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REACHING OUT WITH CHRISTIAN LOVE; SERVING THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE

Welcome to this special **UKRAINE EDITION** of Krasif Aid News



Like most people, we have been shocked and appalled as we have watched the unfolding pain and trauma that the Russian war on the nation of Ukraine has caused, and we pray for peace to come and end this terrible conflict, and the death toll for both Ukrainians and Russians.

Working and ministering in Eastern Europe as we have for approaching 25 years, and seeing the graphic images of death and destruction on the television news, Ukraine so reminds us of our second home nation of Bulgaria. The people, the buildings, and the love for their country, is all so familiar to us, and makes every report very real and close to home. And if we feel like that, then you can imagine what our many friends and partners in Bulgaria are going through right now!

PLEASE PRAY... This Special News Update is to ask for your prayers. The response from our church friends in Bulgaria towards the people of Ukraine has already been amazing and humbling. Out of their own lack of resources they are being incredibly generous, and we are able to undergird their efforts in some small ways. Around 30,000 Ukrainian refugees have already reached Bulgaria. Here are just two reports from our partner churches...



PASTOR ALEX from Varna on the Black Sea coast writes...

We continue to receive phone calls and requests to accommodate refugees but our hands are short. I have coordinated with the pastors of Second Baptist and Baptist church of Aksakovo. Together we try to be of help to those displaced and running from the war. Our leadership team decided we would welcome 8 people (two families of four) in the church and 20 more if it becomes really serious. We have a number of folding beds, bedding and everything necessary to provide them with some living conditions. Right now our plans are to purchase a laundry machine and install it in the church. The people that we are ready to provide shelter for will need to have a washing machine where they can do the dirty laundry.

Now let me update you on what we did in the last few days. One of the local charismatic churches shared with all evangelical churches they would collect humanitarian aid which will be taken to churches in Odessa, Ukraine. They were asking for non-perishable food items like canned meat, beans, sugar, lentils as well as medicines and warm clothes. So Kremi and I went shopping. We were stunned to find out that most of the canned food was gone. Perhaps it was due to the fact that there are already many refugees from Ukraine in Varna. Anyway, we bought three cardboard boxes with canned meat, two large boxes with macaroni and a box with wet wipes. We brought them to that church yesterday afternoon and today I dropped some of our winter coats which we and the kids no longer use. Some of our kids' clothes were brand new ones because they did not wear them and eventually have outgrown their size. All items will be delivered to Odessa on 15-16 March.



PASTOR IURI Sliven Baptist Church, Bulgaria is Moldovan...

We are in contact with the co-ordination center for refugees in Sliven and are ready to participate with food, clothes even place to sleep which some of the people from the church are ready to provide if needed. For now, the Situation in Sliven is comparatively calm but we are trying to find information and are in

are relatives of a woman from our church.

It was exactly half an hour ago when I had a phone call from our friend who is from Ukraine but is a minister in Nova Zagora, who shared that he wants to prepare a lorry with necessary things for a church in western Ukraine which is at the moment providing food and shelter for the victims mainly from the eastern part. The church needs washing machine, cooker, food, mattresses because the people were sleeping on the church floor just on sheets. They would like to wash their clothes and are already cooking for those who lost their homes. We decided to buy washing machine and washing powder for them and we also would like to send them some food packets. He will provide the cooker. The lorry will travel next Thursday which means that we need to be ready by next Wednesday.

Our church in Moldova, because they are on the border with Ukraine (less than 1 km), is heavily burdened for meeting refugees and everyone in the village is busy to help them in the ways they can. If we have enough funds, we could send to them as well because most of the people in the church are elderly and they themselves need support but at the moment they share their own bread in order to serve to the refugees from Ukraine.

We are very happy to tell you that this morning we managed to buy the 20 mattresses from you. As we found good prices for them, we were also able to buy a pump, blankets and sheets all for 800 Leva. Ivan decided to travel much earlier. He will probably start tomorrow morning. We will appreciate your prayers for his trip. It was very nice together with the other churches in the town to participate and we are so encouraged because in addition to your help, the people from our church contributed to buy new washing machine, baby nappies, a variety of food, washing gel etc. and with an amount towards the fuel costs. It is a great way to support this church in Ukraine who cares for the victims! Thank you for joining us in this! Most probably, we are going to have other options to do it again for the people in need in Ukraine, Moldova and even here.



CULLOMPTON...

Closer to home, the work amongst the large Bulgarian community in our town continues to evolve, and the links we have from Krasif Aid and the local churches with the police, council, and local businesses are opening up great new opportunities for integration.

These same links are really significant as we look at the possibility of receiving refugees from the Ukraine under the new government scheme.

has been able to put plans in place with a local Hotel owner for at least 10 rooms to be available for refugees as and when that stage of the scheme opens up.

We may also be able to bring into Cullompton a wonderful young Christian couple from Bulgaria. He has UK legal status and she is from the Ukraine. They were married a year ago and between them speak Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Russian and English fluently. What an asset they would be here at this significant time! We value your prayers.

With Many Blessings, **Brian & Chris Clarke**

Ecclesiastes 3... There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.



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