



Update #28: 24th February - 16th March

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](#).

If you don't already receive these updates directly, and would like to, please [click here](#). Also, if you would like to get more frequent but short message updates via WhatsApp, you can subscribe [here](#).



Please join us for our next **Prayer Meeting for Ukraine**, where we hope to be joined and led in our praying by Volodia Kostyshyn and Ivan Hontar.

- **Monday 27th March**
- **1900 - 2000 UK time**
- **Zoom: [Meeting ID 818 3219 5060](#), [Passcode emf](#)**



Vitalii Mariash yesterday from his military base in the east of Ukraine

Please do continue to pray for Vitalii & Liudmyla Mariash. Vitalii was back near the front line in the Kramatorsk region, after his brief trip back to Kyiv.

Even though Vitalii had qualified to be an official army chaplain, there were delays in him taking on this role, so he was still fulfilling both the role of soldier and of assistant chaplain.

You could tell how emotionally exhausted he was, having been at the front for 6 months with no real break, near-constant military action, and facing enormous spiritual and emotional challenges.



Andrii & Yolanta Kaustov, with Ron & Joy McCormick who are hosting them in the UK.

Please do continue also continue to pray for Andrii and Yolanta Kaustov as they continue their cancer treatment. After some negative effects of the last intensive treatment, Andrii is now preparing to go into isolation for a month, with a course of intensive chemotherapy.

Yolanta received some results of her most recent CT scan, which showed that her latest treatment was quite effective, and her tumours had decreased. This is a real answer to prayer, after some earlier worrying results. Please do give thanks and continue to pray.



As Ukraine emerges from a winter which many people anticipated with dread and even the UNHCR described as 'a question of survival' for Ukraine, there is a sense of relief and, for the believers we have come to know, great thanksgiving. The winter has been mild, only going down below -10°C for brief spells. And in recent weeks the electricity supply has been vastly improved, thanks to heroic efforts of the engineers, despite the continued targeting of the Russian missiles.

But while the warmth of spring brings welcome comfort, there is still great need and widespread suffering in Ukraine. The current situation in two areas of Ukraine we learnt about in the last week reflect this: **Zaporizhzhia** and **Mykolaiv**:

Zaporizhzhia:

In the autumn and early winter, the city was being bombarded with 10-20 missiles per day, and seeing over 1,000 refugees coming into the city per day. And most of the days were spent with only a few hours of electricity. But as we heard last week from Evgenii Lvov, from the Baburka Baptist Church, things were now calmer, with missile attacks about once per week, and around 100-200 refugees per day.

How can we pray?



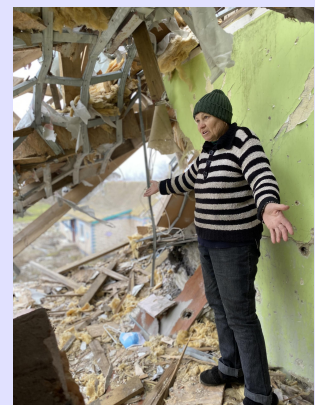
- Thank the Lord for those who continue to support their ministry in Zaporizhzhia.
- Pray that many people would find salvation in the city, even in the midst of suffering.
- Thank the Lord for His blessing on their ministry and for the support people in the city; and for the supplies for their ministry.
- Thank the Lord for the faith of the many believers who are involved: for wisdom, strength, health, perseverance.
- Thank the Lord for both of Evgenii's teenage children (Rustan and Angelina) coming to saving faith recently.

And yet the Baburka church is still seeing great needs to be met through its ministries, with thousands of displaced people in the city, many without jobs and spending all of their money on accommodation, needing help to survive. Last week we provided another 1,000 blankets for them to distribute to meet continuing need. Please do take a few minutes to find out more details about the situation, the opportunities they have for the gospel, and Evgenii's joy of in seeing both of his teenage children coming to Christ, in Vivienne Birch's article: ['Evgenii in Zaporizhzhia: Looking to the Lord and Staying Put'](#).

And a day after we spoke to Evgenii, Russia launched one of its biggest missile strikes on Ukraine, with 81 missiles, including six hypersonic Kinzhal missiles which Ukraine cannot intercept.

Mykolaiv:

The Ternopil evangelical churches recently sent a team down to the Mykolaiv region, taking supplies of Bibles, blankets and other humanitarian support to the recently-liberated area. They sent us a report of what they saw, which Vivienne has also turned into an article, ['Ternopil teams go where it is toughest'](#), which makes sobering reading and gives real insight into some of the areas of greatest need. Villages where most of the buildings had been destroyed or damaged, where people had been living without electricity, water and communication, and many mines still littering the area with their deadly surprise. One of the local evangelical churches had continued to distribute food and other supplies to over 460 people from the beginning of the invasion and until today - along with spiritual food and psychological support.



Pictures from a recent aid trip to the Mykolaiv region, where villages have been ravaged by war.

Bibles & Blankets for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our [Bibles and Blankets](#) Christmas appeal. Once again we've been amazed at the generosity of Christians, and we have received a staggering **£154,545 in donations.**

With the help particularly of [Volodymyr Kostyshyn](#) in Ternopil and [Liudmyla Mariash](#) in Kyiv, and [Dawid Koziol](#) in Poland, we've managed to provide:

- **10,120** Bibles or New Testaments, in Ukrainian or Russian;
- **8,200** high quality quilted blankets;
- **16** large generators.

This has used **£113,788** of the funds, and we are already in the process of raising more orders for Bibles and blankets. We were about to order 15 large 'power stations' (with the permission of some of our donors, as we didn't explicitly include these items in the scope of the original appeal), but at the last minute we put this order on hold, as Volodia reported a sharp improvement in the electricity supply, and we wanted to make sure the money was used in the best way. We are constantly monitoring the situation, and listening carefully to the needs of our partner churches in Ukraine.



Bibles and blankets being distributed in Zaporizhzhia this week



Donations Received:

£1,465,711 has been received since the start of the appeal.
(This figure does not include the £154,545 raised for the [Bibles & Blankets Appeal](#)).

Funds Disbursed:

£1,313,683 has been disbursed since the start of the appeal.
77% to Ukraine
16% to Moldova
4% to Poland
3% to Romania
<1% for across Italy, Hungary, Spain and literature from UK

We are currently giving direct regular support to **15 evangelical churches** across **Ukraine, Moldova, Poland and Romania**, and others on an as-needed basis. But some of this support is also channelled to other churches, particularly in the warzone. In some cases, we are also providing support to particular families, to enable them to support the work of their church.

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

[Donate](#)

Or [click here](#)

Phil Dunn

(EMF Northern Ireland Representative)

Martin Tatham

(EMF Church Partnership Coordinator)



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