty**, please take the opportunity to listen to the testimonies of 7 dedicated workers on the front line in Ukraine, Moldova, Poland and Romania, of the impact on their lives, the people they have helped, and the ways they have seen the Lord working.

If you are in a position to offer accommodation to a Ukrainian refugee, please do consider registering with our [Cross Connect Ukraine](#) linking scheme, run jointly with our friends in the [Slavic Gospel Association](#). We're already seeing many Christian hosts and Ukrainian refugees register, and we're beginning to find matches. Please do continue to pray for Andrii and Yolanta Kaustov (see article [here](#)), who have now applied for visas to come to the UK to continue their cancer treatment.



As we hear reports from our missionaries and partners across Ukraine, and from neighbouring countries, it's hard to make sense of the observations, news, feelings, forebodings from different people in different regions, which are often so diverse. But, even while most are thankful for the relative peace in the West of the country (there were few missile attacks last week on places like Lviv, Ternopil and Chernivtsi) and there is a sense of relief that the attacks on Kyiv have almost stopped, the overriding and deepening concern is for the people in the East and South, in cities like Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, and Mariupol. This concern is fed not just by the news of even more concentrated Russian forces, but also by the harrowing testimonies of the stream of refugees, often highly traumatised, coming from these places.

It is humbling even to hear of the compassion and courage of the Christians responding to this, and motivated by the love of Christ. People like Pastor Gennadiy Prosjanko (who spoke so movingly in our webinar), who yesterday drove 500km into Kharkiv to bring a group of believers to safety: *"One lady, whose family we evacuated from Kharkiv said that she stayed in her apartment as long as she could. Now, she said, I can't stay any more and must go to find a safe place. When were leaving Kharkiv today, all the women were crying."* People like Staszek Marek who drove 3,300km last week from Warsaw to Kharkiv and back to take a vanload of aid, as he was moved by the cry for help from believers there. The flood of refugees leaving Ukraine continues, with over 300,000 last week fleeing the country last week, but more a quarter of the population of Ukraine overall has been displaced. [Vitalii Mariash](#) in Chernivtsi, himself a refugee, said that the population of this small city had increased by over 50%. Sasha Diankov, also based in Chernivtsi, who has led an extraordinary effort by his church to support refugees (see below), said *"Local authorities themselves ask the church for help in accommodating people. In fact, almost all administrative, educational and social institutions are occupied by migrants."* In Ternopil, [Volodia Kostyshyn](#) reported that the local authorities were coming to the churches to ask for help supplying food packages to refugees, as they struggled to feed so many. Please continue to pray for evangelical Christians working tirelessly on the front line, that in the midst of providing all they can in physical support for refugees, they would also have opportunity to share the Gospel, and meet the greatest need of people, the need of salvation.



- Donations Received:**
- £670,000 has been received since the start of the appeal.
- Funds Disbursed:**
- £297,000 has been disbursed since the start of the appeal.
  - 56% to Ukraine
  - 28% to Moldova
  - 8% to Poland
  - 6% to Romania
  - 1.3% for literature from UK (Ultimate Questions)
  - 0.3% to Italy
  - 0.1% to Hungary

As the need for external supplies of basic food, medicines and hygiene products increases, across Ukraine, we continue to focus on bringing supplies into Ukraine from Lublin (eastern Poland), and using Ternopil as a very effective hub from which to distribute around the country. We placed a further order for a full lorryload shipment of supplies from Lublin, due to be shipped next week, again working with our friends Natalia and Jaroslaw Lukasik from [Christians for Ukraine](#) / Eastern European Reformation Foundation who organise the supply and transport.

**Literature:** Last week we were delighted to receive several thousand copies of John Blanchard's *"Ultimate Questions"* booklet in Ukrainian and Russian from [10ofThose](#), in Żywiec, where [Dawid Koziol](#) will be distributing to churches around Poland, and also in Lublin, from where we will be taking them to Ternopil. From here, Volodia Kostyshyn will be distributing these for use around the country. We have also ordered several thousand copies of *"Why Jesus?"* in Ukrainian by Geoff McIlrath, which the [Revival Movement Association](#) is generously supplying and shipping at their expense.

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, including provision of evangelistic literature.

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**Our Approach** is to work through our network of missionaries, their churches and sister evangelical churches to distribute support for refugees, across Ukraine, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Hungary. Overall, this has led us to support around 30 projects thus far, different types, as summarised below.

**1) Providing aid supplies:** Initially, this was not requested as most of the churches we were supporting could obtain supplies locally, and just needed money to buy the things they needed. But now this is our area of biggest outlay, particularly shipping food, medicines, hygiene products, as well as equipment and bedding, into Ternopil as a hub, from which to distribute supplies of all types.

As mentioned last week, the evangelical churches in Ternopil have formed a very effective team. [Volodia Kostyshyn](#) and pass supplies over to **90 churches** across the country, and have helped around **100,000 refugees**.

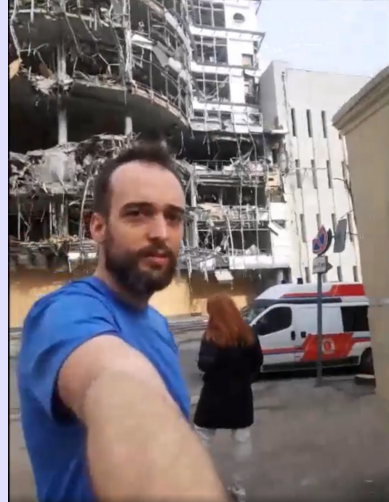
**2) Supporting churches hosting refugees:** In many places, churches are providing accommodation and care for refugees, sometimes in their own premises (such as the [Zagórna 10](#) church in Warsaw), sometimes in other premises (such as the [Heart of Jesus](#) church in Chernivtsi), sometimes in the homes of Christians. We look to provide the finance to help them run their work, which is spent on food, accommodation, equipment, sometimes on manpower - enabling Christian's to devote themselves to this work for a period.



*Refugees hosted by the evangelical church in Chernivtsi*

**3) Supporting churches providing supplies to refugees** often in the form of daily packages of food and other necessities. As refugees settle temporarily in areas in or close to Ukraine, hoping to return as soon as it is safe, they find basic accommodation outside the emergency shelters, but then need help with basic necessities. The [Imago Dei church](#) in Chişinău where Mihai Chisari is the pastor is increasingly supporting people in this mode, who have settled temporarily in Moldova.

**4) Supporting people taking aid into needy areas:** The neediest areas of Ukraine are in the East and the South, and getting supplies into these areas is increasingly difficult. Some of the most courageous workers are willing to take vans and minibuses into these areas, often bringing refugees back in the other direction. Staszek Marek (mentioned earlier) is one such person; and many people were moved to hear Pastor Gennadiy Prosjanko, who has been in the warzone for 7 years supporting people in Donetsk, as well as bringing them the gospel. Alongside aid supplies, we've helped several churches buy minibuses and keep them fuelled for their long journeys.



*Staszek Marek from the Zagorna 10 church in Warsaw, delivering aid to Kharkiv*

**5) Providing literature:** However desperate the physical situation for refugees in and from Ukraine, the greatest need is the need of salvation and of the Gospel, and many are seeking the Lord. As mentioned earlier, we're bringing many thousand copies of Bibles and booklets like "*Ultimate Questions*" and "*Why Jesus?*" into the area and distributing these across a wide network of churches - who are eager to get hold of these. We're also exploring with [100Fold](#) the possibility of using micro SD cards to bring Ukrainian bibles and evangelistic material to refugees.

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



### Compassion for refugees in Chernivtsi

From the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the [Sertse Isusa](#) (Heart of Jesus) evangelical church in Chernivtsi has opened its doors, and its heart, to refugees from the warzones in the North and East of the country.

Oleksandr (Sasha) Diankov is a deacon of the church, and is in charge of the work to support refugees, working tirelessly with his wife Lesya to welcome refugees, give them a safe environment, and care for them.

In this short video, Sasha talks about their work, and we hear the heart-rending stories of some of the refugees who have come from Kyiv, Bucha, Kharkiv and Donetsk.

One of the refugees from Kharkiv, Inga said, "*We stayed there for a day until we came to our senses. Then, we fled - fled from the war, fled for several days. When we came here to Chernivtsi, brother Serhiy took us in for the night, and when I woke up in the morning, such an understanding dawned on me, 'I am a refugee and I have nothing left at home'.*"

*"This war just ... broke your whole life. All the life you have lived, grandchildren, children, ministry, church, brothers and sisters ... a quiet life, and now it is gone,*



everything has changed. Our city has gone, the beautiful city of Kharkiv which has simply been destroyed, it has been erased, there is nothing left that we liked."

Some of the refugees who have come from Kyiv, Bucha, Kharkiv and Donetsk and taken shelter with the church in Chernivtsi, talk about their experience.

Phil Dunn

(EMF Northern Ireland Representative)

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