



*March/April 2025*

*As the full-scale war in Ukraine enters its fourth year, amputations, crimes against humanity, death, destruction, displacement, fear and funerals, grief, hunger, mass graves, separation, suffering, trauma, and uncertainty are part of everyday life for all Ukrainians.*



*The illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, was the beginning of the largest full-scale war on the European continent since World War II with hundreds of thousands of casualties.*

*Since February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Dnipro Hope Mission has been able to send over £480,369 to our partners who have been working non-stop to relieve those who are victims of Russian aggression - supporting those who suffer most - the defenders of freedom, displaced people, families of those who have died, children, the elderly, the disabled and all who are victims of war.*

*We thank you for your donations and fundraising.*

*We honour our partners on the following pages.*

*Please pray unceasingly for a just and lasting peace for Ukraine.*

## Vasyl and Larisa: Pokrovsk, Donetsk Region

Vasyl is minister of the Rock of Salvation church, Pokrovsk city in Donetsk region and has worked tirelessly since war broke out. For two years, Vasyl and his team distributed thousands of loaves of bread free of charge, and every day hundreds of people came to the well in the church grounds (DHM contributed funds to its construction) to fill their plastic bottles. Water was also taken to other villages, to two hospitals and to the front lines - delivered by volunteers who were risking their lives.

Before the invasion, there were 10,000 people in the churches of this region. After this first wave of evacuations, just 450 remained - most fled and are living abroad as refugees. Vasyl and his family remained to serve, and the church baptised 150 people who have discovered faith in a time of war.

Vasyl sent us this photograph of a building in Lyman in November 2022. You can read



more about Lyman here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-68285432>. At the time Vasyl wrote: 'Human evil is without limit. It can progress and become more evil yet. There are no undamaged houses or buildings. Photos and videos cannot convey the full picture. People are still living here. Old people and children. They are in need of everything. We will visit and support them.'

Now, Vasyl and his family have also lost everything and are internally displaced in northwestern Ukraine. On December 29th, 2023, Russia launched one of its largest nights of missile and drone strikes since the war began. People in cities like Pokrovsk, Kostyantynivka and Kramatorsk were now facing a fast-approaching front line and 2024 became the year of evacuations - the second wave. Vasyl writes: 'We can't say exactly how many trips and kilometres we have covered but I know that by the end of the third year of the war we had done about 500,000 kilometres in our cars. This is more than twelve times around the world!' Vasyl and his team (including his son) continue to deliver supplies to the



hospital in Pokrovsk. Vasyl told us that without DHM's support, it would not have been possible to have rescued as many people as they have.

Having driven so far, he is badly in need of a new vehicle.

### Please pray:

In Vasyl's own words:

**Please pray** especially for us because we are having a very difficult time now. My family and our team are in the process of building a new life. We have to start from scratch, from building a new home life, to looking for a new job, to making money for everyday living. Therefore, this is our request, please pray for our team.

**Please pray for a miracle** - that Russia would withdraw its troops immediately and that all Ukrainians, like Vasyl, would be able to return to their homes in eastern Ukraine and that they would have homes to return to.

*'Praise be to the LORD, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege.' Ps 31:21-22*

## Yevhenii and Polina and Mykhailo and Tanya: Dnipro

Yevhenii and Mykhailo, two young partners, were introduced to us in the early days of the war by Sasha (p4). Mykhailo is on the leadership team of Dnipro Central Baptist Church and Yevhenii leads Dnipro Independent Baptist Church (DIBC).

Like so many Ukrainians, they faced a difficult decision at the beginning of the war. Dnipro is just 60 miles from Russian troops - should they stay, ignore the sirens, brace for bombardment, and be ready for the unimaginable at any moment and keep their family together? Or should they send their wives and children to safety in the West? Many left, anxious about the mental health of their children. They travelled on to Europe when they found that they couldn't afford to rent housing in western Ukraine or survive in the crowded dormitories. In May 2022, Yevhenii's wife, Polina, joined family members already in the UK. Yevhenii has been able to visit just once a year.

Thankfully, Yevhenii was given permission to travel to the UK in January 2025. Together with his family and three DHM trustees,

he received a warm welcome from New Malden Baptist Church (pictured). A huge thank you to NMBC for their hospitality. Meanwhile in Ukraine, Dnipro Independent Church used DHM funds to host a fun day with gifts, crafts, and food for 50 children (pictured above). Yevhenii has now returned to Ukraine where the church continues to support a group of approximately 150 internally displaced people each month.



Mykhailo and Tanya are deeply committed to supporting children and young people and those who care for them. They are encouraging rural congregations to reach out to the children in their area and organize children's clubs. In January, they gave Christmas gifts to children in the church (many internally displaced) and took a group of young children from war-torn Dnipro for an amazing holiday in the Carpathian Mountains. In February, they organised a 'Family

Conference' to encourage couples and families to get closer and foster more meaningful relationships. We are so thankful for all our partners who support children who have experienced all the horrors of war: violence, loss of family members, displacement and disrupted education.



### Please pray:

- ◆ For those living amidst violence and conflict, particularly children.
- ◆ For those who left Ukraine and had to begin again in a new country, learning a new language and finding that their experience and qualifications mean little. That the pain of leaving and the wounds of war will be healed.
- ◆ For Yevhenii and Polina and Mykhailo and Tanya and for strong marriages and ministries. That the war will be over very quickly and it will be safe for Polina and the children to return to Ukraine.

*'So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in Him.' Romans 15.13*

## Sasha and Iryna: Vasilkivka

Sasha is pastor of the Dim Nadiyi Church (House of Hope) in Vasilkivka village, Dnipro region. He is also a military chaplain. This winter, with funding from DHM, the church opened a Warm Hub, a place where people can come for a cup of tea or coffee. Pastor Sasha also uses DHM funds for medication such as cold and flu medicines to supply to all in need. Each week he travels to the 'grey' zone, in Donetsk and delivers water and food to two villages where people have been living without electricity or water for at least 6 months. This journey is very dangerous.

They are continuing to build a new 'House of Hope' (a church/community centre) and provide support to a care home. He says *'Thank you to you all, and each of you personally, who are involved in the ministry of Dnipro Hope Mission. Thank you for your help, for your responsive, kind hearts, for you being constantly with us in this ministry.'*

### Please pray:

- ◆ For the safety of Pastor Sasha as he delivers food, water and medicine to those who have remained in the villages in the 'grey zone' .
- ◆ For Pastor Sasha's family - his wife, Iryna (especially for good health) and the safety of their children. All the family are putting their lives at risk every day - Dr Daryna on the front lines; Paramedic Anna in Dnipro and son, Vladik, serving in the military.
- ◆ For a result in Sasha's search for a new vehicle; he is very grateful to Epsom Baptist Church who have donated generous funds to purchase this.



## Oleksandr and Yulia: Tsarichanka

Oleksandr has sent us photos of a church-sponsored event held for staff and residents in a care home where local villagers and internally displaced people joined them. About 300 people heard the gospel and were able to consult a doctor and an optometrist. **Please pray** for the safety of this small community, again about 60 miles from the front lines. Pray for the many children who are supported by the church.



*'And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.'* James 3.18

## Serhii and Olena: Poltava

Poltava is close to Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, just 30km from the frontlines and subject to almost daily Russian shelling since the beginning of the full-scale war. Pastor Serhii and all at Salvation Evangelical Church (SEC) have supported over 20,000 people fleeing from the fighting since the war began. They provide food and accommodation; run support groups for wives and mothers of soldiers; offer a variety of activities for children and teenagers; take humanitarian aid to older people; visit wounded soldiers and make trips to the frontlines with support for the troops. Poltava was known as a 'safe city' but this changed on 3 September 2024, when it was hit by two Russian missiles killing at least 59 and injuring at least 328. Another Russian missile struck a residential building in the city on the morning of Feb 1st 2025, killing at least 14 people, including two children and injuring another 17. The church took their mobile kitchen and provided hot meals to emergency workers, utility crews and residents of the affected house. The photographs below show the ongoing work of the work of SEC: support meetings for newly arrived IDP's, work with children, completing dormitory style accommodation to house IDP's and a trip to the frontline to provide aid and spiritual support to the military.



### Please pray:

- ◆ For Pastor Serhii and Olena's son, Oleksandr, who has a very serious heart condition.
- ◆ As DHM and Guildford Baptist Church continue to develop our joint ministry with SEC serving all those in need.
- ◆ For the work of SEC and all those who are supporting Ukraine's children: 2 million have been internally displaced or are refugees; two children are killed every day and four receive injuries from missiles or mines; every child aged 3 or under has known nothing but war; Save the Children report: 'The war in Ukraine is taking an increasingly heavy toll on children's mental health with some developing speech defects and uncontrollable twitching, while others have terrible nightmares and scream in their sleep.'
- ◆ For all those needing health care in Ukraine where health care systems have collapsed in some areas and are under huge strain across the country.

*'Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.'* John 16:33

## Oleksii and Julia: Vinnytsia and Kherson

Oleksii, an army chaplain, continues his non-stop mission 'to do good and help people who are in difficult circumstances.' In addition to helping displaced people and refugees in the Vinnytsia region and ministering to all those in his church, he makes frequent trips to support those in Kherson and the surrounding areas.

Kherson was liberated from the Russians by Ukrainian forces on November 11th, 2022. However, since then, almost daily shelling by

Russian forces have turned significant parts of the once vibrant and thriving city into ruins. Many continue to live there but the infrastructure has been destroyed; there are no life-saving services and there is the daily risk of death from drone or missile strikes. Oleksii's life-saving humanitarian aid helps people survive, expresses solidarity and gives hope.



## Sergey and Valentina: Samar (formerly known as Novomoskovsk)

In 2023, Sergey, an army chaplain wrote to us and his words are very relevant today "There has been a lot of grief over the



past 1-1/2 years. Many have died. Exhaustion. This is a very difficult time, but the Lord has preserved me and my family. There are many problems in war and help and support are always needed. It's very important to know that people are praying and supporting me. The division in which I serve was recently in a heavy battle. Soldiers were killed; automobiles were damaged. The cars save soldiers' lives. Five cars were badly damaged; four have been

repaired; one more car needs to be fixed to carry the wounded out of battle'. Sergey continues to work on the front lines where cars have a very short life. They are vital for delivering aid and evacuating wounded soldiers but also at constant risk of being hit by a

missile or running over a mine. Sergey also delivers aid to his home town of Samar. The photograph shows his daughter distributing Christmas gifts to children. This is a city where almost all the children's fathers are fighting.



## Please pray:

- ◆ For all army chaplains - they are very tired. Pray that they will be able to help many soldiers and be protected as they travel. That, as they comfort those who grieve, they too will be comforted.
- ◆ For safe journeys and protection for all who deliver humanitarian aid to the front lines.
- ◆ For Oleksii and Sergey's wives and children and all those who wait to hear whether their loved ones have survived another day.
- ◆ For Ukraine's defenders, who risk their lives daily for our freedom.

*'Unfailing love and truth have met together.  
Righteousness and peace have kissed!' Psalm 85.10*

## Margarita and the Equilibrium Project in Uzhhorod.

We thank everyone who has raised money for and/or donated to the Equilibrium project. Over the last few months, our partner Margarita has been able to build new stables, rescue another horse and in January 2025, run the first therapeutic programme on the new site (photos below). A group of traumatised internally displaced children and young people with a variety of challenges and disabilities benefitted from 14 days of equine therapy, massage, music therapy, stories, games, play and youth worker support/mentorship. The programme doesn't just help children – their families and volunteers all benefit from the psycho-social support offered by the project.

There is much still to be done. Paths from the farm entrance to the stables must be built; the arena needs to be set up with sand and gravel to stabilise the land and create a high-quality surface for working with horses and conducting the training sessions. A fence is needed too – to stop the cows wandering onto the arena!

The 'office-based' centre, which is well equipped with massage facilities; a small kitchen for snacks and hot drinks; art therapy materials; therapy balls and equipment and a wide variety of toys is currently based in the city and needs to move to the new site. **Please pray** for Margarita and the team as they continue to develop the new site - they aim to reach a larger number of children and build an indoor arena for working in the cold or rain.



## Dima and Olha: Kyiv

Dima and Olha run the House of Mercy (a self-sustaining rehabilitation project in Kyiv region supporting single homeless men), a soup kitchen and a Community Hub in Kyiv. Their work has been a lifeline to many and, like so many of our partners, they give all they have. **Please pray** that more volunteers come forward to support Dima and Olha as they continue this vital work with the most vulnerable. There has been a significant rise in homelessness since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Pray for all who are now homeless in Ukraine and that providing housing for those who have been displaced will become a priority.



*'Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.' Psalm 119: 165*

## Our grateful thanks....

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.

A special thanks to DHM trustee Helen who is running the Kempton Park 10K on Saturday, 1st March to raise funds for the Equilibrium Project in western Ukraine.

<https://gofund.me/361f6023> . Helen is pictured with her daughter Hannah collecting funds for DHM in 2022. Both Helen and Hannah are long-standing supporters of DHM.

Our prayers were answered when we received a gift aid refund from HMRC; a grant from a trust, and a generous anonymous donation! However, we remain keen to increase regular monthly donations. Monthly donations enable us to plan ahead and ensure funds are available when they are needed the most. We especially want to thank our brilliant and very hard working treasurer, Reg who ensures all donations are wisely used to support our many partners.



## Supporter Events, Speakers and Prayer

Thanks to all our supporters who joined us at **Dnipro Hope Mission Information Afternoon@ Stoneleigh Baptist Church**. You encouraged and inspired us! A special thanks to SBC. If you would like DHM trustees to visit your church or community group to share the 'DHM Story' or if you would like to host a 'Supporter Information Event' please contact our Chair of Trustees:

[mark@dniprohopemission.org](mailto:mark@dniprohopemission.org)

Pictured is DHM trustee, Margaret speaking at a prayer breakfast for 60 people in the USA. Please pray for Margaret's husband, Rev. Dr Rodger Murchison, a member of our International Advisory Board, speaking on 'Grief' at a conference in Lviv on March 12th.



Every month, on the first Thursday, we pause and pray for peace and justice. Please join us, if you can, on **March 6th** from 3-4 pm GMT, **April 3rd** from 3-4pm BST and/or **May 1st** from 3-4pm BST as we pray for an end to this illegal war and for a just peace for Ukraine. 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](mailto:melanie@dniprohopemission.org)

## 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 direct debit/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](mailto: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**

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

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