

UKRAINE UPDATE #13:

“PUTIN HAS SOME PATHOLOGICAL HATRED FOR UKRAINE”

The statement above is found in an email that was received from Ukraine and copied below. It expresses how those being terrorized by Russia's invasion and occupation of their nation are trying to explain the situation in some kind of logical terms.

But there is no explanation except to say it is pure EVIL.

In the midst of this evil we see the goodness of God.

We know the outcome—evil will be destroyed and goodness will triumph. But we find ourselves in the period of time waiting for God's justice to be meted. It is analogous to the situation described in Revelation 6:10 where those terrorized by evil "cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" The answer was given that retribution would come and those persecuted could rest in that assurance.

Since our last update many, many things have happened but we have been too overwhelmed to send an update. The February UKRAINE MISSIONS newsletter will list some of these developments.

The February newsletter will have a report from Ivan Skoleba. Here is a portion of Ivan's report on February's activities: *"February was a very busy and stressful month for us. A lot of people ask Church to help them with food, clothes; they tell us their horror stories, which at times seem incredible when we hear how people would hide in their basements without food and water because they were not allowed to leave the warzone. You can see fear and despair, discouragement and pain, in their eyes. We try to listen to everything they have to say and to help them as much as we can. Four recent refugees started coming to our worship services...People are very thankful to brothers and sisters from America for help and prayers. This last Sunday we gave away 60 food packages that included grains, sugar, onions 2 kilos each and a bucket of potatoes...Thanks to humanitarian aid from America that we give away in villages and small towns throughout the Region country folks collected potatoes and onions and gave to the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk with which we could help refugees"* (Ivan Skoleba, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine).

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2015:

Thus far in 2015 we have loaded and shipped SEVEN forty-foot high cube containers! Here is a summary table of these loads.

CITY IN UKRAINE	WEIGHT IN LBS	DATE LOADED	VALUE
Kramatorsk	21,126	07 January	\$155,970.00
Zaporozhye	27,847	07 February	\$185,615.00
Zhitomyr	20,141	07 February	\$171,612.00
Zhitomyr (Food)	39,600	19 February	\$250,000.00
Ivano-Frankivsk	17,261	23 February	\$170,545.00
Odessa	19,345	25 February	\$158,734.00
British Columbia, CN	52,000	26 February	\$250,003.00
	187,320 Lbs		\$1,342,479.00

Specific totals include these lines...

- ✓ Bags of clothes shipped...3,068
- ✓ Boxes of medical supplies shipped...643
- ✓ Pallets of medical supplies shipped...13
- ✓ Number of Family Buckets shipped...499
- ✓ Total number of Items shipped (some are packed pallets)...6,591

GRATITUDE FOR OUR BENEVOLENCE

Our containers are going to locations where many of Ukraine's displaced people are living. Many of these are the elderly and the orphaned. Here is a report from one of the locations where we are sending containers. This gives you insight to how great a blessing the Lord's Church is to those who are struggling against a great Evil.



Hello Dear John!

John, thanks for the photos of the loading container and shipping documents!

I have already contacted the orphanage Ananev and said that they came to the goods from America! Will prepare a project to dentistry for these children!

I will give your photos the goods and documents to our volunteers and they will engage in further distribution!

I will keep you posted!

The photograph is of I and Tatyana Koval!

She lost her sight about 10 years ago!

Now she lives in a home for the elderly! Part of the container will be transferred to these people!

Katya and I have been friends with her and took care of her!

I told her about our project deliveries of humanitarian goods! Tanya asked me for a jacket, coat and linen! She asks transmit hello to you and thank you!

This is also place for food distribution in the House for the elderly!

FOOD SHIPMENTS CONTINUE—223,920 LBS!!

Thus far we have been able to ship these amounts of food into Ukraine to help feed the elderly, those displaced, wounded, widowed, and orphaned by Russia's evil invasion and occupation. Assisting were...

- ✓ CURVES INTERNATIONAL/Colorado Country Rice Mill (Eagle Lake, TX)...42,500 lbs of rice
- ✓ A Child's Hope International (Cincinnati, OH)...44,420
- ✓ Kids Against Hunger (Elyzabethtown, IN)...42,500
- ✓ North Okanagan Valley Gleaners Society...52,000
- ✓ Thrive³⁶⁰ (Indianapolis, IN)...42,500 (estimate as this is yet to be loaded)

Food loaded from Lavington, British Columbia, Canada on February 26, 2015...

Dry sealed food packets (1,300 boxes with 12 bags per box) Total servings 960,000!!!

Value: \$250,003.00

Total Weight: 52,000 lbs

<http://novgleaners.org/>



AND HERE IS HOW THINGS REALLY ARE IN UKRAINE...

You can read the news media, listen to reports, read the internet new headlines and watch YouTube videos but still lack the personal news from brethren in Ukraine. I copied part of Ivan Skoleba's report from Ivano-Frankivsk above and that gives you a glimpse of things from western Ukraine. Below is an email from a friend whom I have been in contact with for 3-4 years. He is from a city in northeast Ukraine. We have shipped four containers into this area. This is the location where I met with a small group who were disenchanted with all organized religions and had wandered from group to group trying to find one that followed only the New Testament pattern. In that Oblast was Alex who was associated with a denominational group but was also searching for only New Testament doctrines. I received the below from Alex. He gives insight that helps you frame the current situation in Ukraine.

From: Alex
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2015 3:37 AM
To: john@kachelman.com
Subject: Reply

Dear brother John,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Thank you for your prompt reply. Yes, the situation in eastern Ukraine is very tense, to say the least. However, I can tell you with confidence that if Russia withdrew its troops from eastern Ukraine and quit providing local militants with heavy weapons, this war would be over in a few weeks. Russian propaganda has been trying to convince the world that a civil war is going in Ukraine. The fact is that there is NO civil war in Ukraine. What we have here is the so called hybrid war that Russia is waging against Ukraine.

Yes, there are some pro-Russian citizens (basically ethnic Russians) in south Ukraine, but they are definitely in the minority. There are more of them in eastern Ukraine, but there are also many Ukrainian patriots there. Right now Ukrainian patriots there are just afraid to openly speak about their views because they will be tortured and killed.

A brother in our church had been drafted and he was in eastern Ukraine for a couple months. He had many opportunities to speak with local people as well as some captives. He said about a half of those captives were Russian soldiers! And most of local militants were criminals or hobos that had been hired to fight for money. He was horrified to know how ignorant those people are. They have no access to any other source of information other than Russian TV and Russian newspapers. Some of those people actually believed they were fighting against Americans that wanted to possess eastern Ukraine. It's no joke. He said those people had bought into so many lies about Ukraine spread by Russian TV that it's virtually impossible to reason with them because they had been inoculated against the truth by the Russian propaganda.

I don't know why, but for some reason Putin has some pathological hatred for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. And he wants to destroy us as a nation. He doesn't really need our land. He wants Ukraine to be under his total control. He can't stand the idea of Ukraine becoming a prosperous, independent country. He wants us to be part of the Russian empire. Unfortunately, there are some Ukrainian citizens that have been really brainwashed by Russian propaganda. But some of those folks have been disillusioned already. Others, I believe, will be soon disillusioned too.

However, we thank God that in north Ukraine we can enjoy peace and the freedom of religion. In the Oblast here, this war has united those following Christian principles. Different ones come together at the central city square on Sundays and we all pray to God for peace in eastern Ukraine. I know that in many other cities in Ukraine many churches do the same thing. And we ask our brothers and sisters in Christ in the whole world to join us. Our only hope is in the Lord.

I quit associating with the denomination structure after discussion with you. In fact, I was quite disappointed with them.

At this time Ukraine is flooded with refugees from the Donbas region. There are quite a few of them here. Our congregation is working with children that fled from the war zone. Some of these children came from orphanages; others have lost their parents after heavy shelling. It's not easy to work with these children.

They have been through a lot and they know what we do not know—the terrors of war. Many of these kids need emotional or psychological rehabilitation. We tell them about Christ and do Bible lessons with them. We want to do Bible camps for them this summer. And this is what I would like to discuss with you in more detail in my next email. Perhaps you could give us a piece of advice. In Christ, Alex

PLEAS FOR PARTNERSHIP CONTINUE!

Will you help?

Thankfully we have been able to put together a number of containers with critical relief supplies. We have secured partial funding from some sources but not all transportation expenses for our containers are covered. The commodities in the food containers have been donated but we needed transportation costs to get the food from the points of loading to the points of distribution in Ukraine. At this time we have a container of new shoes that will ship 26,300 pairs of shoes into Kyiv where distribution to children and women will be coordinated. The shoes have been donated but we need transportation costs covered. We have containers of general relief supplies that are collected and ready to ship but we are waiting for transportation to be covered.

At this point I have TWENTY approvals to ship containers into Ukraine!! Will you, your congregation, your school, your civic clubs and your friends join with us in collecting commodities to ship into Ukraine? Resources are all around you! Recently Michael Lawson (Lenoir City, TN) went to the Knoxville Children's Hospital and found out they had 20 hospital cribs, 15-20 vital signs monitors, IV poles, and other supplies that they were willing to donate for us to ship into Ukraine! Please follow Michael's example and check in your location.

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).

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! Forward this report to others who are able to join with us and fulfill Galatians 6:10!

