



EURASIA NORTH FIELD REPORT:

Greetings dear Partners in Ministry. We have been somehow quiet along the last few weeks. In this short report we will share with you about the situation of the church going through the war in Ukraine as well as the ministry our Russian team is doing to support war victims going in the opposite direction.

The situation in Ukraine is still very difficult for the people. The war is entering its sixth month and is now in what is called a war of attrition, meaning that the armies are somehow holding their positions, bombing each other with no advance. The Ukrainian army is trying to retake some of the areas in the South, especially around Kherson Oblast. Bombing continues causing much destruction in urban areas and taking hundreds of civilian lives on both sides.

The latest report of the United Nations says the number of Ukrainian people now living in other European and American countries is more than five million while another seven million have been forced out of their homes and communities and are now Internally displaced within Ukraine. The flux of people leaving Ukraine through the Polish, Moldavian and other European borders has decreased considerably, but still our Nazarene Teams at these borders are still coming to train stations to connect and to help people leaving or returning to Ukraine.

We continue working closely with our church leaders on both sides as they continue navigating this very difficult situation because of the war. Most people have lost their jobs, especially in the cities and in rural areas where the war has affected their daily lives, and this makes it necessary to support many needy families with food packages and hygienic products. For the last six months the Church of the Nazarene through NCM has been responding to the crisis, working with pastors and leaders to provide humanitarian support for the remaining Nazarene families living in the Ukrainian communities around the churches and beyond. The ministry has also been partnering with other organizations to coordinate the distribution of food, Care Crisis Kids, Clothing, and Medicines in dozens of affected communities. Thanks to the work of NCM in coordination with other partners and friends, we are importing more than 2000 packages of food and hygienic products from Poland to Ukraine to be distributed among the local churches and communities.

In regards to our Ukrainian church leadership, many of our pastors are now refugees in other countries. We don't know if they will return after the war. Most of our churches are now under the care of small groups of committed members that are taking care of the facilities. We need to keep them in our prayers even though you may not know them; please pray and intercede for these faithful Nazarene remnants, for their safety and protection.

Last week we had an important conversation with our Russian team and they have been doing their best in spite of current limitations to help people running in the opposite direction from the Donbas region. The team has been driving to some of the most affected cities identifying and supporting the neediest families. They have identified four important areas of need:

One is to help the elderly to repair the windows of their homes and apartments. This is very critical since Winter is coming and the people are suffering a severe lack of basic services such as water, electricity, food and medicines. All city services have been destroyed.

Another way of helping is to assist families to migrate to Russian territory and try to find shelter. These families lost their homes and belongings because of destruction from the bombings. Together with other evangelical churches they are identifying Christian families who could host these families during winter as well as shelters where they can stay for the winter.

A third action the team is taking is helping these families that lost everything to migrate and join relatives in European countries. Until now they have helped several families ferrying them from the cities in the south to the border with Finland via Saint Petersburg.

An issue that requires urgent intercessory prayer is the fear and trauma situation people are going through in this crisis. Our church people are suffering from severe trauma and fears are affecting their lives. We are working with some of our Ukrainian pastors requesting them to try to find ways to travel with their families for some time of rest. We started a fund to support medical and trauma counseling for our pastors and leaders, but we think there will also be the need to provide the same to some of our church people that will need support.

In our conversation with the Russian Team, prayer was requested for the people running from the Donbas region to Russia as the only way to get out. As our people try to help them, sensitivities are to be respected. Many of the people coming from these regions are traumatized, angry and have severe issues having to run to their "enemy" land. This on one side but also on the other side still some church people and neighbors that continue approving what their government is doing. Our church leaders are navigating all this situation as we say; "with iron shoes in crystal roof" very carefully and in constant prayer.

A short testimony to share in this report is that even in spite the war and all the stress of the bombing and destruction, the church continues advancing! Our churches continue holding Sunday worship services! Where there is still a pastor, they continue working with the remaining faithful people. In churches where the pastors left, they are holding periodical prayer meetings or someone in the small remnant is taking the lead to have the church coming together.

We continue with gratitude in our hearts for the generosity of Nazarenes around the world that have been supporting the response of the Church of the Nazarene in the Eurasia North Field and especially through your donations through NCM to respond to the Ukraine Crisis.

In the next pages we are including a collage of pictures from the different activities that our churches in Ukraine have been doing to respond with Compassion to the needs of the people in the church and communities around. For security reasons we are not sharing pictures from the Russian team activities.

With blessings.

VAPHNYARKA CHURCH





ODESSA CHURCH





KISHINEV CHURCH



We want to send our words of thanks to all the people who continue praying and donating through the NCM link; <https://give.nazarene.org/donate/f/137043>

KIEV CHURCH



KAZATEN CHURCH

