



The Thomases to Ukraine

...Preaching, Planting, and Perfecting
in the Slavic-Speaking World!

March 30, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

The war in Ukraine is now heading into its tenth year. It began when Russia occupied Crimea and parts of southeast Ukraine in 2014. It has entered its third year since the full-scale mass invasion took place February 24, 2022. *Plato observed, “Only the dead have seen the end of war.”* Sadly, for Ukrainians this holds to be profoundly true. With Russia’s offensive growing over the past few weeks, there have been days when more than 100 missiles and drones targeted innocent civilians in Ukrainian communities. Some think that Putin is wanting to take Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second largest city, located only 20 miles from the Russian border. This has sparked a new anxiety among residents. This past week portions of Kharkiv were left without power, heat, and water. “Compassion for Ukraine” has faithful partners serving at risk of their own lives, and those of their families’ in this region. One of our pastors gave an update on his life and ministry there:

Thank you for your prayers and support. Recently, shelling has become more frequent, sirens are howling so often. All this affects your state of being, both physical and mental. We thank the Lord for making it possible to give people the hope and the love of God. Yesterday we visited a village. The situation there is the same as everywhere else in our areas, yet people experiencing intense shelling in near-by regions have come seeking refuge in this village. We distributed food, bedding, and most importantly, the gospel. An interesting fact is that when we came to the village for the first time, people were wary of us because we are Baptists. But now a large percentage of those present have accepted the gospel. It is becoming more and more visible that people’s disposition towards the Lord is awakening.

“Awakening” during a time of war? How we rejoice in the goodness and faithfulness of God during such a merciless time. How we give praise for His devoted servants and the privilege it is to partner with them. These ambassadors of reconciliation are looking past the dangers of war and their own wellbeing, to a greater goal: the glory of Christ in hopeless hearts who live under Satan’s tyranny. But a question must be asked. How long will these current “open doors” for the gospel remain? Could these “open doors” become lost opportunities? If Russia occupies Kharkiv, the doors will close. **“Compassion for Ukraine” is moving forward by faith with a sense of urgency to take advantage of this time. Pray for the protection of our team members, for the Lord’s continued provision through “Compassion for Ukraine” and for the power of the gospel to reach the lost and hopeless before eternity reaches them first.**

Your friends and fellow servants,

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