

## GLOBAL IMPACT



### CRY OUT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER

By Missionary Tammy Swailes

*I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.*

*Psalm 17:6 (NIV)*

February 24, 2022, was a day seared into the minds of Ukrainians, the day the full-scale invasion of their country by the Russians occurred. Eight years prior the neighbor had become the aggressor, taking land and waging battles. February 24, 2022, the neighbor became a terrorist, a looter, and an executioner.

A year in, the war has literally changed the trajectory of Ukrainians' lives. People speak of their lives before the war and since the war. Today, millions live as refugees waiting for safety to return home. Millions of others are internally displaced, having fled the bombings with little more than what they could carry. Many of them have nothing to return to even when the land is free from war. Others live in occupied areas waiting to be freed.

Although occupied territories make up only 17 percent of Ukrainian land, it is equal in size to the state of Mississippi.



Alarms ring throughout Ukraine whenever there is a threat of incoming missiles or air attacks. Depending on where you live, the alarms can ring multiple times daily or once every few days. When the alarms ring, school children go to bomb shelters and businesses stop working. The threats are serious, and precautions must be taken. The threat of danger may last thirty minutes, or even three to five hours. They disrupt daily life, learning, movement, sleep, and the economy. The issues caused by war certainly reach beyond where the bombs have fallen.

And yet God has not abandoned Ukraine! The Church is alive and well and working! Undeniably, the church is on the frontlines of the spiritual battle. Prayer has become a focal point for churches and small groups. An Open Bible church for Ukrainian refugees in the Netherlands has opened and ministers to many people. Open Bible has several chaplains serving throughout the country. In Lutsk, Open Bible Field Director Oleksandr Rudynets' church has a weekly service for the internally displaced. There the gospel is preached. People come to Jesus and are also given practical help. Some people from that group also study INSTE!

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We are announcing our Global Harvest offering for 2023, our special conference for missionaries and field directors that will take place at Rejuvenate 2023!! To find out more and learn how you can participate in this special offering, go to:

<https://www.openbible.org/Rejuvenate23>.



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Pastor Oleksandr and his team work tirelessly to serve vulnerable people throughout the country. Over the last few months, they have distributed 500 ceramic gas convectors, helping people with no electricity or gas keep warm through the cold and harsh winter.

In the last month, Oleksandr and his team distributed nearly 20 tons of food to seaside communities in the south, to those under constant bombing in the east, and to needy Open Bible churches throughout the country. All our churches, although facing difficulties themselves, are involved in helping relieve the suffering of their fellow Ukrainians.

In the first year since the full-scale invasion, nearly 5,000 missiles, 3,500 air strikes, and another 1,000 more strikes by drones have been recorded. Behind each strike is a story of a person whose life has been impacted. It has been a very difficult year for Ukrainians, but we continue to cry out to God in prayer, knowing He will answer (Psalm 17:6).



I am grateful to be able to stand with Ukrainians in their darkest hours to continue to disciple and train leaders through INSTE as well as minister to both the spiritual and physical needs of people in our communities. You share in helping Ukrainians through your giving and prayer.

We're so grateful for your partnership.

Missionary Birthdays		&	Anniversaries	
<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>April</b>	
02 – Connie Cox	07 – Justus Morgan	19 – Del Brown	19 – Justus & Michaela	
29 – Roger Cox	12 – Bill McConnell	25 – Vince McCarty	<b>June</b>	
10 – Kayla Welch	15 – LyHong Mak	27 – Nelson Gaitan	13 – Vince & Lois	
	20 – Patti Kopp		14 – Roger & Connie	
	22 – Tom Moore		15 – Drew & Jessica	
			22 – Andy & Nancy*	

\*Last name withheld for safety reasons.

To donate by mail to the Ukraine, send a check to:  
 Global Missions, 2020 Bell Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315, Memo: [Ukraine Relief](#)  
[globalmissionsobc.org](http://globalmissionsobc.org)