



Alison Giblett

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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 reach their God-given potential

Dear friends,

Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting us, particularly over the last four years during the war. It has not been easy, though through the challenges our faith in God is growing. Repeatedly we have heard testimonies of God's miraculous answers to prayer for protection and provision. At the same time, however, some we know and love have died and many more have been wounded in battle or from the rocket and drone attacks. Many have lost everything but still found God to be faithful in providing them with new homes and communities.

As we visit soldiers and people living near the front line, many confirm that they now know that God is real and answers prayer. However, sadly, others who previously had a traditional faith, say they have seen so much horror that they can't believe there is a God who is in control. Please pray for all those involved in trauma response ministries. Several of us in TLG have been training in trauma response. All Ukrainians have experienced some level of trauma but many in the south and particularly the east have had their homes and lives torn apart.



TLG chaplains encouraging soldiers

There was a lot of publicity around the different peace talks, the first of which led to the largest exchange of captured soldiers since the start of the war. However, very sadly, the end still does not feel much closer. In the meantime, the number and size of the rockets has increased, particularly at night. Please pray for sufficient pressure to be applied to increase motivation for a just and long-term peace.

Chaplains from our church and other churches have been active in visiting the soldiers on the front line and in the hospitals as well as their families. From the beginning I have been involved in the family support, where we have the joy of seeing a few choose to attend church. Last winter I was also invited to be a full chaplain, so have been participating in the training and activities. The need far outweighs our resources in terms of people and finances for this huge and growing task.

In addition to the suffering described above, doctors have noticed a large increase in the number of heart attacks, heart problems, strokes, cases of cancer and other terminal diseases. Lots of friends are having to undergo chemotherapy or have operations to remove growths. Friends and I have also suffered a rapid loss of teeth and crowns. I lost four last winter. Most people can't afford the luxury of medical insurance, so it is a huge burden on families to try and cover the cost when they get an alarming diagnosis. In TLG we have



several encouraging testimonies of these needs being met through generous church friends. The economy is struggling and so inflation runs high above social support and pay adjustments.

At the end of June, I served in another camp in Western Ukraine for children from families who had suffered significantly due to the war through loss of a family member or forced relocation. It was so good to help them have fun, in particular those who started the week very closed.

Kyiv was one of the 30 cities where the evangelism programme Million (Souls) Month took place. We had two weeks of personal and

public evangelism on the streets and worship nights every other evening. It culminated in a march for Jesus through the city historical centre in the afternoon, and an open-air evangelistic concert by the Ukrainian

Arch of Freedom. This coincided with the National Day of Prayer, which David Hathaway has organised for the last seven years. It was a joyous day, bringing unity and strong public witness. We thank God for the increasing national recognition that we need to rely on God. The Day of Independence on 24 August has now been made an annual Day of Prayer.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity God gave me in August to have a family holiday specifically to participate in reunions with both sides of the family. These were prompted by my sister Cynthia and her husband Andrew's first visit to the UK in 16 years (they haven't been since before they got married). Both reunions were very special times to build good relationships and memories. I returned to Ukraine in time for our three days of prayer and fasting.

The translation and dubbing of the Genesis (inner healing) process videos is progressing gradually. I am really looking forward to having these videos made available to people who would like to run groups in their own locations. Please pray for the completion of this process and in particular for a new team of facilitators to the serve many people who need support.

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Photos from top to bottom: Blessing the young people at TLG; art therapy for children at a camp; March for Jesus and prayer at strategic sites; public evangelistic concert by the Arch of Freedom



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

It builds my faith when I hear stories from other CMS partners working with people pushed to the edges of life. I hope that you're inspired as you read about indigenous women training for ministry in Argentina, and about children receiving trauma support in DR Congo. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

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