



iCare-Ukraine Emergency Ministry Response

Mission Eurasia's Efforts During the First Eight Months of the War in Ukraine

February – October 2022

“Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.” — Psalm 107:6



Message from President Sergey Rakhuba



*“In your goodness, O God,
you provided for the needy.”*

— Psalm 68:10

It has now been more than eight months since Russia invaded Ukraine and began its onslaught of death and destruction against this sovereign nation. During this time, the human toll has been devastating. Tens of thousands of Ukrainians have lost their lives as a result of deliberate attacks on residential buildings, schools, and hospitals. Evidence of atrocities and war crimes continues to grow as reports of torture, rape, and the discovery of mass graves in Mariupol, Bucha, and Izyum come to light.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, since the beginning of the war, more than 7 million Ukrainians have been forcibly displaced within Ukraine and more than 12 million refugees have fled to neighboring countries, creating the worst humanitarian disaster since World War II.

In the midst of this darkness and despair, Mission Eurasia has been tirelessly serving the suffering people of Ukraine, bringing them the light of God’s love and compassion through our Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund and iCare-Ukraine program.

Through our refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova, multiple food distribution centers in Ukraine, our partnership with local evangelical churches throughout the region, and our network of thousands of trained School Without Walls leaders, Next Generation professional leaders, and volunteers, we have been able to help care for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of thousands of Ukrainian people. This report illustrates the many ways that your partnership with Mission Eurasia has helped touch the lives of countless victims of this terrible war during the past eight months through our iCare-Ukraine program. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and hope that this report will be an encouragement to you.

Sergey Rakhuba
President





Family Food Packages: CARING FOR THE HUNGRY

Food insecurity remains one of the greatest needs among the people of Ukraine. Since war broke out in February 2022, the humanitarian crisis has continued to worsen because of widespread food shortages and difficulty with accessing food, especially for those living in the Russian-occupied eastern and southern parts of the country. **According to the World Food Programme, one in two people living in these areas of Ukraine are food insecure as a result of the war.** That's why Mission Eurasia has focused much of its relief efforts on providing family food packages for internally displaced people in Ukraine, as well as for refugee families through our refugee assistance centers in Poland, Moldova, and western Ukraine.

Each family food package contains enough food to feed a family of four for a week and includes items such as flour, oil, rice, pasta, soup, canned meat, canned vegetables, as well as a copy of Scripture in the Ukrainian language. These family food packages are packed and delivered by teams of volunteers trained by Mission Eurasia to areas throughout Ukraine, including those on the frontlines of the war zone.

These include the city of Zaporizhzhia, the hometown of Mission Eurasia's President Sergey Rakhuba, where we have established a ministry hub to receive people from the besieged city of Mariupol. As of the end of

September 2022, more than 3,000 School Without Walls leaders and volunteers have been trained and mobilized to help with our food distribution efforts.

We are deeply grateful to all our faithful donors and ministry partners who have generously supported our efforts to provide for food for the people of Ukraine. Because of their generous investment, we were able to deliver **more than 2,000 tons of food, including more than 156,000 family food packages**, to internally displaced and Ukrainian refugee families during the first eight months of the war.

We are also grateful for our generous donors and ministry partners who have helped us raise the funds needed to purchase a **total of 20 box trucks and other vehicles** which have been used around the clock to deliver family food packages to people most in need, including those living in the war zone.



STORY OF ANASTASIA



“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’”

—John 6:35

Anastasia Zyabko, her young daughter Kira (4 years old), and her mother Yelena became refugees in May 2022. That was when their village of Stariy Saltiv in the Kharkiv region was bombed. Before then, everything was quiet, and there were no signs of war in their area.

But the bombings started suddenly and didn't stop for many days. Anastasia's family and other residents of the village were cut off from all food provisions, medical help, and even water, and couldn't leave their cellars for days.

Anastasia recounts that a missile hit one of the houses in the village, and a fire broke out. They quickly realized that the fire could spread to the natural gas pipeline nearby and could cause a massive explosion. They had to put the fire out, but there was no water in the village, so the residents started bringing sand from the playground where the children used to play, and they succeeded in putting out the blaze.

Sadly, young Kira has been traumatized by the events of this war. As Anastasia explains, **“Kira is still terrified when she hears sudden, loud noises. She shakes and screams, ‘They are bombing us!’ She had to grow up too quickly...”**

When Mission Eurasia volunteers delivered a family food package to Anastasia, she received it with great joy and appreciation, sharing, **“We have lost absolutely everything and are so grateful for any assistance that people can provide us.”**

While the Mission Eurasia team was speaking with Anastasia, Kira opened the family food box and started looking through the things that were inside. She was delighted to find a children's Bible just for her, and she immediately sat down to flip through the pages. When Kira heard them talk about God, she looked up and said, **“I also pray. I ask God for peace.”**

Bread of Life Bakeries:

BREAD FOR THE BODY AND SOUL

Mission Eurasia began its Bread of Life Bakery project in 2016 in eastern Ukraine to provide physical and spiritual nourishment for victims of Russia's first invasion in this region. This cost-effective, self-sustaining ministry model was developed not only to care for the immediate physical and spiritual needs of refugees and other displaced people, but to provide much-needed jobs for the unemployed in the region and, in turn, help to revitalize the local economy.

Bread of Life bakeries are part of Mission Eurasia's "I Care" Refugee Assistance program that delivers food, clothing, medical supplies, and other relief aid, as well as copies of Scripture, to refugees and other displaced people in Eurasia. **Each Bread of Life bakery is capable of producing at least 1,000 loaves of bread per day.** Through these bakeries, local Christian workers not only share bread with refugee families, but they also share copies of Scripture and the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, with those in need. Since 2016, Mission Eurasia has established six full bakeries and one mini-bakery in eastern Ukraine, **providing help and hope for as many as 450,000 refugees and other people in need in Ukraine.**

When Russia again invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Mission Eurasia recognized the need to establish two new Bread of Life bakeries in Lutsk and Mukachevo in eastern Ukraine. These bakeries regularly send out teams of Christian volunteers with thousands of loaves of freshly baked bread and copies of Scripture to internally displaced people (IDPs) who are struggling to survive in areas devastated by the war. In addition, the team in Lutsk regularly distributes bread and Scripture at special gatherings for IDPs at their church. There, IDPs receive encouragement from the pastor, hear the Word of God, pray, and enjoy fellowship with believers. Before leaving, they receive a loaf of freshly baked bread for their bodies and a copy of Scripture in Ukrainian for their souls.

As funds are available, Mission Eurasia plans to establish more Bread of Life bakeries in places of most need throughout Ukraine, including Kryukivshchyna, a village in the Kyiv region, Poltava, a city in the northeastern part of Ukraine with around 100,000 IDPs, and Lebedyn, a town in the Sumy region located about 25 miles from the Russian border.



STORY OF MARINA AND ARTYOM



Marina and her son Artyom are from Kharkiv. They came to a village near Mukachevo in the first weeks of the war when their hometown was under constant bombardment. Marina was worried about how the war would affect Artyom, so she had to make the hard decision to evacuate. The only person she knew in western Ukraine was her former classmate, Tanya. She reached out to her, and Tanya warmly received them in her humble, small apartment. Tanya's husband went to fight for the country, so there was room for Marina and her son.

Marina's son Artyom is nine years old. Sadly, he couldn't attend school this year, but he started online classes. More than anything, he says he **"can't wait to go back home."**

Marina has been doing her best to find food for them, but it has been very hard. As she explains, **"We are having a very hard time and struggling to make ends meet. There is no job and hardly any humanitarian aid."** So, when she learned about one of Mission Eurasia's food and bread distributions, she came with Artyom. They were so happy to receive the precious gift of food, especially warm, freshly baked bread provided by one of Mission Eurasia's Bread of Life bakeries. More importantly, they received a copy of Scripture in Ukrainian—the spiritual bread they would need to sustain them through their hard times.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

—Matthew 25:35

Providing Shelter:

CARING FOR THE HOMELESS

Homelessness has become another unavoidable and harsh consequence of the war in Ukraine. More than 7 million Ukrainians have lost or have been forced to abandon their homes within the country, leaving them without protection, comfort, warmth, and other basic needs. **More than 12 million Ukrainians**—half of whom are children—left the security of their homes in Ukraine and fled to neighboring countries without any idea of where they would find shelter.

To help meet this basic need facing vulnerable refugee families, Mission Eurasia staff and volunteers have

been working tirelessly through our refugee assistance centers in Poland (Krakow and Warsaw) and Moldova (Chisinau). Because of your generous support, since the start of the war, we have been able to **provide housing assistance to 11,163 refugee families**. Within Ukraine, Mission Eurasia has been working with local evangelical churches to receive displaced families and help them find places to stay for extended periods of time. As the cold winter months approach, the need for temporary housing for displaced and refugee families will become even more critical.



STORY OF ELENA

Elena from Mykolaiv was one of the first refugees to come and stay at the Church Without Walls (CWW) refugee assistance center in Chisinau, Moldova. She came to Moldova with her two grandchildren. Her daughter (the children's mother) and son-in-law stayed behind in Ukraine.

Elena didn't know anyone in Moldova when she and her grandchildren arrived, but they were warmly welcomed by a Mission Eurasia team and were offered accommodations at the church.

Although she had not attended church in Ukraine, Elena was touched by the kindness and generosity of the people at this church, and she wanted to learn more about God as a result. So she started attending church on a regular basis along with her grandchildren.

Like many other refugees who were being helped, Elena wanted to be useful, so she started volunteering to help with Mission Eurasia's iCare project at the church. Now she oversees the distribution of food at the church's tent. While Elena is providing food to other refugees like herself, her grandchildren are doing their schoolwork online at the church. Although it's very hard for Elena and her grandchildren to be away from their home in Ukraine and their loved ones, they are very grateful to all of the volunteers at Mission Eurasia's refugee assistance center in Moldova who have provided them with safety, shelter, food, and hope for the future.



Summer of Hope Bible Camps:

CARING FOR THE YOUNGEST VICTIMS OF WAR

It is believed that the war in Ukraine is creating an entire generation of traumatized children. Close encounters with death and destruction during the past eight months have already devastated millions of young lives. To help bring hope and healing to these innocent victims of the war in Ukraine, Mission Eurasia organized **344 special Summer of Hope camps** this past summer in Ukraine, Poland, and Moldova. These camps took a variety of forms, including day camps, weekend camps, week-long camps, and family camps. At camp, each refugee child experienced God's transforming love, enjoyed nutritional food, engaged in games and sports, and received special trauma counseling and care by volunteer trauma counselors trained by Mission Eurasia. In addition to participating in special faith-building activities, each child received a special copy of Scripture in Ukrainian to read and share with others when camp was over.

Because of the generous support of our donors and partners, a total of **21,540 hurting refugee children** were able to attend Summer of Hope camps in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine during the summer of 2022, and **3,400 of these children made decisions to receive Christ** as their personal Savior. We are truly grateful for the outpouring of love and generosity from our supporters that made these camps possible and that have started the process of restoration and healing for Ukrainian children traumatized by the war in their homeland. To see the impact that our Summer of Hope Bible camps have made on the hurting children of Ukraine, please visit this link: <https://youtu.be/EddxtMvDJ18>.



STORY OF KATYA

Katya, 16 years old, and her family underwent a terrifying ordeal as they escaped their city which was under relentless Russian attack. As Katya shared, “The day we were leaving, the rockets were flying non-stop. We literally drove over corpses. We saw many dead bodies lying around, dozens of them, and many body parts scattered around...” After driving for some time, they arrived in the city of Chernivtsi and were given accommodations at the Church of Grace, which was holding a summer camp for displaced children. Local church workers then shared, “When we met Katya’s family for the first time, they all looked frightened. Katya sat next to her father with her eyes looking at the floor. It was as if she was reliving all the experiences again and again. Their skin was white and had many wounds. We asked them why their skin was so white, and they said it was because they had lived in the basement for over a month.”

When Katya’s family arrived, summer camp leaders met them and started building a friendship with them. They invited Katya to the summer camp that was taking place soon.

When Katya first started camp, she was sad and filled with fear. But everything started to change the next day when sports, team games, and evening gatherings began. At camp, Katya heard more and more about the Good News and that God loves her.

Spending time at summer camp impacted Katya’s life in many wonderful ways. As she shared:

“When I went to the camp, I was scared and lonely, and I felt sad for my parents. But during my time at camp, I found myself in another world where there was only peace and love. I heard for myself the truths that I had never heard before. I was impressed by the stories about the creation of the world. This prompted me to think and start looking for the Truth.”

Katya then started attending youth meetings at the church.

By the end of the camp, there was not a trace of the previously frightened teenager. Katya’s mother noticed those changes, too. She was overjoyed to learn that the church would be holding another camp for younger children, so she signed up Katya’s brother as well.

Before going to the camp, Katya planned to leave Ukraine. But for now, she has decided to stay in Chernivtsi and even submitted documents to enroll at Chernivtsi State University.

In the end, Katya concluded: ***“I won’t say that the camp turned my life upside down, but it definitely had a powerful impact on it, and I am sure that I will never be the same!”***



Medical Ministry:

CARING FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED

In addition to providing urgently needed food for displaced Ukrainians and refugee families, Mission Eurasia's iCare-Ukraine program has focused on providing medical care for the people of Ukraine. Since the beginning of the war, there has been a huge shortage of available medicine, including common over-the-counter medications. But through our partnership with the Association of Christian Medical Workers (ACMW), an extensive network of around 1,000 young Christian medical professionals that our Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI) helped to launch, we are helping to meet this need.

Today, the ACMW is actively working throughout Ukraine to procure and distribute medicine, medical equipment, and supplies, including in regions where war is most active. As a result of our partnership, the ACMW is providing medical supplies for the sick and injured, as well as for medical clinics, which are treating wounded soldiers. In addition to medical supplies, these young Christian medical workers also share copies of Scripture and Christian literature and the message of the gospel with those in need.

Recently, the ACMW had a need for a refrigerated box truck that would allow them to transport medicines to the neediest communities in Ukraine's war zone. We are so grateful to our generous supporters who responded immediately to this need, and provided the funds needed to purchase this special refrigerated vehicle.

So far, through your prayers, and partnership, the ACMW has assisted **more than 200,000 people** with medical care, counseling, and the distribution of Scripture, and has provided more than 130 tons (260,000 pounds) of medicine to the suffering people of Ukraine.

Here is one example of how Christian healthcare workers from the West and other countries in Eurasia have come together with members of the Association of Christian Medical Workers to help bring physical and spiritual healing to the wounded in Ukraine.

In May 2022, a team of Christian doctors from Kazakhstan and America came to Ukraine to provide assistance to internally displaced persons from the war zone. Bakytzhan, one of the doctors from Kazakhstan, shared his reflections about this partnership:

"The Mission Eurasia team invited us to come and serve alongside a group of young Christian doctors in Ukraine [from ACMW] in their ministry, and we agreed. It was very important for us to help the people of Ukraine with our professional skills, but it was just as important to show our support and tell them that we love them with the love of Jesus.

"Our team raised funds and bought a large supply of medicine. Many people in Kazakhstan willingly donated when they heard where we were going.

(Continued on next page)





“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

— Psalm 147:3

Medical Ministry: **CARING FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED**

“In Ukraine, at one point we went to a remote village in the western part of the country and spent two days there. The Baptist church in this village received more than 100 refugees from Mariupol, the town that Russian forces had devastated.

So, we provided them with assistance related to the exacerbation of chronic diseases, shell shock from the blast waves, and our psychologists provided counseling assistance together with church leaders, who prayed for people.

“While there, I was approached by a woman who lost her home and received a serious back injury during shelling. The worst thing was that she had almost completely lost her will to live.

“For two days, my colleagues and I examined her and suggested the best treatment for her. After we left, I continued to provide consultations for her online and, by the beginning of fall, I saw very clear positive changes.

“We ended each of our consultations with a prayer for her life and health. This woman is not only able to walk on her own now, but she has also found work in the village where she found refuge.

“A week ago, the church in this village celebrated the Feast of the Harvest (gathering of the fall harvest) and several people were baptized during this holiday. My patient was one of those people, for which I am very grateful to God.”

Counseling Ministry:

CARING FOR THE TRAUMATIZED AND BROKEN-HEARTED

Psychological and emotional trauma is one of the most heart-breaking consequences of the war in Ukraine. Ukrainian refugees and displaced people, including many children, have witnessed the horrors of war firsthand, and are suffering great emotional distress as a direct result. That's why, from the beginning of the war, Mission Eurasia has been committed to ministering holistically to the Ukrainian people by developing a special pastoral care and counseling component to help bring comfort and hope to traumatized individuals and families.

Through your generous support, we have addressed this great need for emotional support in several ways. First, through our Next Generation Professional Leaders Initiative (NGPLI), we have trained and deployed a network of professional and volunteer counselors to work with refugees who come to our refugee assistance centers in Poland and Moldova. During the first eight months of the war, we estimate that these counselors have provided emotional care and support for an estimate **49,540 vulnerable refugee mothers, children, and the elderly.**



To help bring much-needed emotional support for displaced and suffering people within Ukraine, Mission Eurasia has provided training, encouragement, and **funding for 500 pastors in Ukraine whose churches are part of the Baptist Union of Ukraine.** These pastors have demonstrated great courage and commitment as they continue to lead their churches in Ukraine, providing both spiritual and emotional care for their congregations in the midst of this devastating war. Through our partnership, we are providing support for these church leaders who are on the frontlines of ministry in Ukraine.

Mission Eurasia has also focused on efforts to mobilize church planting for Ukrainian refugee communities outside of Ukraine. During the past eight months, we were able to organize a church-planting conference for **120 potential church planters from Poland, Moldova, and other countries.** Through this event and other initiatives, we hope to catalyze the planting of new churches, which will be able to care for the long-term spiritual and emotional needs of suffering Ukrainian refugees.



STARTING THE JOURNEY OF HEALING

Don Parsons, director of Mission Eurasia's ministry to Ukrainian refugees in Poland, and his wife Esther, Mission Eurasia's refugee ministries coordinator, share this story of a young traumatized refugee boy who began his journey of emotional healing at our refugee assistance center in Warsaw, Poland:

"We met a grandmother and her five-year-old grandson who were from the devastated city of Mariupol at our refugee center this spring. Esther and I had been praying for Mariupol because of the constant bombardment and the onslaught of the Russian army.

'The grandmother spoke with Esther for a long time, sharing her concern that her grandson had 'seen things he should never have to see in his life.' She asked that he meet with someone to help him overcome the trauma.

The next day, Antoinette, a trained Christian psychologist who had served as a missionary in Eurasia for the last 26 years, met with the little boy, marking the beginning of a journey of healing. Antoinette sat down with the little boy and gave him some playdough. While he was playing with the playdough, she gently and lovingly started asking him questions about what he had seen and experienced, and he started sharing about shootings, dead bodies on the street, and other traumatic events. Antoinette knew that sharing these experiences was the first step on a long journey of healing, and this little boy had taken that step.

She then encouraged the little boy and his grandmother by sharing the truth of God and His steadfast love, and giving them copies of Scripture in Ukrainian. The very next day, the little boy and his grandmother had gone onto their next destination, but we know that **God used this opportunity to start a journey of healing in their lives.**

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

—Romans 12:21



Providing God's Word:

CARING FOR THE LOST AND HOPELESS

The brutal war in Ukraine has shattered the lives of millions of innocent people, bringing many to the depths of human despair. Yet we know that God and His Word provides the only true eternal hope that these suffering people so desperately need. That's why Mission Eurasia has focused much of its efforts during the past eight months on publishing and distributing hundreds of thousands of copies of various Scripture versions and Scripture-based literature in the Ukrainian language. These copies of Scripture have been included in each of the family food package that we have distributed to needy displaced and refugee families, including some **200,000 refugee families** who have received help through our refugee assistance centers.

These Scripture versions include Gospels of John in the Ukrainian and Russian languages, New Testaments in Ukrainian, and various versions of the Bible for children and youth in Ukrainian. Altogether, we have printed **1,833,793 copies of Scripture** and have distributed 789,454 copies during the first eight months of the war.

Scripture-based publications include specially designed prayer booklets in Ukrainian (Molitvoslov) and devotionals for children and teens in Ukrainian and Russian. Altogether, we have printed and **distributed 897,701 copies of Scripture-based publications** during the first eight months of the war.

Denis Gorenkov, Mission Eurasia Field Ministries executive director, shares this inspiring story of how God's Word has impacted the life of a displaced Ukrainian woman in the town of Mykolaiv named Tatiana:

"Tatiana listened to the sermon I was preaching very attentively. When I said that Jesus touched people, even the untouchable, (as a sociologist, I've read research on the impact of touch on people), I noticed that her face lit up. She came up to me afterward and shared that it was the second time in her life to be in church. Tatiana told me that she was also a sociologist, and it meant so much to her to meet another sociologist in church.

"The first time she came to church was to receive our iCare family food package. As she shared, 'My apartment suffered badly due to shelling, so I now live with people who share their place with me. I always try to help them with food, so that was why I came to receive assistance.'

"Along with food, Tatiana received a New Testament, and this Book started changing her life right away. This was her second time in church, and this time she came with the only goal of hearing God's Word. 'I am genuinely grateful to the people who printed this Book and gave it to me. After reading Scripture, praying, and coming to church, I share what I read with my neighbors, friends, and colleagues. I want them to hear each word from this Book and I pray that they would receive Jesus the way I did it. During the war, each minute is precious.'

"Please pray for Mission Eurasia's outreach ministry in Mykolaiv and the life and ministry of this wonderful lady, Tatiana, a new disciple of Jesus Christ."



Mission Eurasia's Response to the War in Ukraine 2022



Overall Impact and Conclusion

As the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:3-5: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Thank you, dear friends, for your compassion, generosity, and faithful partnership in the gospel that has enabled Mission Eurasia to directly impact at least one million internally displaced Ukrainians and Ukrainian refugees during the past eight months through the ministries described in this report. Your support has allowed our School Without Walls leaders, Next Generation professional leaders, volunteers, and national churches to reach thousands of devastated Ukrainian families during the darkest moments of their lives. Thank you for helping us provide a piece of bread for the hungry, medicine for the sick, counseling for the traumatized and broken-hearted, and a copy of Scripture for those without hope. To see how your partnership has impacted the lives of thousands of suffering Ukrainian people, please visit this link:

<https://youtu.be/8fd9bRF7W-o>.

While your help has been vital during the first eight months of the war, the needs are still enormous and our emergency response in Ukraine will continue, so your continued faithful support is crucial for the future. We are all praying for the war to end soon, but we know when it finally does, there will be an enormous amount of work to do to help restore families, churches, communities, and an entire nation. Once again, thank you for partnering with Mission Eurasia to bring help and hope in the name of Jesus to the devastated people of Ukraine.

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