

"SO THAT ALL THE EARTH MAY KNOW THE HAND OF THE LORD IS MIGHTY"

The Lord's Hand in Toretsk, eastern Ukraine

A stone memorial was set up as Israel crossed the Jordan. It was set to remind Israel of the simple truth stated in Joshua 4:24—the hand of the Lord is mighty. This illustrates the fact that throughout God's dealings with human civilization, the Almighty has always sought to reveal the divine compassion. In Deuteronomy 5:15 we are told that God has a "mighty hand and an outstretched arm." Those who recognize the divine majesty and seek a devoted life are described as those "whose hearts God had touched" (1 Samuel 10:26).

Here is an encouraging report of the combined cooperation of many that helped the "hand of the Lord" do a great work in eastern Ukraine.

The city of Toretsk, Ukraine was formerly identified as "Dzerzhynsk" while Russia's influence was still considerable. After Russia invaded and occupied portions of eastern Ukraine and Crimea, many of the Russian named towns and cities were changed to reflect the Ukrainian culture. Toretsk was one of these locations. It is a city of oblast significance in Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine. When Russia invaded the life of all Ukraine changed but especially those located near the fighting. Toretsk was one of these that suffered.

Bill and Lyuba Wharton has been involved in helping the Lord's Church in Toretsk. In fact, they invested a number of years while the city was still called "Dzerzhynsk." They have a number of connections and continue working as best they can.

Thanks to Charita Steynberg we are on a schedule to receive a number of truckloads of miscellaneous medical supplies from the Henry Schein manufacturing company. These are all new commodities and are excellent donations for medical communities all over the world (we have shipped these into Nigeria, Togo, Ukraine, and Uganda).

We received a truckload October 2020 and brother Bill contacted me about shipping the entire container into Toretsk. Later he was told there was not enough storage for the container to go there. So we arranged for it to be received by the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk and then shared with Toretsk. The process worked well and we are now receiving wonderful reports from this distribution.

Thanks to Bill and Lyuba the Lord's hand was able to touch a location in eastern Ukraine that was in desperate need of these supplies. Here is a sampling of the communication and the most recent update.

The container was loaded out of Montgomery, AL on **October 29, 2020**. We loaded 23,000 pounds and the value was \$280, 761.00!



September 8, 2020

Hi, John, we have been talking with the people in Toretsk today and there just isn't any way they can receive and handle a container. Can the container be accepted in Ivano-Frankivsk? We would love to get a few of the things for Toretsk but maybe that cannot be arranged after it arrives. I can get half of the shipping cost. Let me know how much you need. Bill

Replying to Bill's question was Ivan's assurance that the container could be received in Ivano-Frankivsk: "Hi John, of course we will do as you ask. The only thing with delivery to Toretsk we cannot provide that ourselves. It will be expensive for us. One possibility is you can mail in parts or let them hire a car themselves."

November 2020

Good afternoon, dear friends! Thank you very much for all your work. We are happy the container is on the way to Ukraine. Please see the message we have received today from the head of Toretsk Administration Vasyl Chinchyk with all the contacts. I think the main person who will communicate with you will be Dr. Sergei Halaimov. We talked with him, he sounds like he is ready for action. Praying for you all to stay safe and healthy. William and Lyuba Wharton

January 5, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters! Thank you for prayers. We finished unloading the container at 8:00 tonight. It is holidays here and no one wants to work in offices. I spent the whole day knocking on every door and at 5:00 p.m. we finally received the permission to take the shipment. Thanks to all and glory to God!



January 26, 2021

Greetings, dear brother John. We have loaded medical supplies for Toretsk today. All things are new and very good. Ruslan, a manager from this hospital in Toretsk, came to take humanitarian aid. We loaded into their truck things they had picked and besides we gave them 2 beds with mattresses from the last container. Hope, we all have done a good job. The truck will come to Toretsk on Thursday. Big thanks to you, brother for the aid you ship to Ukraine. Ruslan says that there are many COVID patients in their hospital and the aid they got - masks, sanitizers, gloves - will be of great help to them. Thank you, dear American brothers and sisters, for help. We have just received a note from Dr. Sergei, which says, "Ruslan, our manager, received the cargo for Toretsk. Delivery is on its way. We will take pics of the load as well as a video report. Big thanks for the guys - great job. When Ruslan is back, we'll give personal thanks to all".

January 26, 2021

Dear brother William, thank you for helping Ukraine, today we have uploaded medicine to Toretsk. We did everything as you asked. We also agreed with them on cooperation and support of doctors and their hospital with humanitarian aid. It was not easy, but we did it. Thank God! And thank you all for your prayers and support. We love you, may the Lord protect everyone.



January 26, 2021

Thank you, John and Ivan, you did it! The people in Toretsk are excited that the container contents are on the way. There's no telling all the good that will result! Bill

February 15, 2021

Good morning, John, and happy Presidents Day! The hospital head in Toretsk sent us this picture of cleaning supplies, protective gear, etc they shared with the local orphanage. Thank you! Bill and Lyuba

Here a YouTube posted by the Chief Doctor:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JARzZugwz6E&feature=youtu.be>

More to come!!