

EURASIA NORTH FIELD REPORT:

Greetings dear Partners in Ministry. Taking some time to share information about the situation in Ukraine and Russia with you. Please keep praying for peace!

First of all, we want to express our eternal gratitude to the Central Europe Field leaders under the direction of Jay and Teanna Sunberg for their incredible job helping the hundreds of Ukrainian Nazarenes that have reached Poland, Hungary and Romania and now refugees in those countries. We are very grateful and blessed for the organization and mobilization of a team of volunteers in the polish border receiving, taking care and supporting our Ukrainian Nazarenes with food shelter and helping many of them to continue with their journey to other European nations. Today we are very grateful also with the Nazarenes in other European countries beyond Central Europe where our churches are taking care of Nazarenes; such is the case of Germany; France and Netherlands.

Below is a report send by Sylvia Masiuk about the work Nazarenes are doing in Poland, receiving Ukrainian refugees and helping them to continue with their trip to other European countries.

A few days ago, Vova and I had a chance to drive to the Przymesl border where a team of NCM folks have rented apartments, and a couple of spaces to set up relief work. One of those spaces, now called the HUB, has become a resting spot for volunteers to rest, eat, regroup, plan, etc. Ronda and Carl Winderl, who were previously in Kyiv, are now helping to run that facility. While we were there, we were able to meet up with some NCM team members from Kansas City including my dear friend Nell Becker Sweeden and her colleagues Jeremy and Grant. Jay Sunberg and Teanna Sunberg have been there from the very beginning, welcoming others onto their team. We also met up with other short-term volunteers from the US including Joel Tooley who was kind enough to bring me some corn tortillas (thank you, Joel!). So, what are they all doing?

The team goes to the train station daily to help Ukrainian refugees as they arrive on the train. They are easily recognizable by their bright yellow vests. Helping includes anything from carrying bags to watching luggage while people buy train tickets to answering questions about where to go next, where people can get a free Polish phone card, assistance in buying train tickets to their next destination, where to eat, how to catch a bus back into Ukraine, and a whole host of other questions. This incredible team is just there to be available to people arriving who are often scared, grieving, and traumatized. And while speaking Ukrainian or Russian is really critical, even those speaking English, German, or other languages are able to assist. We felt blessed to see our team at work there and to get to spend a full day with them. I am particularly grateful to one of our Kyiv First church leaders, Iryna Galisevych, and Iryna Skibitskaya Petersen who now lives in Arizona but who flew over here to help for 2 weeks. They arrive in the morning and often return to their apartment close to midnight. They are doing everything they can to help as many people as possible. Please pray for them as this kind of work also involves secondary trauma and fatigue. They no doubt feel grateful to be able to do this work, and we are so grateful to them for their willingness to be there. Their ministry there reminded me of that beautiful scripture: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News and a message of peace..." Isaiah 52:7



The Przemsyl Train Station

Pastor Vova and Iryna Galisevich helping people arriving from

Ukraine



Pastor Vova, Sylvia and Ukrainian volunteers helping People arriving from Ukraine in Poland.

Also, from Sylvia a little description of the ministry our Kids Club is doing with Ukrainian Children in Poland: It's been a while since I've been able to post so here's a quick update.

We are still in Poznan and have spent the past 2 weeks trying to adapt, but also keeping our eye on the pulse of the war. I'm quite adept at living in two places at once, but where it used to be America and Ukraine, it is now Poland and Ukraine. My heart is there, in Kyiv, and I am longing to return.

During our time here we have spent some time helping Hayley and Andrew Tarrant in relief efforts. Our church here re-opened a cafe called, Sweet Surrender. The hope is that it will be a safe space for Ukrainian refugees to come and enjoy free coffee, but also get a chance to meet other Ukrainians and the Polish community. The cafe is quickly developing into a nice little Ukrainian Community Center that is now hosting a weekly kid's club, Polish lessons 3x a week, some counseling and guidance on adapting to life in Poland, and providing space for Ukrainian and Polish youth to meet. We also gather on Sunday mornings for church led by Andrew Tarrant. The overall vision for this community center is to offer opportunities for soul care, community building, and integration. It's been fun to watch the Ukrainian leadership grow into these new roles alongside Hayley, who is the mastermind of the whole operation.

Today we hosted 65 Ukrainian refugees who came for the kid's program and Polish lessons. We actually had 27 kids total for Kid's Club so we were bursting at the seams. We were so busy I didn't have time to take many photos. Lots of new faces and friends, and we are just glad to be here to welcome people and speak a familiar language.

Sweet Surrender is going to require a lot both in terms of running a coffee shop and other programs. If any of you would like to contribute specifically to this program here in Poznan, you can send me a private message and I'll send you our Amazon wish list as soon as it's ready or other ways that you can contribute.



Kids Club

Polish lessons for Ukrainians

We want to send our words of gratitude to all the people praying and donating through the NCN link; <u>https://give.nazarene.org/donate/f/137043</u> May God bless you abundantly.

From Andriy:

During the last couple weeks since our last report, brother Andriy has been driving thousands of Kilometers with two vans distributing humanitarian AID among the Nazarenes remaining in Ukraine. Thanks to NCM and the Netherlands District two vans have been donated and driven by Andriy and Sergey his brother-in-law. Together they are driving to the different communities delivering humanitarian AID. Below some pictures of the loading and distributing the AID.



Delivering Medicines to Nazarene Doctors In Kiev.

Delivering Humanitarian AID in Odessa with Pastor Nabil.

Below a couple pictures from our church in Vaphniarka and how the place is transformed in a resting place for people transiting to Lviv and Polish border. We are very grateful for the leadership of brother Anatoly and the church leadership for their compassionate heart.



We also have some information from our mission team in Latvia working with Salvation Army helping refugees (mostly women and children) from Ukraine. Below some pictures from Olga and Alexei.



I want to finish this report with a few words from our Russian leaders few days ago during our team meeting. I was reminded that most of Russian people are not evil as the world is trying to portrait them. They reminded me that the Russian people is heartbroken because the situation and also recognize that many people do not have a clear picture about what is happening. They asked for our constant prayer and grace. They asked us to pray for peace. Important also to remember that this war is also affecting hundreds of thousands of families in the two separatist areas in Luhansk and Donbas. Thousands have been killed and thousands more are now refugees in Russian cities. The church is working with shelters and community centers providing Humanitarian AID to dozens of families. Below we are sharing some pictures of the Russian church in action supporting families from Luhansk, Mariupol and Donetsk with food and medicines.



The work our church is doing in this part of the Russian federation is in collaboration with some other Christian groups that are visiting areas severely affected by the war in the Donbas and some other areas closed to Mariupol and distribute food and medicines among the affected population. The situation is very difficult, there are restrictions to buy food and medicines and to transport them to war affected areas. The church is responding providing funds to buy food, medicines and fuel for the cars to transport the humanitarian AID.

PRAY FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION! PRAYER CHANGE THINGS!