



# AMANDA & MAX FETISOV

## Serving the people of Ukraine

We've made it to 2026! We hope you were able to enjoy meaningful time with family and friends as you celebrated the holidays. We are grateful to begin a new year and thankful for each of you.

We had a wonderful Christmas celebration and outreach this year. It was a joyful time and a meaningful opportunity to connect with people in our community. One special highlight was our all-night New Year's celebration at church. Many of the teens who live in the dorms chose to spend the night with us instead of going out drinking. It was a positive, safe alternative, and truly a fun experience for both them and us. Moments like these remind us how being present in people's life matters so much.



*Our New Year's Crowd*

### *When the Nation Goes Dark*

At the beginning of winter, we were warned that there would be severe electricity cutoffs, and unfortunately that warning proved true. For more than two months now, we have been without electricity for at least eight hours a day, and often as many as fourteen. Winter in Ukraine is already dark, with very little sunlight, and living without reliable light for so long has been challenging not only physically, but emotionally as well. The constant interruptions affect daily routines, productivity, and morale.

At the same time, we are incredibly thankful. Because of your generosity, Max and I have a backup battery at home and a generator at the center and church. While these don't eliminate the difficulty, they make it possible for ministry and daily life to continue. We are also grateful that earlier in the war we were able to equip several other churches with generators so that their services and outreach could carry on.

We don't know how much longer these cutoffs will last, but we remain hopeful that they will ease soon.



*Lena serving the refugees*

We want to share how your giving continues to have a direct impact on refugees coming into our city. When the war began, we quickly mobilized to distribute humanitarian aid to people arriving from occupied regions with little or nothing. Over time, it became clear that practical help alone was not enough. Many needed consistent emotional support and someone who could listen to their stories and help them work toward healing. That is where Lena's role became so important.

Lena has been part of our church from the very beginning. As a single mother raising two now-adult children with disabilities, she understands hardship firsthand. She initially volunteered her time to help refugees, but she also had needs of her own.

With your support, we were able to bring Lena on staff. She has since completed multiple trainings in trauma care. In addition to distributing aid, she now leads regular support group meetings for refugees—many of whom are older and living in the city without family. These meetings have become a vital source of stability and connection for them, as well as an opportunity for conversation, encouragement, and prayer.

Through your generosity, you are supporting not only Lena and her family, but also hundreds of people whose lives have been touched through her consistent care and dedication.

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#### *Personal Update & Prayer Request*

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Many of you have been praying for our family and for the little girl we have been fostering. In mid-December, social services required us to return her to her biological mother until the final court hearing determining the removal of parental rights.

This has been one of the most painful experiences of our lives. While we hope we are wrong, we have serious concerns that the circumstances leading to her neglect have not changed.

Please continue to pray for Amelia and for wisdom in the decisions being made. Another hearing is scheduled for the end of January, where a final decision may be made or additional time given to further assess her situation.

Amelia has become part of our family, and we love her deeply. Our only desire is that she is safe and cared for as she deserves—whether that is with us or with her mother. Please pray for her safety and for our hearts as we walk through this difficult season.

Thank you for standing with us—through prayer, encouragement, and generosity. You are a vital part of what God is doing here, even when the days are dark and the road feels uncertain. We are continually reminded that we do not walk alone, and neither do the people we serve.