

UKRAINE UPDATE #9: *A SUMMARY OF WHAT HAS BEEN SENT IN 2014*

As the old year is about to end and a new year begins I want to give you a quick summary of what has been accomplished with the Lord's help in relief efforts in Ukraine's war traumatized year of 2014.

- ✓ The totals are amazing.
- ✓ The impact that the Lord's Church is making is obvious.
- ✓ The cooperation and ease in shipping/distribution containers to Ukraine is unbelievable.
- ✓ The need grows greater every day.
- ✓ The commodities are available but we need help in paying for the containers. Distribution is in the Name of the Lord and His Church.
- ✓ The displaced people (refugees) from Russia's invasion in east Ukraine is approaching 2+ million!
- ✓ The reign of anarchy in Donetsk, Lugansk and Crimea is criminal and reaching a disastrous scale.

A CONTAINER FROM GERMANY & NORWAY!

One of the more amazing aspects of our efforts is the developing connection with other nations that are willing to help Ukraine and have given us opportunity to distribute commodities through the Lord's Church to those displaced, wounded, hungry and vulnerable. We have already shipped a container of food and household supplies from Germany and a container of medical supplies and equipment from Norway. We secured, transported, and distributed both of these for \$4,000.00 each! (The Norway container was actually \$4,070.00). These shipments weighed more than the containers we are allowed to ship from America and the shipments took less than two weeks to get into Ukraine. The total weight of these two containers was 77,360 pounds! I have sent previous updates on these two containers so for more information look back on the updates and mission trip reports.

I have been informed that we have another container from Germany and another from Norway available to us. These are both full of medical supplies that are critically needed in Ukraine. At this point I am waiting on an inventory list and a final price quote on transportation but I have been told the cost will be about the same as the previous containers.

I have also been told that there are more European nations willing to partner with us in our efforts to deliver relief items—they have read reports that validate the integrity and equality of our operations. Some of these are amazed that the Lord's Church is willing to coordinate such a massive effort. Throughout Western Europe the Lord's Church has made an impressive impact.

A CHILLING MEDIA REPORT

Note: Here is a media report detailing the situation in eastern Ukraine. The same situation as described here exists in the whole of Ukraine except for the bombs and bullets and the rule by the anarchists. A recent report from the UN states that the internally displaced people (IDPs) inside Ukraine, because of Russia's invasion and support of the pro-Russian terrorists, are approaching 2+ MILLION! Many of these have moved westward and have stressed the towns and villages—there is a great need for food and clothing. Many of those who thought they would go to Russia and find the utopia and warm welcome promised by Putin are returning to Ukraine—they did not want to go to Siberia and they were not welcomed! A basic fact about eastern Ukraine is revealed in the following article—life's existence is approaching a most difficult point.

UKRAINE'S BLOCKADE ON BREAKAWAY EAST FORCES TOUGH CHOICES ON REBELS

In self-styled "people's republics" in eastern Ukraine the arrival of winter means hardship for civilians as coal and food are in short supply. More than 1,000 people have died since a Sept. 5 cease-fire was signed by Russia and Ukraine.

As temperatures plunge across eastern Ukraine, pro-Russia rebels in this coal-mining village face two major challenges: Feeding schoolchildren and pensioners, and keeping homes supplied with fuel...

It won't be easy. Much of this breakaway region is deeply scarred by a 10-month-long conflict that has destroyed public infrastructure, houses, and many of the region's mines and factories. The UN estimates that more than 4,700 have died in eastern Ukraine, including over 1,000 since a cease-fire was declared on Sept. 5...

(The village) Komunar has changed hands – and paid a heavy price. From mid-August to late-September, Ukrainian Army and militia units were based there. Rebels bombarded the village daily with heavy artillery, and eventually forced out the Ukrainian forces...

When (Pro-Russian) rebel commander, Viktor Gusyov, arrived in the village on Oct. 30 to take charge, he was shocked by the conditions. Nearly 40 percent of the village's buildings were destroyed or damaged. A third of the village's 2,500 residents had evacuated. Shell-shocked families were living in houses with plastic for windows or only half a roof. There was no electricity or water and dwindling food stocks...

Since then, things in Komunar have deteriorated further. The lights and water are back on, but residents here – about two-thirds of whom are pensioners – are quickly running out of food and money...

The UN warned this week that civilians are living in a potentially "dire" situation as cold temperatures set in and daily essentials run short...

"Basically, no one has any money, so no one can buy food or coal," Gusyov says...Coal is a critical commodity because many houses and apartments individually burn coal to heat their homes and don't have central heating. For a single-family home this requires roughly three metric tons of coal for winter, which many families can't afford...

The region still has plenty of coal in the ground, both the type used for home stoves and for heavy industry, but many mines are damaged and have yet to be repaired. And even if rebels can revive the industry, it's unclear who would buy coal from an unrecognized republic...

"Four of our seniors died last month. Officially, they marked them as having heart attacks. But I believe they died of hunger," the commander adds...aid groups are handing out food, medicine, and clothing to the most vulnerable groups—mothers with small children, invalids, and pensioners...long lines of seniors in winter coats and hats wait for handouts of macaroni, cereals, canned meats or fish, condensed milk, and sugar...Humanitarian aid has yet to make it to remote towns and villages (Pro-Russian terrorists are trying to solicit money using these scenes so their fighters can receive food and clothing but the dire needs of the villages are ignored)...

"We do what we can to survive, what can I tell you?" said Artyom Zoblotsky, whose parents' house was hit by heavy artillery in late August, wiping out its green house, coal storage, and all the windows. Today, heavy plastic covers the windows, where his parents live. "This isn't ideal, but this is how we live. We're living," he said with a shrug.

<http://news.yahoo.com/ukraines-blockade-breakaway-east-forces-tough-choices-rebels-154823302.html>

COMMUNICATION FROM YOUR BRETHREN

Here are excerpted statements from communication with our brethren giving insight to the difficulties in Ukraine...

"Winter came in place of autumn, and it is snowy and quite frosty outside...in other parts of our country there is a war going on, many thousands of people die there, and those who survive have to live in extreme poverty..."

"There is heavy artillery and there are daily shootings in different parts of town, and that destroys infrastructure and leads to deaths among civilians. Our fellow Christians who stayed tell that DNR shoots at Ukrainian army positions from living quarters..."

"They are armed with weapons from Russia..."

"There have been noted many deaths from starvation...the elderly lady we knew committed suicide in despair. In many places which are under DNR's control, people start revolting because of hunger...

"Our sisters in Christ tell us that it is not uncommon for a person walking down the street to faint because of hunger.

"They say that if it were not for that help (that brethren like you are shipping into Ukraine) they would be probably be dying of hunger right now, if not already dead. Their relatives who have also been impressed by that sincere care that you express send you their heartfelt thanks."

PERILOUS SHIPPING PROHIBITIONS

Several have asked me about shipping containers into the parts of eastern Ukraine that are not in the pro-Russian terrorists' control. Cities like Kramatorsk and Mariupol are in this condition. In communication with a shipping contact I asked about this possibility. The response I received was what I expected after receiving similar communication with sources in the DOS, DoD, and in Ukraine. Here is the reply...

"Good morning John, I have spoke to my agent this morning and she tells me this is a military area and not safe at all. She has advised that the Shipping Lines will not allow their containers to go into this area, so the only way to transport the cargo is to off load in the port and it must go on a tilt truck. The other challenge she said will be finding a driver willing to go there as many drivers will not go to this location. It's a high risk area. Tovar"

The situation is simple...eastern Ukraine (Donetsk, Lugansk) and Crimea are war zones that are recognized worldwide. It is amazing to me how some blithely shrug off this fact. Living in these zones is dangerous and, as the situation continues to devolve, the death factor in these areas will increase. It is NOT SAFE to do business in these regions. If you encourage others to do business in these regions you are placing their life in peril. Why do you think you will be invincible? Are you and your associates bullet and bomb proof? True safety will not become a reality until the Russian army leaves, the weapons and supplies of war are no longer supplied by Russia and the pro-Russian anarchists are eliminated from their command and control of these three regions.

OUR SUMMARY OF RELIEF CONTAINERS FROM SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

A quick summary of all actions for the entirety of 2014 (the containers shipped into Mariupol were sent in January before Russia's invasion and while it was still safe to ship into the Donetsk region):

Containers shipped into Ukraine during 2014: 38 total containers sent

- IVANO-FRANKIVSK (7)
- KYIV (1)
- MARIUPOL (2)
- KHERSON (1)
- KRIVY ROG (2)
- UMAN (4)
- ZAPORIZHIA (8)
- ZHITOMYR (13)

Since September we have successfully shipped in the following containers. The impressive fact to observe is that these were all funded by members of the Lord's Church who are concerned that the love of God be demonstrated in a tangible way.

NOTE: We have approvals to ship 10 more containers into Ukraine. These INCLUDE approvals to ship in food! And, we have applications for approval pending for 10 more containers. These should be approved quickly.

We have more containers from Europe that are being offered to us. We have food containers in the USA (dry food high protein mixes; rice) that are available to us. But we need funds for shipping.

Ukraine Crisis Containers & Ukraine Location	Cost of Shipping	Total weight	Value of Contents
COC#26 /ZHITOMYR 514	\$6,894.00	42,500	\$100,011.00
COC#27 /ZAPORIZHIA 514	\$7,036.00	27,563	\$250,000.00
COC#28 /KRIVY ROG 114	\$6,674.00	24,280	\$141,350.00
COC#29 /KRIVY ROG 214	\$7,161.60	22,300	\$154,350.00
COC#30 /ZHITOMYR 714	\$7,329.00	22,329	\$150,725.00
COC#31 /ZHITOMYR 614	\$7,329.00	21,078	\$136,090.00
COC#32 /IVANO-FRANKIVSK 114	\$7,115.00	24,768	\$134,315.00
COC#33 /ZHITOMYR 414	\$6,440.00	44,420	\$124,625.00
COC#34 /EU1/Germany/ZHITOMYR	\$4,015.00	46,297	\$197,566.00
COC#35 /KHERSON 114	\$6,650.00	23,627	\$293,050.00
COC#36 /IVANO-FRANKIVSK 214	\$7,220.00	19,494	\$213,810.00
COC#37 /EU 2/Norway/PAVLOGRAD	\$4,085.00	31,063	\$277,083.00
COC#38 /KYIV 114	\$160.00	23,357	\$180,195.00
COC#39 /EU3/Germany	0	0	0
COC#40 /IVANO-FRANKIVSK 514	\$7,175.00	18,450	\$134,865.00
COC#41/ZAPORIZHIA 914	\$7,097.00	17,950	\$177,525.00
COC#42 /EU4/Norway	0	0	0
Totals	\$92,831.80	409,476	\$2,665,560.00

Containers Pending Final Shipping Details: 4

#24 & #25 – Air Cargo Pallets (DHL) not shipped yet

#39 & #42—European medical supplies shipments in process

EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE IN 2015!

We will schedule container loadings as early in January as possible. We want to take advantage of the food and medical containers offered in European nations. We have been asked to ship miscellaneous medical supplies for hospitals and clinics that treat those wounded by the evils of war. We are so thankful for those who are assisting our efforts to collect and ship these relief supplies! Those living in the Searcy, AR area are invited to come to the LRI warehouse and join with others in sorting medical supplies and making sure the expiration dates are acceptable.

We still need to locate sources for dry food mixes and rice that can be loaded and shipped to the locations where the displaced citizens of Ukraine have been relocated. We are very thankful to the following organizations that have donated food supplies: A Child's Hope International; CURVES International; Orphan Grain Train Indiana; Kids Against Hunger; and Feed My Starving Children.

PLEAS FOR PARTNERSHIP CONTINUE!

Will you help?

How easy it is to “pass by on the other side” when an opportunity comes for alleviating the suffering that has fallen upon another—especially if it is far away.

He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor...He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty (Proverbs 22:9, 16).

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE SENDING...

We have TEN approvals by the government of Ukraine to ship in more commodities. BUT we do not have funds to pay to ship any more containers. So, the urgent request is for donations to help us pay for shipping containers of relief commodities into Ukraine where our brothers and sisters can distribute the commodities. Extra funds will also allow us to pay for more containers to be shipped from Western Europe into Ukraine where they arrive and are distributed in less than two weeks!

WE NEED HELP TO HELP THOSE IN UKRAINE. PLEASE SEND A DONATION TO:

**College Church of Christ/UKRAINE MISSIONS
2934 East Moore Street
Searcy, Arkansas 72143**

Thank you to all who have responded. Please think of congregations and individuals who are like-minded and willing to help us ship more containers to assist those struggling against devilish evils!

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