

18 May 2022 Reiskirchen

Dear friends,

I'm writing from a small German town far away from Ukraine. Irina is currently undergoing foot surgery in a local hospital and I'm sitting in a McDonalds eagerly waiting an update from her doctor. We were told about this clinic in Reiskirchen by our good friends that I knew very well from my Moscow university years in the 1970s. They now live in a neighboring town and invited us to stay with them after the news broke out that Russia invaded Ukraine. The clinic gave us a discount on Irina's surgery, and, thanks to your help, we can now look forward to the time when she can walk again freely and without pain. Praise the Lord and thank you for your prayers and support!

Before my update on our ministry in Ukraine, let me say a few more words about our family. Recently, Irina and I had the opportunity to see Masha and Michael in Barcelona. Michael had a work conference there and we used this opportunity to spend time together. On the



way back from Spain, we drove to Germany for Irina's surgery while Masha and Michael flew to Rochester, New York, for Katya's graduation. We are very proud of her accomplishments in one of the most prestigious analytical business schools, the University of Rochester. Of course, we are sad that we weren't able to attend her graduation, but thankful for the opportunity to watch the ceremony online. Ilya finished his first year at Harvard School of Government and took time with Nathalie to reunite with some of the family in Rochester. Please pray for Katya and Ilya as they interview with

companies and make decisions about their future work. Please also pray for Andriy who, for the last few months, has had a very difficult time fighting severe eczema. He and his fiancée Mariana live and work in Athens.

Recently, I had a short, though very challenging and emotional visit to Ukraine. Together with our partners from Integra and my old friend and new colleague Andrey, we visited Vorzel, Borodyanka, and Irpin. Only now, almost two weeks later, I can write about what I saw and experienced. It was especially tragic to learn that Anya, a young girl from Vorzel church, was killed together with her mother in March. She was only 13 years old. I knew Anya quite well as I often picked her and her grandmother up to drive them to church. Her mother did not attend church regularly, but Anya enjoyed reciting Christian poetry and Bible passages as early as kindergarten, and often showcased this passion during worship services. She was also a very talented artist. A Russian tank shot a car that carried Anya, her mother, and two other women when they were all trying to escape Bucha.



In Irpin', we spoke with two women in their late 60s, who were neighbors of Natasha, the REALIS administrator. Their houses were partly destroyed by Russian artillery. One of them was at home when her house was hit and half of it was ruined; they had to live without heat or water during the occupation. Their neighbor was killed when he went out to see if he

could get some water. His father was critically wounded but survived. Natasha's house was not destroyed but has many holes in its walls. It was surreal to see the streets I knew so well from my childhood now ruined by tanks, bombs, and rockets.



These two ladies, Ludmila and Tetyana, were very grateful when I said that we will pray for them and their neighbors. Please pray with me for them, as well as for Lubov` Ivanovna, grandmother of Anya (she didn't know about her daughter and granddaughter's death until recently).

Another dramatic story we heard was from a mother and daughter who survived a nightmare in Mariupol. I will share this story of faith, sacrificial love, and perseverance with you in the next newsletter. Please pray for Irina and Olga as they look for a place to take refuge somewhere in the UK or France (one of them speaks some French and English).

Please pray for Andrey, Sasha, Dima, and Yuri from our church, who now help REALIS and Integra with distributing humanitarian aid in many places of Ukraine. This week the 13th



truck is coming to Ukraine with food, hygienic products, generators, mattresses, blankets, and many other supplies that are crucial for the survival of many thousands of people. We also spoke with the Head of Medical National Service of Ukraine about cooperating together to help Ukrainian hospitals with necessary medical supplies. Please pray for this new project that we're aiming to launch in the next week or two.

Also, please continue praying for David. He is in a much better clinic that he can now afford after a successful fund-raising campaign (thank you, dear friends!). It is located near Kyiv and specializes on rehabilitation of the nervous system. He is slowly regaining back muscle strength and memory; however, his legs are still paralyzed, the lower part of his body is dysfunctional, and bedsores are still very bad. Yet, despite all these problems (and maybe even because of them), David had something more valuable - his renewed faith and trust in the Lord. Throughout our conversations, he continues to underline his gratitude to God for saving him and continuing to care for him. Although His doctors don't understand how he was able to survive, David knows that God was with him!



Thank you for all your prayers, friendship, partnership, and support. It is a great blessing to have friends! May the Lord bless you. With much love and appreciation,

Sergiy & Irina

PS Irina's surgery was successful, seven hours later she was able to walk out with crutches! Thank you to all who supported us with your prayers and finances.

