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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,

It is always good to be able to share our news with you and know you are behind us in prayer.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for peace and a just end to the war. The whole process of the war has dramatically changed with the prime use of drones. Attacks on the capital have increased, resulting in much destruction, including affecting about half Ukraine's power capacity (https://kyivindependent.com/all-ukraines-state-owned-thermal-power-plants-stop-working-after-russias-largest-ever-attack/). The mood is bleak as we enter another winter with limited electricity. Power outages are now two or three times a day for several hours. Recruitment has got harsher, creating



TLG celebrating seven years

much fear and more people we know personally have died. The corruption scandals and blatant injustice also decrease morale. Please pray for stamina in prayer and service.

Our church, the Tabernacle of the Living God, is continuing in all its different ministries to encourage and strengthen people's faith. This year we celebrated reaching completeness – seven years – and appointed new pastors and deacons. We have invested a lot in fuel to make sure we will be able to continue providing spiritual and practical support throughout the winter.

In November, I had a short trip to city of Dnipro, where we visited many soldiers with very serious wounds. After some initial hesitancy they were open to receive our encouragement and prayer. A worship leader who joined us really helped to bring God's presence into the room. One man had 60 bits of shrapnel in his body, causing him to lose most of his sight and hearing. Like many others, his leg was held together with an Ilizarov frame. While we were there his very pregnant wife came with a friend to visit. They all were all thankful that God had preserved his life and for the treatment he was receiving. We spent 20–40 minutes with the three or four patients in each room, for which they were grateful. We left them with prayer cards and a booklet called Greater Love, which has gospel parables for soldiers.

I have been seeking to restart the Genesis ministry here in Kyiv, however, it has had very many setbacks at every stage (https://www.genesisprocess.org/changegroups). I fully believe this is a spiritual battle to continue making the resources available for people struggling to change. The translation of the Change books into Ukrainian has been completed. However, the first level of the Genesis videos is still in the process of being dubbed. These videos will make it much easier to get groups going in other locations. We had a very good training day here in Kyiv with some leaders in our TLG church, however, we really need more people to come on board. Thank you for your prayers for this vital ministry.



I am continuing to invest time in learning Ukrainian and trauma recovery. Previously, I only heard Ukrainian occasionally and certainly did not need it for ministry. However, since the full-scale invasion, that has completely changed, so I really don't have a choice. I can now understand most conversations and teaching and get the gist of text, however my spoken Ukrainian is definitely "Surzhyk" – a local name for a mixture of Ukrainian and Russian, which many people in the cities and east use. Due to the overlap in languages, I find it hard to remember which words can't be used in Ukrainian.

In previous letters, I described training undertaken with the Trauma Institute, a ministry of the Bible Society. I am now

completing a course with Ellel Ministries focused on releasing people from trauma and PTSD. It is wonderful to see how God's Word is just as powerful today to set people free whatever the circumstances. Most of the men who have lost limbs continue to suffer from phantom pain (pain in the part of the body they no longer have). One of the Ellel trainers, who was praying for such a soldier, felt led to ask him if he had let go of his leg. The answer was no. So with his agreement she led him in a prayer to forgive those who had caused the loss, thanked God for the years that his leg had served him well, and then released his leg, accepting that it could no longer support him, and chose to trust that God would provide for him without it. After praying he testified that the pain had completely gone.

ISAAC, the International Substance and Addiction Coalition network, has renewed and expanded their mutual prayer support through monthly Zoom calls. These meetings have been very encouraging, gathering ministers from over 14 nations. A few of us take it in turns to arrange a devotional and facilitate these calls.

As a church, TLG are looking forward to our next three days of prayer and fasting, at the end of November. We aim to get away each quarter so we can focus on prayer and worship. These are vital times to strengthen our spirit and relationships so we can overcome the continual challenges we face. This time we will be joined by others from the Union of Charismatic churches, which we became part of this year. The relationship has been growing for several years as we have participated in their leadership retreats and some other events.

The year has gone past very quickly, such that it is time to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. Again, we will be providing support for the women and children who have lost their fathers and husbands. They look forward to these gatherings, but sadly there are more and more people now needing this support.

May this time of rejoicing refresh and strengthen you as we focus on the unfathomable love God showed by sending his son, from the perfect peace of heaven, to live and suffer with and for us.

Under his wings,

Alison





Photos from top to bottom: Appointing new leaders; youth prayer meeting; harvest lunch in Raigorod



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 Elise and Jon in Thailand who are working to keep families together and children out of care. And about Makol in South Sudan whose life got dramatically saved during a peace rally. You can read their stories, and others, at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

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