

MISSION STORIES

“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.”

Matthew 5:14 (The Message)

One Great HOUR
OF SHARING

70

YEARS

SHARING THE LIGHT: IN THE MIDST OF WAR

February 24, 2024, marked the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It may be difficult to imagine how one can share the light during war. But as Rev. Igor Bandura, head of the Baptist Union of Ukraine shares, across Ukraine, the darkness of war is no match for God’s people that tirelessly continue to share the light.

“In February 2022, it seemed to us that we would not be able to hold out for more than a few weeks, neither emotionally, physically, nor defensively. But the Lord is holding us. Every day He shows his miracles again and again at the front and in the rear.

From the first day of the full-scale invasion until now, we risk being on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe. Therefore, social ministry—assistance to internally displaced persons, those who have lost their jobs, home, and breadwinners, — is in great demand by the public. Responding to it is the best manifestation of Christian sacrifice. The church has done it, is doing it, and will continue to do it.



Paying tribute to a fallen soldier.

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Paying tribute to a fallen soldier.



Soldiers gather to receive support and encouragement from Baptist chaplains.

While in the first year of the war, humanitarian service was more urgent and situational. This year it has gained stability, structure, and orderliness. Displaced people and residents of the frontline areas are still in dire need of our help with food, drinking water, hygiene products, and cash assistance. And in the last year churches have been more focused on learning how to provide psychological assistance and all kinds of support to war veterans, orphans, people with injuries, various disorders, and disabilities. We have begun to get more involved with specific people, their stories, and challenges – the wife of a fallen soldier, whom the church helped to make repairs to her family's home, children and teenagers who are missing their homes as their towns remain under occupation. We offer to them Bible classes, Christian camps, and church events, and they are smiling and settling into their new cities for the first time in a long time. Thousands of people have been touched by Jesus Christ Himself through the love and care of the church. They have begun to read God's word, come to worship, and decided to follow the Lord!

It is impossible to overestimate the power of unity and spiritual inspiration of the great global family of Baptist churches. Your constant prayers serve as a spiritual pillar for Ukrainian Baptists. Your financial gifts for humanitarian aid have multiplied our ability to serve people with numerous needs. Your love has inspired us again and again and given us the strength to get up and move forward. Today we cry and work together. Tomorrow we will rejoice together and thank our God!

Thank you for sharing the light through One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gifts carry light and hope to the people of Ukraine. Thanks to your generosity, the words found in Matthew 5 ring true today: "Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

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