

Ukraine Feb- June 2022

June – our home in Bratislava, Slovakia. Preparing 3 vehicles for traveling into Ukraine (UA). The white van in our garage was driven that day by Andriy east to Kharkiv, taking in goods and helping the distribution to the most needy.

The blue one headed into the most dangerous areas in the east, taking goods and rescuing people, driven by a Ukrainian friend. We wonder if we will see it again.

The beige one on the left went on a monitoring trip, to check on the warehouses and distribution centers and to bring back reports for the donors who have provided the money for the aid. All have to take petrol with them, as it almost impossible to find inside.



Andriy (on the left) driving with a friend to eastern Ukraine (UA) to pick up goods and distribute to needy areas. The smiles on their faces don't reflect the dangers they may face. That day was Andriy's 48th birthday. He has been making these trips almost daily since Feb 24 when the war began. He misses his family who have found a temporary place to stay in Bournemouth, UK. Before the war, Andriy was a pastor. He is still pastoring in practical ways and still preaches on Sundays either in person or through internet meetings.



A load of over-the-counter medicines were delivered to this doctor who is setting up a small pharmacy distribution center, as almost all such supplies have been used up. "Normal" things like paracetamol, cold medication and bandages, have been unavailable now for several weeks. She was delighted to be able to again treat her needy patients.



"A boy from a family of 11 children is happy to get some basic food from that we brought for him in Rivne", writes Andriy.



Efficient Kharkiv Church members team unload a truck sent by Slovak Foundation Integra. Often churches are involved in the distribution networks as they are already organized and motivated to help their communities. Distribution is provided to all who need, not just to church members.



Andrej writes “These are our partners from Integra foundation. They came from Slovakia and Romania to help Ukraine with food and other humanitarian aid. Today we visited a church in Chernivtsi. And a church in Ternopil. These communities feed many refugees that fled war and now adapt to life in Western Ukraine.

We are in partnership with our Slovakian partners bringing aid to Kyiv, Kharkiv, Rivne, and Lviv. From there it goes to Irpen, Bucha, Vorzel, suburbs of Kharkiv and to Donbas. Praise God.”

“A church in Kherson region. We brought sacks of peas and flour. At night around the village lots of artillery shots. And in the morning, help arrived. Such is God's grace - help comes when a man is desperate.” Andriy



Food is being sorted in a church in Kharkiv and distributed.



Julia and Vladimir (above) together with their four children are fortunate. They left the occupied Melitopol through Vasylivka in Zaporozhye. They are heading west. They told us how hard it was to leave the occupied territory through the Chechen roadblock.



Allan and a visitor wave to the large truck which had brought goods from Slovakia to a main warehouse in UA.



Unloading aid in Lviv.



Heavy faces, hearing another devastating story of what some have suffered. Stories like this woman's as Allan describes it. . . "I encountered a mother lying in her bed in the refugee centre of the local church. She had come from Severodonetsk a few days earlier. She told, "My mistake was to go out to look for food for my family. The next thing I remembered was waking up in a hospital bed with no legs."

A civilian victim of indiscriminate shelling, we helped her to evacuate to the "safer" western part of Ukraine. Now we are trying to find a way for her to get help to begin the process of fitting prosthetic legs.

She smiled and thanked us. But I had no words."



Allan in the middle, Sergiy on the right in the plaid shirt. We appreciate your prayers for them. They are with another UA man who is organizing aid distribution in Lviv.

Before the war, Sergiy was running a seminary and Christian study center in UA. Being over 60, he can leave UA, so he travels between UA and Slovakia helping us in so many ways, in organizing distribution. His nephew David was shot in March and has a bullet in his back. We are looking for a place in a western hospital who would treat him. It's very complicated as he can not sit, so traveling would be difficult.



Aid distribution needs meticulous records, to track what has gone to which places and to which people and to provide tracking information for donors and for future trips and for government requirements.



Needs for local women and moms

Natalya is a lovely Ukrainian widowed woman who works tirelessly to help Sergiy to organize the distribution of goods. She is so thankful that her own house is still standing, and though it is not so liveable, she has gone back to live there, so that her home is not plundered. She is a key link in our chain of helpers.



Something for everyone. . .



Thank you for your prayers for Allan, Sergiy, Andriy and Natalya and so many others, involved in this chain of help.
Your prayers are also a key link in this chain to help and encourage.
May God be honored and praised.

Caulene

