

LVIV, Ukraine Update (Writing from NI.)

December 2023

Dear Fellow believers

With 22 months of unrelentless war, death, and destruction; the focus of the world and the media has swiftly moved to Israel and the unbelievable events of the Middle east. All this should and must remind every believer of the imminent return of Jesus Christ to snatch away His 'Church' and motivate us to "redeem the time" until He comes.

Life in Lviv continues although things are difficult and stressful for our many friends there and the Christians in the assembly are encouraged by the prayer of the Lord's people "far and near". They have great strength and dependence upon God and deeply appreciate the financial support they receive from the Lord's people in different countries who send funds through us. The small assembly although weak numerically continues to meet and remain steadfast in the things of God.

Ruslan and his wife continue faithfully in the Lord's work visiting many orphanages, homeless shelter, Carpathian Mountains and help some larger refugee families. They also have sent aid and food to Zaporizhzhia, Kherson while fighting continues and there is great need for clothing and food. Ruslan also includes in these parcels children's bibles, New testaments, and Gospel calendars.

Please continue to remember Vasil from Lviv who suffered leg injuries but is recovering slowly.

In October we designed a Ukrainian Gospel calendar 2024 with enormous help from brother Lawrence McHugh. We had 7,000 printed with pictures of Kiev, Lviv, Kherson and Carpathia with clear Gospel verses from God's Word. Lawrence then sent the PDF to Lubchic in Lviv, and he printed a further 4,000 for distribution in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk. We had a request for 2,000 calendars from Polish assemblies who are housing Ukrainian refugees. We had many requests from believers for calendars and literature from different parts of UK.

We also were able to place the Ukrainian calendars in 9 Faith Mission shops in NI to be taken free of charge by anyone who had contacts or knew any refugees in their areas. Ards Bible bookshop was most helpful again this year in displaying the calendars for anyone to take.

Ballyliffin, Malin, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.

In early December we were back again in Letterkenny with the refugees and with the assembly on the Lord's Day. Firstly, we visited Ballyliffin where there are approximately 140 refugees who have been living there for 18 months. Many are tired of small hotel rooms and so miss their families back in Ukraine.

We met with Allina, she was crying and distressed – she had just returned from Kiev having buried her son-in-law who was brutally killed at war.

Her daughter and little granddaughter were broken hearted. We prayed with them and commended them to the "God of all comfort." We left some sweets and chocolate for the kids and Gospel calendars. We then went to Malin where there are 25 Ukrainians staying in a small hotel. Again, we left some calendars, miniature two road charts and Gospel tracts.



Back in Letterkenny on the Lord's Day we remembered the Saviour in the morning, then at 4pm we visited a block of apartments and had a small Gospel meeting just in the kitchen.

We spoke a little from the 'miniature two road chart' and read the scriptures together. I asked a couple of ladies Oxana and Olya to read the Gospel verses from the calendar we were giving – we pray that God will bless His living Word.



Then in the evening at 7pm in the Letterkenny Gospel Hall, where over 40 gathered for the meeting. To our surprise 7 Ukrainians turned up. One young woman called Luba who we know very well agreed to interpret my message on "The Cross" from John 19. I felt it was just like being in Ukraine and then realized that God had brought these people to Ireland, and he was using us to bring them the Gospel on Irish soil – "His ways are past finding out".

During the summer we assisted Martha, 2 kids and Olessa to fly back to Ukraine to visit parents and family. Through the Lord's people we financed dental treatment for both ladies and sent funds to help with their fathers' operation. We believe Martha is saved and seems to enjoy wonderful peace with God despite her circumstances. Olessa is difficult to fathom spiritually however continues to read the Bible and is always happy to go to Gospel meetings.

In August we were involved with several Christians and Ukrainian refugees in packing 1,000 hygiene packs with Gospel tracts for soldier's serving in the war. There were 2 large vans hired and a few volunteers to drive out to the Polish/Ukrainian border where they were transferred to another lorry to be taken into Ukraine.

Longford, Mullingar, Athlone

In mid-December we spent 3 days in the Midlands of Ireland, visiting 5 different groups of refugees residing in Nursing Homes and Hotels in Longford, Mohill, Mullingar, Athlone and Lanesborough, our exercise was to leave the Gospel calendars with the Word of God clearly displayed on pictures of the different cities of Ukraine. These were very well received, and we leave the results with God, whose promise we hold fast to "It shall not return unto me void" ... and "The entrance of thy words giveth light" ....

In Mohill we had an interesting visit when a young girl in her teens called Daria interpreted for us and with a nice number of refugees gathered – we spoke a "word" in the Gospel, with excellent attention.

Then came a very interesting question to Agnes and I – "what motivates you to travel and visit Ukrainian refugees in Ireland. Well of course that opened the conversation and I proceeded to give testimony to God's love, mercy, and grace in my salvation.

On the Lord's Day we enjoyed fellowship with the saints at Longford and in the evening preached the Gospel in Billis where a nice number of unbelievers gathered to hear the Gospel. The little room in the community centre was filled with many locals, and the assembly gave their full support. On our last day, with George Fisher's preparation and help we were introduced to a large hotel the "Creggan Court" in Athlone to find 150 refugees including children and a few men. We pray the calendars, tracts and New testaments will be used of the Lord to bring blessing to these souls.



We sincerely thank all for their prayers and practical support during 2023 and may you know God's blessing this Christmas and trust that 2024 will be peaceful and purposeful.

Warmly in Christ

Edmund & Agnes

*Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

Jeremiah 23:29