



Leann Peterson

“And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” 2 Corinthians 5:15

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from Ukraine! Time flies when you are planning a wedding! By the time you receive this newsletter, I will already be a married woman! I will be Mrs. Shcherbyna (the official spelling), which is pronounced Scherbina (shur-bee-na). Look for a video of the ceremony on YouTube or Facebook. I will be uploading it afterwards for you to watch and celebrate with us!

Children’s Easter Celebration: Jesus has Risen! Happy Easter! We just celebrated the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ here in Ukraine (Easter is always at a different time here than in the USA). We hosted an event where over 120 kids came to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection with us! It was an incredible time thanks to our amazing team of volunteers. Ninety children came from two different villages, along with our own children from church. I kept hearing how much everyone loved the celebration! There was the story of Easter through a drama, dancing, games, songs, prayer, gifts, free lunch, and then a whole bunch of activities for the kids to have fun and play outside afterwards. The whole day was absolutely wonderful! I’m thankful we have the chance to reach children with the Gospel who may never hear it otherwise! I pray the seeds planted in these young hearts will come to fruition!



Evangelistic Outreach: Our wonderful evangelism team went to the streets to remind people that Jesus is alive! We went out the week before Easter, to remind people that this holiday is more than just a tradition, but that we are celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior! I spoke with one lady and offered her some of our materials, and she said “About a month ago you gave me this same booklet, don’t you remember me?” Then I realized who she was! The last time we did outreach, she came to our table drunk and weeping. Her ten-year-old grandson had passed away and since his death she could not stop from drinking and she asked for prayer. So we prayed for a quite awhile, and now I can see results! She said something changed and she doesn’t get drunk every day anymore. She has even come to one of our services. Praise God! All of our team members had meaningful times of prayer that day with many people.



Evangelism



Children’s Rehab Center: playing games with the kids in their bomb shelter during an air raid siren.

Children’s Rehab Center: Our team was granted permission to visit the children twice a month at this rehab center that is not far from our church. We are hoping to get permission to visit every week. This center is like a shelter for children taken from their families temporarily, it is also a rehab center for children with behavioral issues. The number of children is constantly changing as some kids are there for a short time and others are there for many months. But one thing remains the same, they are all excited to have visitors to talk with, play with, and to learn our Bible lessons. Some of the children were sharing their stories with me of why they are there: one boy said his mom was in the hospital and would come get him when she was released; another young girl told me her father was a soldier but now he’s at home and is drunk all the time, so she was brought to the shelter; and another girl told me her father is a soldier and because of that her mother is sad all the time and doesn’t come out of her room. There truly is a lot of pain and hurt these children and teens have experienced, so we pray that our time with them can bring a little life, hope, and healing to their hearts.

Prayer Points

- Please keep praying for this war to end in Ukraine! It has gone on far too long and there is so much suffering! Pray for peace and for restoration of lives!
- Pray for Artem and I as we begin our new life together! Pray for wisdom, peace, and grace as we transition into this new period of life! Also please pray for his paperwork and full release from the army.
- Continue to pray for Pastor Maxim to be fully cleared of all charges as this trial continues to drag on. Pray for it to come to a quick end!
- Pray for all the children who heard the Gospel on Easter! May the seeds planted in their hearts grow and bring them to salvation.
- Pray for Jesus to be lifted up in Ukraine and that many will continue to come to salvation across the nation at this time. Pray for the Prince of Peace to reign in Ukraine!
- Pray for our True Hope team to be filled with wisdom, peace, rest, joy, and refreshing as we continue to be faithful to Jesus during this uncertain time in Ukraine.
- Pray for the president and leaders in Ukraine to make wise decisions and that they be led by the Lord in all they do - whether they realize it or not!

You are an invaluable part of the ministry in Ukraine, please do not forget that! Thank you for continuing to believe and pray with us for an end to this war! Thank you for not forgetting about the countless innocent lives that are being affected by war. Thank you for making it possible for us to reach them with the Gospel and with humanitarian aid! **I pray that the Lord lavishly pour out upon you and your family His spirit of love, peace, and refreshing! May you never forget His great love for you and the sacrifice Jesus made on your behalf! You are loved!**

God Bless you, Your missionary to Ukraine,

-Leann

