



Alison Giblett

Link Letter no. 62 | April 2025

Contact details:
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Location: Ukraine



What I do: Providing spiritual and material care to those in need through my church and the Genesis ministry (helping people with destructive behaviours)



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential

Dear pray-ers,

It was a joy to see so many of you over the last few months. It has really been an intense schedule, with so many days travelling by car, bus, or plane. A special thank you to everyone who opened up your homes to offer a bed and share a meal. I am truly so very blessed to have friends in so many places. Though physically tiring, emotionally I was very encouraged by your ongoing interest and concern for Ukraine.

Wherever I went I shared about Ukraine and was particularly encouraged to see how many people are still standing with us and faithfully praying for Ukraine, even in Africa. Thank you to all of you who made a great effort to host special events, evening gatherings, joint meals where I could meet and share with many more folk. I now also feel well connected to my three new churches: All Saints, Sidmouth, St Mary's, Ealing and St Stephen's, Bexhill.

My month in Africa was equally full. I started the trip with a wonderful visit to school friends who have served all their lives with OM (Operation Mobilisation). They were very helpful in preparing for training. On Friday night I shared at their international prayer evening for about 30 people.

Teaching the Genesis intensive Train the Trainers course in South Africa was at the same time one of the hardest and most rewarding things I have done. We had 25 students from nine different countries and me from Ukraine. There was lots of singing and dancing in true African style as well as tears and joy as people grasped the concepts and started sharing their lives. We worked in pairs and groups and used role play and lots of slides to help people gain the skills necessary to provide Genesis counselling. At the end I mentioned how in Ukraine we have used the Genesis Change groups to bring effective change for a larger number of people. Now I am getting many requests to provide training to set up Change groups. We will have to do that online, but there are limitations due to poor internet connections. Already some people have started gathering students.

On my return I squeezed in participation at the UK ISAAC (International Substance Abuse and Addiction Coalition) conference in Bristol. There were many small organisations providing training, counselling, resources and Christian rehabilitation, most of whom had little awareness of the other groups with similar



Students and residents of The Hope Revolution centre, where we held the training in South Africa

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



aims. We had very good feedback from the two days. The types of addiction have changed and the need for Christians to respond is even greater.

Ukraine is longing for the end of the war but very concerned that there needs to be reliable security guarantees so that the invaders do not regroup and return. Please continue to pray for just and long-lasting peace in this region.

We really want to make the most of the season of Easter, which many Ukrainians celebrate without understanding its real significance. Mostly it's thought to be about painting eggs, fasting and preparing a basket of sweet bread, wine, smoked sausage, butter and eggs to be sanctified by the priests early on Easter Sunday. Then, after their 40 days of fasting, people go home with their baskets to celebrate.

Easter plans

We will be sharing the true meaning of Easter both in the Makariv region west of Kyiv and the Chernihiv region to the north. An evangelistic group from different countries will be with us the week before Easter as go house to house, visiting people.

On Saturday, 19 April, TLG church will celebrate Easter with an evangelistic service followed by a picnic, weather permitting. May the wonderful victory God won for us on the cross help us give to him all the anger, bitterness and desire for revenge. Please pray for all our Easter and summer outreach to bring a great harvest.

Right after the service a group of chaplains will go to the front line to lead Easter services for the soldiers on Easter Sunday. Another group will leave on Easter Monday to accompany a group of Christian dentists for a week as they treat the needs of soldiers in several different brigades in the east. I am very pleased to also serve a chaplain. Thank you for all your prayers for protection and provision for these trips.

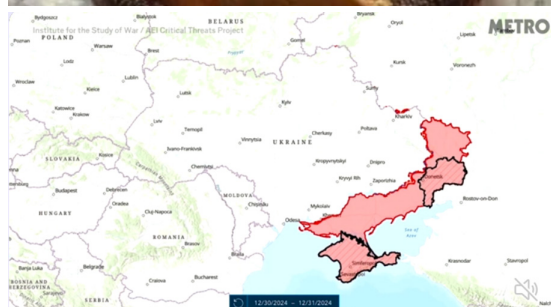
Praise God that the Gideons' initiative to encourage pupils with ways to overcome stress has been approved by the minister of education. This also gives the Gideons an opportunity to offer New Testaments to all the schools who want them. Pray that all the school directors will welcome this support and that the visits will bring hope and encouragement for children.

If you have not been able to see the six-minute video I shared with churches in England and Africa, please see churchmissionsociety.org/alison25.

Many thanks for your partnership with us.

Alison Giblett

Serving with Valeriy Alymov and Anya Manchulyak in The Tabernacle of the Living God church Kyiv



Photos from top to bottom: ISAAC conference flyer; a traditional Easter basket; the current front line, showing the occupied territory; children receiving Gideon Bibles (photo from Gideons International)



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

I've been encouraged to hear recent mission stories from around my wider area of work. In Ukraine, families are being assured they are not alone amid the hardship of war, and our colleagues in Paraguay have seen a young man overcome challenges to learn academically and spiritually. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

Please note that opinions expressed in updates are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

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