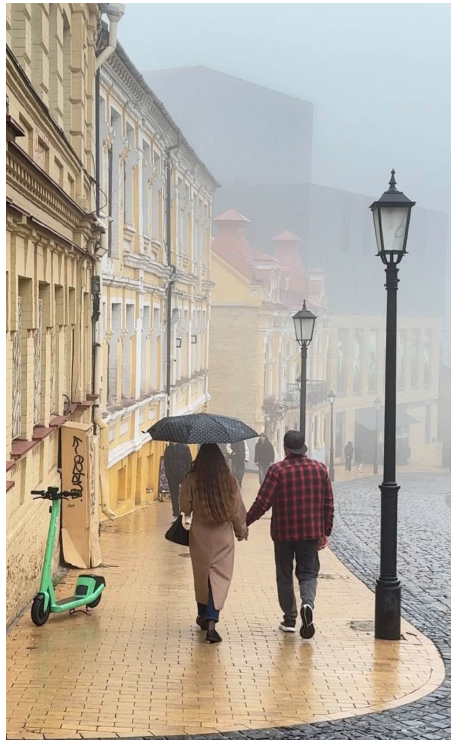




October 18, 2026

Dear Friends,

Blessings to you from Kyiv, a city of resilience and hope!

Over the past three months, life in Kyiv has changed dramatically. Our streets are often plunged into near-total darkness, and major bridges across the Dnipro River have been closed. Yet Kyiv remains a beautiful city. Its people continue to show remarkable kindness and care for one another, and children still find opportunities to play outside whenever they can.

As I began writing this letter, I heard the unmistakable sound of a jet-powered drone somewhere near my home in central Kyiv. Almost immediately, several explosions followed.

Let me share a brief episode that may help you understand what everyday life in Kyiv has become.

A few weeks ago, I was walking along a street I remember well from my childhood when a group of six or so children, probably not yet teenagers, passed me. They were laughing and excitedly talking about a drone flying overhead that had apparently just been shot down by Ukrainian air defenses. Most of them were trying to capture the scene on their smartphones when, suddenly, a piece of the drone fell to the ground just a few meters away.

For about five seconds, they froze in fear. Then, almost as quickly, they recovered and resumed laughing and filming the wreckage. This time, their commentary included a few decidedly adult swear words directed at the country that had sent these instruments of death into Ukraine.

It was a striking and heartbreaking moment—a glimpse of how war has become part of childhood in Ukraine. What should be extraordinary and terrifying has become almost routine. Yet even in these circumstances, children somehow find ways to laugh, adapt, and carry on.

Today, I would like to focus on just two things: a brief update on REALIS's recent work and preparations for a very special milestone—**the 30th anniversary of REALIS!**

There is more exciting news to share, but I plan to send another update shortly after our anniversary celebration, which will take place later this week.

REALIS: Continuing to Serve in the Midst of War

First, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who continue to support REALIS through your prayers and generous donations.

Through your faithfulness, the Lord has provided the resources needed to keep our team exceptionally busy over the past five months. Despite the difficult circumstances, we have been able to carry out several important projects, bringing practical help, healing, and hope to people deeply affected by the war.

Here is a brief overview of what we have accomplished:

- **Training those who serve others.** We trained 29 Christian counselors, 7 pastors, and 4 digital communication specialists, equipping them to provide much-needed support to people affected by the war.
- **Rest and rehabilitation for children and families.** We organized six 14-day camps, offering rest, emotional support, and psychosocial rehabilitation to 150 children and family members affected by the war.
- **Supporting military families.** In partnership with HopeHouse International (USA), we provided psychological rehabilitation to approximately 150 wives and children of Ukrainian servicemen who have been killed, are missing in action, or are being held in captivity.
- **Humanitarian assistance.** In partnership with an international Mennonite mission, we distributed food packages and other essential supplies to more than 15,000 people since the beginning of this year.
- **Helping small businesses rebuild.** Together with the Agathe Center for Entrepreneurship (Slovakia), we are providing business consulting, business plan development, and grant application support to six businesses.
- **Caring for veterans.** We recently launched a new project designed to provide social and psychological support to 150 Ukrainian veterans as they face the challenges of returning to civilian life.

Behind every number is a person, a family, and a story. We are deeply grateful that, with God's help and your support, REALIS can continue to make a meaningful difference in so many lives.

Celebrating 30 Years of REALIS!

Even amid this intense and demanding work, we want to pause to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: **30 years of REALIS's ministry, service, and impact.**

We warmly invite REALIS graduates, friends, and partners—including you—to join us for this special occasion.

Because of the increasing attacks on Kyiv by jet-powered drones and ballistic missiles, we cannot safely organize a large gathering. Instead, we plan to meet at the Baptist church on the REALIS campus, where we can comfortably accommodate 60–80 participants. We hope that many more friends and partners from around the world will join us online.

Our celebration will begin at 2:00 p.m. Kyiv time (12:00 noon in the UK and 7:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time).

We will begin with a ceremony honoring REALIS graduates and presenting diplomas and certificates. After a short break, we will look back together at the remarkable journey of

REALIS over the past three decades—remembering the challenges, celebrating God's faithfulness, and reflecting on the lives touched through this ministry.

The celebration will conclude with a modest banquet, music, and short speeches from participants, offering an opportunity to reconnect, share memories, and give thanks.

We plan to finish by 6:00 p.m. Kyiv time (11:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time), allowing everyone enough time to return home before darkness falls.

We would be delighted to have you join us online! English interpretation will be available for those who do not speak Ukrainian.

You can find more information about the anniversary celebration here:

<https://realis.org/en/30-years/>

We will also share a link for joining the event online.

An Invitation to Support This Special Celebration

As we prepare to mark this important milestone, I would also like to ask you to consider making a special donation to REALIS.

Your additional gift will help cover the modest costs of our anniversary celebration and assist participants—particularly those traveling from other parts of Ukraine—with their transportation expenses.

You can make a donation directly through our anniversary page:

<https://realis.org/en/30-years/>

Every contribution, large or small, will help us bring together people who have been part of the REALIS story and make this celebration possible, even under the difficult circumstances of war.

Most importantly, we ask for your continued prayers—for our team, for those we serve, for the safety of everyone attending, and for peace in Ukraine.

Thirty years ago, we began this journey in faith. Today, despite everything our country is enduring, we continue to move forward with faith, gratitude, and hope.

Thank you for walking alongside us, for standing with Ukraine, and for being part of the REALIS family.

With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,

Sergiy and Irina Tymchenko