



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,

March 2024

Greetings from Kryvyi Rih! It has been so good to be back in my home here in Ukraine for a month already. **The update on Artem** is that he is here in the city, working with a lawyer and the medical commission. It's an extremely slow process, but things seem to be going well. The prayer request we have is that they are a stickler for wording here, so we keep praying that every document he receives will be written exactly as it needs to be. If even one word is incorrect it will cause problems, as they love loopholes! *Please continue to pray for God's guidance in this process, for every word to be written exactly as needed, and that Artem's release would be soon!* Because of the length of this process, we feel confident that Artem will be here in Kryvyi Rih and we have decided to go forward with our wedding plans! **Our official wedding date is going to be May 11th!** (We hope to have it live-streamed as well!)

Pastor Maxim: The official trial for Pastor Maxim has begun and the court only meets one day every few weeks, so it takes some time. We are praying and believing for righteousness to reign in this case and that God would defend Pastor Max. So far, everything continues to be going in his favor, therefore we believe that he will be vindicated and released from any accusations. Pray with us that this trial will be over and decided during the month of April and that Pastor Maxim will be a free man again!

Dormitories: Amazingly enough, after all this time, there are some students living in the dormitories again and going back to college. First it was covid and then the war began, so it has been several years since we have been able to minister to students in the dorms. The students we are working with have been sharing their stories with us and it is heartbreaking. Most of them are orphans, and at the beginning of the war they were evacuated to other countries, but they were sent back to Ukraine last fall. Most of them also lived with different foster families while growing up. One boy, Zhenya, told us how he lived with a family of twelve foster children. They were treated so horribly that he asked to be sent back to the orphanage. Another boy, Bogdon, showed us the scar on the top of his head from one of the many times his foster father had beaten him. Veeka shared with us that she and her two sisters lived with a foster family that had three children of their own. Veeka and her sisters were like servants, working in the field, cleaning the house, and being beaten regularly, while the other three children in the home were treated entirely differently. Sadly, the foster system in Ukraine is typically viewed as a way to make easy money from the government without much thought for the well-being of the children. These stories I just shared are from students in only one dorm, and many of them have similar stories. There was only one boy who shared that he had a decent foster family of all these students. There is so much pain they carry, not only from the situations of losing their biological parents, but because of the ill treatment by foster families as well. These youth are so shut down emotionally, they try to keep everyone at bay to prevent themselves from getting hurt again. We pray for them continually that God would break through the hardness of their hearts, that they would find salvation, and healing from their pain!



With a few students at one of the dormitories we visit, Zhenya, Bogdon, and Veeka are all in this photo.



Babushka's Home Group: One of the dorms we visit is half for students and half for refugees, of whom are mainly Babushkas. So we have been bringing our Babushkas from church to meet with them while we meet with the students. These Babushkas are having an incredible time! They pray together, sing songs, and read the Bible together. These ladies are so hungry for hope and truth, several have already prayed for repentance. They are so thankful that our Grandmas come to visit with them regularly and one Babushka expressed that now she feels like the world has not forgotten them.



Evangelism: What a time we had on the streets with our evangelism team! God is so good! Next time we go out, we hope to bring some of our newly formed youth group, since we always have so many young people that we talk with on the streets. You can tell people are tired and burned out from the war because we had so many people this last time who were wide open to the Gospel and prayed with us. God is faithful to meet people wherever they are and we are simply His vessels to use!



Prayer Points

Last month I sent out a detailed prayer list for every day of the month, those are all still valid requests and I ask you to continue to pray from that prayer guide.

- Pray for war to end in Ukraine!
- Pray for Pastor Maxim's trial to end soon, that the judge sees everything clearly, and that Pastor Maxim will be vindicated.
- Pray for Artem's release from the army, wisdom for his lawyer, and that every document be worded and written exactly as needed!
- Pray for our ministry to students in the dormitories, that in our meetings with them they will receive Jesus, that they will come to repentance and find healing for their wounded souls.
- Pray for Ukrainians that the spirit of heaviness be broken off, for salvation, and that there be healing for the grief and trauma of this war.
- Pray for myself and our team, pray for peace, wisdom, refreshing, and strength! Pray for the heaviness of war to be lifted and that our team be emotionally and spiritually healthy.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers, encouragement and support! We continue to reach Ukraine at this critical time because you are standing with us! Without you, we would not be able to continue to provide humanitarian aid for those with physical needs, which always opens the door for salvation. True Hope Center is one of the last places in Kryvyi Rih to provide humanitarian aid. Thank you for making this possible! I pray the Lord's peace and presence fill you and your home today and always!

God Bless you! Your Missionary to Ukraine,

-Leann

