



January/February 2025

In Ukraine, the desire for the fighting to stop and the war to end is growing. Winter is setting in, the nights are long, the power cuts are frequent, air raid sirens wail day and night. Ukrainians are exhausted, traumatised and grieving.



It has been a challenging year for many reasons - not just the devastating impact of the Russian war in Ukraine but also that we (DHM trustees) are a small group of volunteers with limitations to our skillset and availability (see page 8).

However, thanks to all of your efforts and support, Dnipro Hope Mission has made a huge difference to many lives this year. We have estimated that many thousands of the poorest and most vulnerable - like the mother above - have been helped by DHM.

Your donations are making a difference and your prayers and financial support are such an encouragement.

Without you, our partners would not be able to help the poor and vulnerable in Ukraine.

<https://www.dniprohopemission.org/>

Your generous support is helping many in Ukraine.



Support from DHM may be as little as a litre of water and a loaf of bread or a bag of vegetables for a hot soup; it could be lifesaving medication or two week's equine therapy and rehabilitation for a traumatised child. For many exhausted, shell-shocked families it has been the arrival of an evacuation vehicle. It may also be gifts for residents and staff in a residential care institution; a hot drink in a 'Warm Hub' powered by an EcoFlow battery funded by our winter appeal; a pair of warm socks for a battle worn soldier; a slice of pizza; or perhaps, words of comfort and knowing that others stand with you in all the terror, grief and sadness of war.

Making a difference to the most vulnerable.



This is Pastor Yevhenii, one of our partners in Dnipro, delivering a food parcel and caring for a family in need. Yevhenii supports a deaf community as well as internally displaced people and distributes about 150 packages of food, hygiene products and medicine each month. He also makes home visits and supports lonely pensioners.

Please pray for strength and endurance for each of our partners as the war drags on.

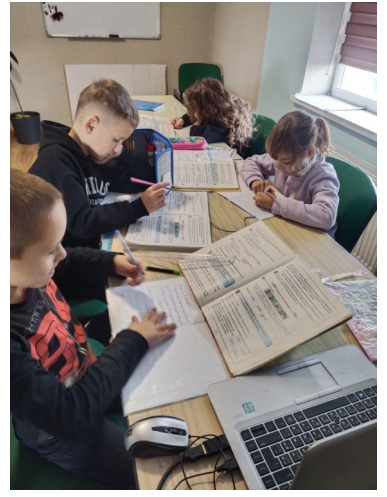
Pray especially for Yevhenii who is separated from his wife and children who are refugees here in the UK.

'Bring food and water to these weary refugees...' Isa 21.14

Making a difference to children and families.



Nowhere is safe for children in Ukraine as Russian rocket and drone attacks destroy schools, hospitals, homes, power supplies and water sources. UNICEF estimates that nearly half the children across the country are not able to go to school. Our partner, Pastor Oleksandr in Tsarichanka, has opened up a school in the church so children can access online learning. He has also employed a teacher and a cook! DHM has been able to provide funds from our Winter Appeal for an ECOFlow battery to keep the children warm during the long hours without power.



The children in this small community near the front lines are well cared for.



Pastor Oleksii is busy with a 'Christmas Marathon' - distributing 2,500 gift boxes to internally displaced children in Vinnytsia and children near the front lines around Kherson. He hopes eventually to reach 4,500 children! However, he is also working with local child protection services to reach those children in the most difficult family circumstances. The number of domestic violence cases in Ukraine has increased significantly since the war began as families suffer from the increased stress of losing homes, being displaced, poverty and the psychological stress of shelling and missile attacks.

Please pray for:

- ◆ All those experiencing domestic violence and abusive relationships.
- ◆ Returning veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- ◆ All those suffering from the brutality of war.



Every child in Ukraine knows all about the war and many have experienced deeply traumatic events. All of our partners are helping children through the war and providing many activities to help them cope with their challenging reality, experience the joys of childhood and look to the future with hope and excitement. Salvation Church in Poltava organised a drawing contest on the theme 'How I imagine peace in Ukraine.'

Please pray for these children of war and the adults who care for them:

- ◆ Pray for physical protection, 'peaceful skies' and stable homes.
- ◆ Pray they have enough water to drink and food to eat.
- ◆ Pray for protection of hearts, minds and imagination.
- ◆ Pray for all those children - in Ukraine and Russia - who have lost their loved ones and especially those who have been orphaned.

'And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.' Matthew 18.5

Making a difference to people with disabilities.

This is the care home in Tsarichanka where our partner Oleksandr visits regularly - to deliver humanitarian aid, run church services and social events and care for the residents and staff.

Please pray for the :

- ◆ Residents who live in very poor conditions.
- ◆ Staff who care for them and for Pastor Oleksandr and his team.
- ◆ Pray for the protection of the building where they live - this is near the front lines.



Our partner, Oleksii has been delivering pizza throughout the frontline areas to displaced persons, military personnel, homeless people, and shelters for people with special needs. He says, *'They express their gratitude to you for your involvement in our work and to everyone who invested and supported us so that we could bring them this pizza and humanitarian support'*.

Please pray for all those with disabilities at this time of war.

Pray for all those who are now disabled because of the war.



Our partner, Margarita, runs the Equilibrium therapeutic programme - equine therapy, massage, music therapy, stories, games, play and youth worker support/mentorship for children and young people with a variety of challenges and disabilities, many of whom have been internally displaced. This is an inclusive project and one of Margarita's achievements has been to make children with disabilities more visible in the community and her work is helping to destigmatise disability. **Please pray that this amazing project can be extended to reach more children and adults with disabilities.**



Ukraine's residential institutions include children's homes, homes for people with disabilities, neuropsychological facilities for adults with mental health, cognitive or neurodevelopmental disorders, and general facilities for older people. DHM supports two of these homes, Mohiliv (Tsarichanka) and Liubomiryvka, on a regular basis and our partners also support others. These are large buildings with over 150 residents. There are staff shortages and very limited resources. They are usually in remote areas, meaning residents live lives of isolation and severe hardship. The war has severely impacted the mental health and well-being of residents of these institutions - increased nervousness, anxiety and a worsening of existing mental illnesses. Our partners have developed long-term relationships with the staff and the residents - taking in basic supplies, gifts and running occasional social events. **Please pray that the war will end and we will be able to support our partners in building better lives for these 'forgotten people'.**

'Rescue the poor and helpless...' Psalm 84.v4

We could do more...



In the Reimer Centre:
Classes are transferred to
the basement as sirens
sound a rocket attack
warning.



Oleksii and his team deliver
huge amounts of aid to different
destinations each week.

The city of Zaporizhzhia in southeastern Ukraine is home to the largest nuclear power plant in Europe. With occupied Donetsk to the East and Crimea to the South, a part of the Zaporizhzhia region was immediately overrun by the Russian army right at the start of the conflict. The city remains under Ukrainian control but is one of the most dangerous front-line areas, and is regularly attacked by drones and rockets. Our partner, Oleksii, recently delivered much needed humanitarian aid here. There is a small NGO (the Reimer Centre) which is completely dedicated to serving the people of Zaporizhzhia, particularly young people who have experienced violent war trauma. Currently, they offer aid parcels, mobile clinics and street feeding. They have asked for our help to expand. We would like to support this additional partner from April 2025 but we do not have the capacity to take on any additional work.

Please pray for the Director of the Reimer Centre, Sergey, his family and the team and pray for the funding they need. Pray for DHM trustees, that we can continue our current levels of support for our partners and discern how best to go forward as we move into 2025 and possibly the fourth year of war.

The Equilibrium Project would like to expand.



Margarita (see p.4) says: *'Thank you for being so close and helping so much. I am very grateful to DHM that is so zealously trying to help people in Ukraine. Yesterday, I was at the construction site all day, the roof has already been completely installed, and we will move in soon...'* We are very grateful for some grant funding which is enabling Margarita to build her own stables. The new stables are almost complete!

Please pray that we can continue to support Margarita as she seeks to help more disabled and internally displaced traumatised children and expand the programme.

'Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone...'

Gal.6.10

Making a difference to those who are defending Ukraine.



This is Sergey, a member of Pastor Oleksii's congregation in Berdiansk (before the war started and the church was evacuated). He is speaking to the congregation in the church for IDPs in Vinnytsia. He was part of a prisoner exchange in October and is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

According to the BBC there are thought to be over 8,000 Ukrainian prisoners of war being held by Russia and many have been tortured or even executed.

Please pray for Sergey and all prisoners of war.

Pastor Serhii from Salvation Church, Poltava, writes: *'Today there was a funeral for our church member who defended the people of Ukraine from destruction, but died himself. His name is Alexander. He was 37 years old. He served in air reconnaissance. He died on October 30, but they were only able to bury him today. Alexander left behind a wife and a little daughter. This is a huge grief to us all.'*

Approximately, 1.3 million Ukrainians serve in the military. There is no official death toll but at least 80,000 soldiers have died since 2022, according to Western estimates.



Please pray for:

- ◆ Ukraine's exhausted troops and for an end to the fighting.
- ◆ All those who have been bereaved.
- ◆ The wounded and those treating them including Dr Daryna.
- ◆ Pastor Serhii and all at Salvation Church where they are visiting wounded soldiers (60-70 each week). They also go to the front lines most weeks with gifts for about 150 soldiers. In the church, they are running many support groups for IDPs and widows.



All of our partners are supporting Ukrainian soldiers who are making huge sacrifices for the nation. Mykhailo, from Dnipro Central Baptist Church writes: *'We helped our brother Serhiy and he is off to the front line. He is a chaplain'* Our partners, provide spiritual and moral support to soldiers, conduct services when requested, visit wounded soldiers and give food gifts, water, personal medical supplies and toiletries.

Please pray for all army chaplains and volunteers on the front lines who demonstrate enormous courage and sacrifice working alongside soldiers and civilians in appalling conditions.



'Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. 'Proverbs 24.11

Volunteer with us in 2025!

Are you a people-person who enjoys connecting with others? Volunteer with us. Help us keep in touch with our supporters in the UK, assist in organising inspiring fundraising events and spread the word about our lifesaving work in Ukraine.

Are you a gifted healthcare/social services professional willing to donate your time and expertise? Your skills are needed! We want to expand our healthcare projects and reach many more people. We are particularly interested in individuals and organisations with expertise in providing alternative and complementary therapies to help children and adults heal from trauma. We also work with care homes for adults with learning disabilities. Join us in meeting the immense needs on the ground.

Are you a fundraising champion? Join our fundraising team of supporters! Together we can transform the lives of vulnerable people in Ukraine - children, older people, those with disabilities, people who are homeless and/or internally displaced. We can't do this without our fundraisers! This year, our incredible supporters have cycled 500km for Ukraine, opened their gardens, held a car boot sale, raised money through their workplace, and asked for donations in lieu of birthday and Christmas presents. What could you do?

Do you want to see your unique ideas become a reality? If you have your own vision for how you can help, please talk to us. We're open to new and creative ways to support the charity. DHM is dynamic and growing fast to meet increasing needs in Ukraine. If you have new innovative ideas and skills to contribute, we'd love to hear from you. If any of these opportunities resonate with you, please contact our Chair of Trustees, Mark: mark@dniprohopemission.org.

A Respite for DHM's Partners in 2025.

Joshua (DHM co-founder and trustee) together with Rodger and Margaret (Rodger serves on our International Advisory Board and Margaret is a trustee) are again planning a time of respite for our partners in Ukraine while also furthering their collaboration and networking. All of our partners are working tirelessly and endure great personal danger as they deliver aid to the frontlines. For most, there is the constant threat of missiles, and electricity is provided for just 2 hours per day. They often return home to dark, cold houses. Funds for this time of respite are raised separately (with special thanks to the churches in Rodger and Margaret's hometown of Augusta) and the European Mennonite Communities. DHM trustees and others pay their own expenses. **Please pray for funding, logistics and safety and that, for each person attending, it will be a time of blessing and refreshment.**



Joshua with a small DHM team and some of our Ukrainian partners, in Ukraine in 2024.

Join us as we pray for peace.

Every month, on the first Thursday, we pause and pray for peace and justice. Please join us, if you can, on February 6th from 3-4 and/or March 6th from 3-4 pm GMT as we pray for an end to this terrible war and the suffering of the Ukrainian people and for peace and justice. Please know that we are grateful to you all as we stand with Ukraine.

Please contact the prayer convenor for the Zoom link: melanie@dniprohopemission.org

'Share each other's troubles and problems...' Gal.6:2

Our grateful thanks....



Thank you to **everyone who has donated through regular, occasional giving or standing orders.** Special thanks to **Chinley with Buxworth PCC, Wokingham Baptist Church and Pershore Baptist Church** for your generous donations. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who collected on Guildford High Street and raised £1,215 for our winter appeal. You can see photos on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DniproHope/>.

Many of those collecting (like Natalia pictured) are refugees and have family members on the front lines. Our Winter Appeal is still open if you wish to donate: ref: **WinterGift24**. We have been able to send funds for three EcoFlow portable power stations to our partners. **Read more on our blog:**

<https://www.dniprohopemission.org/we-are-standing-with-ukraine-this-winter/>

Please pray for Ukrainian refugees in the UK and across Europe who miss their families and friends. They are grieving the loss of their loved ones, their hearts are aching for the suffering of Ukraine and they are doing all they can to support their country in its hour of need.

Could you set up a regular donation?

One of the most effective ways to donate to Dnipro Hope Mission is through a regular monthly donation. Monthly donations enable us to plan ahead and ensure funds are available when they are needed the most. Over the past year, we have been able to send over at least £6,800 to our partners each month for emergency relief (and more for Development Projects) through a combination of regular giving and using reserve funds. Sadly, our reserves have gone and the amount we send each partner may be reduced in 2025. We would love more regular donations so that we can continue to support our partners and they can continue supporting those they serve.

Save the date: Saturday February 8th 2025 - RSVP needed.

Please join us for our first **Dnipro Hope Mission Information Afternoon** to be held as we approach the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It is on **Saturday February 8th 2025 from 2-4pm at Stoneleigh Baptist Church** and is for both new supporters who want to find out more and long-standing supporters who want an update from our partners.

Come along and **meet some of the trustees** as we serve **tea and cake**, watch videos from our **trusted partners** and hear directly from **Anna, our newest trustee**, a refugee herself from Ukraine.

All are welcome.

If you are able to come, please rsvp to melanie@dniprohopemission.org so that we bake enough cake!

Giving



DHM is an organisation comprised of volunteers and local ministry partners; we don't have any paid staff and almost all of your donations go directly to where they are most needed in Ukraine. Please donate either through Stewardship or through a standing order or one-off payment to the

DHM account: Sort Code: **30-90-91** / Account Number: **68149860**

Account Name: Dnipro Hope Mission; Bank Name: Lloyds Bank

Please contact gill@dniprohopemission.org for a gift aid form or download it from our website

<https://www.dniprohopemission.org/donate/>

If you would like an acknowledgement, please email trustees Gill or Melanie and we would be very happy to thank you personally for your gift.

Every penny will help and almost all of your donations will go directly to our trusted local partners who are already working throughout Ukraine.

Account name: Dnipro Hope Mission

Account Number: 68149860

Sort Code: 30-90-91

'...Seek peace and pursue it..' Psalm 34.14

Dnipro Hope Mission has been working throughout Ukraine since 2016 and became a UK-registered charity in 2018 (1177504)