



The Thomases to Ukraine

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

April 30, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

Julie and I greet you from Warsaw, Poland. We leave for Ukraine later this week. The journey to Kyiv is quite challenging as we will have a 5-hour drive to the Ukrainian border, 1-2 hours at the border, and 2 hours to get to the camp in Lutsk, where “Compassion for Ukraine” is located. We will then have another 5-hour ride to Kyiv for services Sunday at Living Hope, followed by a SBI session that begins Monday. Later, we plan to travel to the Kharkiv area for evangelistic meetings. The journey goes quite quickly with the anticipation of seeing our friends and partners. ***Our travel difficulties and inconveniences are nothing compared to what some of our loved ones are enduring through the atrocities of war in Ukraine.***

Last month, Ukraine was hit by 4,000 Russian missiles and drones. These attacks killed 600 Ukrainian civilians in the month of March alone. Just yesterday in Ukraine another 7 were killed and 36 injured as missiles and drones targeted more civilians. Earlier today another 2 were killed and 6 injured in Kharkiv. And such is life in Ukraine. Consider Dima, who pastors Living Hope Baptist of Kyiv, and wife Erika. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Abigail. She has now spent the majority of her life hearing sirens, air defense explosions, drones flying above her apartment, and missiles hitting in the distance. Abigail has had the windows to her apartment blown open by the force of explosions, suffered electric and heat outages, and made hasty runs to bomb shelters. This is normal everyday life for her, and many Ukrainian children like her. ***Russian cruelties are increasing the humanitarian catastrophe, but with the crisis comes a greater opportunity to both show the love of Christ in deed and share the hope of Christ through the gospel.***

Compassion recently purchased \$21,000 of aid for 3 truckloads of food. In addition, Compassion paid to distribute this and other aid which included generators to Kharkiv residents and a thankful local leadership. During this time, God has raised up faithful Ukrainian partners who fearlessly take aid and the hope of the gospel into treacherous areas of Ukraine. Thank you for your partnership of prayer and sacrifice which enables these men to distribute aid to the destitute, and proclaim the “hope of the gospel” to the despairing. Through your continued prayers and gifts many have not only tasted physically of the goodness of God, but they’ve heard of His goodness from Calvary, with many responses to the gospel’s call. ***Your continued partnership with “Compassion for Ukraine,” is “making a difference” for those who now have the assurance and hope of heaven.*** One day these who’ve been touched by your gifts and through your prayers, will thank you personally in glory.

Your friends and fellow servants,

Derek and Julie Thomas

Derek & Julie Thomas

dthomas.sbi@gmail.com

www.sbi.org

Instagram: missionaryderek

Twitter: @Philippians2_16

Facebook: Derek Thomas

Support Address

Central Missionary Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 219228

Houston, TX 77218-9228