

# UKRAINE CRISIS FUND

Dear Friends,

Lost in the roar of a worldwide pandemic are often the lesser known voices. Their relatively quiet troubles often can't be heard over the din of news broadcasts blasting the ever changing data from COVID-19.

If we're not careful we can easily grow deaf to certain needs in our world. May this letter help raise the volume of those struggling in Eastern Ukraine after 6 years of unresolved conflict. Coronavirus headlines may have drowned out their voices on the nightly news but that doesn't mean their problems have gone away.

Over the past year we have been in contact with many churches on both sides of the front lines and many of them shared with us the difficulties they face and the joys they see as they continue to serve God, preach the gospel, and help those in need.



With your help the ABWE Ukraine team aided over 25 churches through the Ukraine Crisis fund in the past year. These churches are all boldly preaching the gospel and helping those in need. They are involved in many kinds of ministries including visiting boarding schools and orphanages, feeding the needy and providing basic necessities for

families in the community. They are also doing outreaches for children and adults, ministering to soldiers on the front lines of the war, and organizing Christian camps.

We want to share with you some excerpts of letters we have received from those who are receiving aid through the Ukraine Crisis Fund. We hope that in reading these you will have a better picture of how God is working, that you will be better able to pray, and that you will be encouraged in your faith!

Praise God that he is never deaf to his own. In trouble and strife he hears our cries and he responds. May the testimonies in this letter be proof of God's faithfulness to his people and may they arouse his people to greater service for God's glory!

You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry. Psalm 10:17

ABWE Ukraine:



Mike and Rachel Gustafson, Caleb and Christina Suko,  
Holly Friesen, and Kristin Jonas

# LIFE IN THE SEPARATISTS TERRITORIES

Life in occupation resembles life in the USSR. Mass evangelizations, ministry in prisons and schools are prohibited here. For 15 years we have been serving blind people, but last year the authorities forbid us from continuing this ministry. Now the ministry of personal evangelism works well - a lot of phone conversations and face-to-face meetings. Let me remind you that during the war more than 700 unsaved people came through the doors of our Church so the community now knows us very well.



Our needs:

People are planting their gardens and asking for help with seeds, including potatoes, onions and garlic ... Many people ask for vitamins so that they will not get sick as often. Also we need funds to purchase bread and ingredients for making bread, which we give out to the needy. We will be grateful for any help.

I wish you God's abundant blessings!

Pastor A

# LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL CHURCHES, DONETSK

Dear brothers, ministers of the churches of Christ, peace be upon you!

We are very grateful to the Almighty and to you for your sincere service to help churches in the zone of military conflict. Our churches are humbly working in the name of Jesus - we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and quietly preach the saving gospel.

We continue to feed people hot meals and share the gospel with them in our prayer houses. We feed up to 200 people, once or twice a week. One meal cost about \$1.00. During lunch we sing spiritual songs, some believers give their testimonies, and we preach the gospel.

This summer we are planning to do several Christian camps. These camps give a chance for people to be refreshed spiritually and physically. A weekly program for a child costs about \$15 and we expect about 250 children. Our people can cover 50% of the cost themselves.

One of our churches has a ministry to wheelchair bound people in our city. Once a quarter the church takes disabled people out to the countryside where they can get away from the city for a little. The church provides them with lunch and shares the gospel with them.

Pastor P



# NEW LIFE CHURCH

Peace and grace to you,

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we sincerely thank you for your service to us in the conflict zone. I would like to share the blessings and joy that the Lord has given us in our ministry. At Christmas, we had 100 Christmas gifts that we wanted to give to orphans. However, when I came to the boarding school I found out that there were 180 children. I was very upset because I not only wanted to give the gifts, but also to tell these orphans about God's love for them.

Do you know what the Lord did?



Later we were able to buy gifts for all the children. When we returned we were allowed to hold a Christmas concert. We brought decorations, sang Christmas songs, told the children about the birth of Christ, about God's love for them, and about prayer, and how to invite Christ into their hearts.

At the end of our meeting, we handed out gifts, and children's bibles and books to all. I was brought to tears when the children started begging,



“Give me, give me the little book where the prayer is written.”

One 2nd grade boy hugged me and said,

“Thank you for coming to us. I especially liked the songs, when you sang I wanted to cry.”

I saw how the Holy Spirit revealed to the children the love of the Father, how the Lord touched the children’s hearts.

(Unfortunately, because of the political situation in this area we can not share any photos with you.)

We continue to help large families and those in dire need with food, medicine and other vital help. Nevertheless the most important thing is to tell people about repentance and reconciliation with God, through the sacrifice of Christ the Savior.

Pray for us

May God bless you richly.

Pastor S

## FAMILIES BEING HELPED

More than 40 families have received “Help to Survive” through our Church thanks to you. I’ll tell you about a few families who received help and who passed on their gratitude to you.

Denis has 4 sons. He and his wife repented and were baptized during the war in 2015. Before the war he was in prison. There he had time to start reading the Bible and look for the meaning of life. Currently they just survive due to random part-time jobs, but he has no permanent work, they live in miserable conditions: they lived without electricity for three and a half years (they were cut off because they couldn’t pay the bill). Thanks to the church, which helped and helps them, they already have light at home today. Thanks to your help, they have “Help to Survive” in the form of food. They are very, very grateful to you!

Svetlana repented in 2017 and was baptized in 2019. She is raising her 3 year old grandson Dima because her daughter chose to live in sin and left the boy with Svetlana. We waiting a long time for Svetlana to finally make the decision to get baptized and now she is a loving Christian woman who serves the Lord and prays for her prodigal daughter. She survives due to a small disability pension (about \$ 50 per month). She is also a cancer survivor. Sveta needed food, coal and firewood. She



prayed about her need and God answer her through you. Now her home is warm and she has food in the cupboards. Many thanks to you from her!

Valya is a new Christian. After she was released from prison she realized that she was not wanted by anyone except God and the Church. She attended our church for quite some time before she repented. She now holds fast to the Lord. She has 6 children, much in her life is still broken but she knows the Lord. One person, who left for Russia, allowed Valya to temporarily live in her home. The house is cold, there are problems with the roof, which leaks but Valya is not discouraged. She needs food, medicine and diapers for her children. Thanks to your help, she isn't hungry and she is always praying for the brothers and sisters who have helped her. Thank you!



Andrey is a new believer, his sister Lena begged God to save him. He repented after he was unjustly treated by authorities. Someone threw drugs in the yard of his house. The police came and did a search. When they found the narcotics they accused him of distributing drugs. While he was waiting for the outcome of his court case his sister Lena invited him to church where he eventually repented. He received a two and a half year sentence, but thank God, he was given a suspended sentence. In this he also saw the hand of God. Now he is a brother who knows and loves the Lord. He has a wife and 2 children. He works part time as a driver for one person. He earns only enough to buy some bread. The rest is provided by Help to Survive through our church. Every Sunday, he receives Help to Survive from the Lord and he thanks God, the Church, and you for your good heart.

Pastor M

## **GIVING INFORMATION**

**PLEASE NOTE ACCOUNT #717401**

### **GIVE BY CHECK:**

**ABWE PO BOX 8585**

**HARRISBURG, PA 17105**

### **GIVE BY PHONE:**

**ABWE USA (800) 901-2293**

### **GIVE ONLINE:**

**[ABWE.ORG/WORK/PROJECTS/UKRAINE-CRISIS](https://abwe.org/work/projects/ukraine-crisis)**

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT US VIA EMAIL:**

**[UKRAINECRISISFUND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UKRAINECRISISFUND@GMAIL.COM)**

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