



## Update #12: 10th & 17th June

Thank you to everyone who prayed for [Andrii & Yolanta Kaustov](#) and application to come to the UK, where they could receive cancer treatment. After a succession of disappointments, Yolanta finally received confirmation of her visa, and they travelled to Belfast on 9th June, via Chisinau (Moldova) and Dublin. We were very grateful to Graham & Bequi Innes in Moldova for taking great care of them on that leg of their journey; and Ron & Joy McCormick have gone to enormous lengths to provide a home for them in Belfast, very close to the cancer treatment centre. And, with the help of Christian doctors in Northern Ireland, including Ron & Joy's daughter, Rachel, both Andrii & Yolanta already have appointments with cancer specialists next week. Please do continue to pray for the couple, as they begin the next stage of their medical treatment, and give thanks to the Lord for wonderful answers to prayer.



*Andrii & Yolanta Kaustov with hosts Ron & Joy McCormick*



The enormous generosity and compassion of supporters has enabled us to provide far more aid, as well as literature and other help, to evangelical churches, than we had ever expected, and for longer. Thank you to all who have donated.

But with the needs in Ukraine continuing, we are now using up the funds, and with each valuable lorry shipment costing more than £40,000, we've had to give serious consideration to how to best use the available funds. With acute needs in the East of the country, should we, for example, ship as many supplies as possible to this area?

We spent a long time talking to churches we'd been working with to get their input, and as a result, we've decided to adjust our approach, to extend the support for our partner churches for several more months, mainly by transferring funds for them to use locally, but sending fewer large shipments of supplies into the country. However, we hope to increase the proportion we are sending to the neediest areas in the East of the country.

While the work is primarily humanitarian in nature, yet this is leading to gospel opportunities as never seen before in Ukraine. And all of the churches we are working with take every opportunity to hold out the gospel of Christ to those who are willing to hear. This is a further reason why we would like to extend support for these churches as long funds will allow this.

**The needs in Ukraine continue to be great. If you are able to donate further, those donations will be used effectively, and it will enable us to extend support for our partner churches.**

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Or [click here](#)

Today we heard the news that our brother Vitalii Mariash has had to report to the military office, with a possibility of being called into the army in the near future. Vitalii and his wife Liudmyla had been taking turns to travel back to Kyiv from their temporary home in Chernivtsi, to help with the growing work of their church in Kyiv, ministering to hundreds of displaced people who had moved to Kyiv from the East and the South of the country. Vitalii has also been continuing his role as Academic Dean of Kyiv Theological Seminary, with courses running online. Vitalii may be

# The Situation

From our missionaries' view

asked to serve as a chaplain, or as a regular soldier, but it's also possible he may be allowed to continue his current work.

In some ways this reflects life in Ukraine, with Ukrainians trying to continue to live and work as best they can, whilst the brutal, attritional war continues, devastating the lives of many, and still millions of people are eeking out a living in temporary homes.

The most desperate needs continue to be in the East, where basic food and medicine, along with fuel, is in short supply, particularly in the smaller towns and villages. Kharkiv continues to be a place of great suffering, as the city comes back into the range of Russian artillery. Even though there are great needs across the country, yet churches in the West of the country are doing all they can to send supplies to the East (like the shipment pictured below, sent from the churches in Ternopil).

In Kyiv, many refugees who come to the city from Kharkiv, Mariupol, Severodonetsk and the Donbas region. The biggest needs of these people are jobs and money to pay for accommodation and food. Last Sunday, the small church where Vitalii & Liudmyla serve, had 300 people join their outdoor service. They hand out food packages, but also simply spend time with people, listening to their stories. They've distributed all the literature they had, and have asked us for any supplies of Bibles and evangelistic literature we can get to them. This picture is repeated in many evangelical churches across Ukraine.

Please continue to pray for an end to the war, for evangelical Christians working on the front line, and for the work of the gospel in the midst of the suffering. Pray particularly for pastors who are called day after day to support deeply traumatised people.



*Vitalii Mariash describes the situation in Kyiv and also his possible call up to military service.*



*Shipment being sent from Ternopil to Kharkiv with supplies obtained by the churches in Ternopil*



### Donations Received:

£883,000 has been received since the start of the appeal.

### Funds Disbursed:

£713,000 has been disbursed since the start of the appeal.

68% to Ukraine

21% to Moldova

6% to Poland

4% to Romania

1% for across Italy, Hungary, Spain and literature from UK

Last week our most recent shipment of supplies reached Ternopil from Netherlands - on this occasion, a large

shipment with generators and appliances, along with food, bedding and hygiene products.

We're also expecting our next shipment of goods from Lublin to get on its way our distribution hub in the city of Uman, where Valik Lipsky, a deacon in the church, is leading a very dedicated team distributing the supplies further East to Kharkiv and the Donbas.

While this may be the last shipment we send for a while - we're also working with our friends in other mission fellowships to see if they can make use of the supply and distribution routes we've got established.

**For more details of how we are working, to make effective use of the generous donations entrusted to us, please [click here](#).**



*Valik Lipsky, from the church in Uman, distributing aid to home for people with disabilities.*



We've mentioned our brother Valik Lipsky a couple of times already in this newsletter. We got to know Valik through Volodia Kostyshyn, as we looked to set up a distribution hub a bit further to the East of Ukraine in Uman. Volodia and Valik have been friends for several years, and Volodia knew that he could rely on Valik to distribute supplies effectively to those who most needed them.

Valik is married to Alona, and they have a son Timur, who's 9, and daughter Vera who's 4. But Uman is not their original home, as they had to flee from Donetsk to Uman back in 2014 when the war with Russia started. In 2018 they started a church plant in Uman which they called Reconciliation Church.



*Valik and Alona Lipsky with their 2 children*

But the Russian invasion on 24th February, brought both challenges and opportunities for service. They lost their jobs, and had to bring the rest of their family to safety. But with the enormity of the need across the country, Valik and Alona decided to devote all their time to serving the Lord, travelling 1000's of miles all over the country, to bring humanitarian supplies to people and evacuate people from the most dangerous areas, but also sharing the gospel and discipling those who have come to Christ.

But recently Valik shared a particular concern with us, as an urgent matter for prayer. His father, Volodia, who is also a Christian, had become ill, and the hospitals in Uman were unable to do anything. So Valik took him to a hospital in Cherkasy where they advised that he needed major heart surgery.

Please do pray for Volodia Lipsky, and for Valik and his family as they wait for Volodia's operation, which may be next week, and as they seek to serve the Lord.



*Valik Lipsky with his father Volodia who is in need of urgent heart surgery*



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