



MISSIONS UPDATE

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2

THE UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

Since February, more than 25% of Ukraine's population has been displaced as a result of Russia's military attacks. Five million people have fled to other countries, the majority of which are women and children, and another 6 million people are displaced within the country. Ministries and missionaries all over the world are mobilizing resources to aid relief efforts for this massive humanitarian crisis. The Missions Board wants to share some highlights from our supported missionaries so you can see how our financial contributions fit into the The Great Commission and pray accordingly.

UNITED WORLD MISSION - THE BERNARDS & PASCHALLS

John Bernard, President of UWM since 2002, is leading his organization to mobilize resources to respond to the unfolding crisis in Eastern Europe as they experience a massive "tsunami" of refugees, spilling into Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Moldova. UWM has shared traumatic accounts of Ukrainians witnessing carnage and destruction, of losing everything, the fear instilled by listening to endless bombing and missile strikes. Though safe harbor is the immediate emergency for most, it will be followed closely by the daunting challenge of ongoing survival with limited to no resources. Matt Paschall's work leading the Refugee Highway Network has positioned him to be able to offer direct support from his home in Budapest, only 3 short hours away from the Ukrainian border. Whether bringing supplies into Ukraine, connecting various refugee ministries with local church partners, ministering and equipping other individuals, helping to raise needed funds, or housing frightened refugee families in his home, this challenging situation offers the opportunity to bear witness to God at work and to share with others, both believers and unbelievers, the love of Christ.

TRANS WORLD RADIO

EGCC provides financial support to retired TWR missionaries, Alex and Fran Knauss, who have shared about the plight of refugees in past correspondence. TWR recently shared an update from the front lines, where they offer evangelical radio broadcast in both Ukrainian and Russian languages. People want to hear the Gospel and are attending prayer meetings. They are panicked and in desperate need of Jesus.

APRIL 2022

MISSIONS
UPDATE

EAST GLENVILLE
COMMUNITY CHURCH



REFUGEES AND THE MISSION FIELD

The Bible is clear that God has a heart for the refugee! In both the Old and New Testament, passages tell of God's people being uprooted and forced to live in foreign lands, in many cases facing ongoing persecution. Jesus and his family were forced to flee their home and a cruel ruler when he was very young. He taught his followers it pleased him when they helped the hungry, the stranger, those rejected and cast aside, particularly when no one was watching.

Several of EGCC's active and retired missionaries work/worked directly with displaced peoples all around the world, while others work on programs to reduce the language barriers to delivering the Gospel to those whom God has sent to hear it. The devastation and vulnerability experienced from having no home, no job, and no means is overwhelming. Being disconnected from everything they know brings people to a place where hard questions are asked about their existence and what the future holds. In this state of spiritual poverty, when there is nothing concrete to hold onto, may be the time the Holy Spirit opens the door.

But if there is no one there to tell them where the answers are found, where will they turn? That is why it is so important to build ministry networks that can share resources and equip missionaries and volunteers to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Refugees that have accepted Christ as their Savior are not only zealous in their newfound faith, they are often enthusiastic about building God's Kingdom and compassionately ministering to other refugees.

A special collection was taken for Samaritan's Purse back in March to aid in relief efforts. Additionally, the Missions Board recently contributed \$500 to United World Mission's European Migrant Crisis Relief Fund. The use of these funds is directed by Ukrainian staff.

How Can We Pray?

- Pray for peace and an end to violence and tension
- Pray for the displaced Ukrainian families and their safety
- Pray for the safety of believers in Ukraine and Russia
- Pray for religious freedom to worship Jesus in both countries
- Pray for the missionaries that are directly and indirectly involved
- Pray for the pastors who are responding to the immense need
- Pray for cooperation between ministries and church leaders
- Pray for additional resources and funds to help meet the need
- Pray for emergency relief and later long-term restoration efforts

How Can We Contribute Resources?

Haven't had the opportunity to make a special contribution but feel called to help? Online donations can be made to UWM at this web address, provided by Matt Paschall: <https://uwm.org/projects/65408/>



SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP TO PRAGUE

Are you interested in a Short Term Missions Trip this summer to Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic? Pastor Mitch held a couple of meetings to gauge interest and is moving forward with a small group of people to travel abroad the first week of August, but there is still time to sign up! Participants will serve by helping to teach English to Czech students during a summer camp session, where they will be exposed to the Gospel message.

Why go on a missions trip? Here are 7 reasons to consider:

- 1) To connect with the local and global church
- 2) To exercise your faith and deepen your relationship with Christ
- 3) To gain new experiences that will shape your worldview
- 4) To meet new people and gain new friendships
- 5) To help churches make a lasting impact in their community
- 6) To follow The Great Commission to expand the Kingdom of God
- 7) To practice new ways of sharing the Gospel

Short-term missions trips build Christ-centered community and create an opportunity to seek God in a different way. From the initial prayers about participating, to serving alongside your fellow believers, to raising support, to navigating a different culture - they are all opportunities to practice a missional mindset, get out of your comfort zone, and get a tiny taste of what it's like to serve in full-time ministry. It is a valuable experience!

How Can You Offer Prayer Support?

- Pray that conditions in Prague remain as stable as they are now despite the conflict in Eastern Europe
- Pray that sufficient outside financial support will be raised by each person to supplement existing funding
- Pray that travel booking goes smoothly for the Missions Team as details get worked out and that the team travels safely
- Pray that those participating will ignite a passion for serving Jesus that is contagious
- Prayer that the Missions Team is a blessing to the Czech ministry

"FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN."

MATTHEW 25:35