



# Alison Giblett

Link Letter no. 65 | May 2026

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 reach their God-given potential

Dear friends,

Greetings from Kyiv. There is so much to share.

Last winter was the bleakest period of the war. We had the coldest winter in 15 years, frequent power outages and mass destruction of heating systems. Praise God, things have now improved. Spring didn't arrive until mid-May, but now the temperature is warmer and the power mostly stable.

Ever since my purse, with my residency card, was stolen last September, I have been trying to renew my residency status. In February I finally managed to gather all the required documents and government confirmation letter. However, my application, without my previous residency card, was rejected, and I was given seven days to leave the country.

Though I had to leave unexpectedly, it was wonderful to see many of you, renew fellowship and enjoy the beautiful flowers and spring weather in March. I stayed in 14 different homes and drove about 1000 miles in the nice car that CMS kindly lent me, to hold 14 meetings and many private visits. Thank you all so much for your wonderful hospitality. I was able to encourage ongoing interest and motivation to support Ukraine.

I planned my return to Ukraine through Moldova to serve at a rehab conference in Vinnytsia and teach in Moldovan rehab centres. Praise God this all went well. The conference brought 25 rehab leaders together from different churches and projects. The speakers came, via Moldova, from Estonia and the States. I gave a presentation on ISAAC and we promoted an attitude of partnership. The leaders encouraged each other, sharing their key factors for long-term effectiveness.

On my return, I seemed to hit the ground running. Every week has involved different trips for ministry and training. It is clear to see the hand of God providing these opportunities to serve as chaplains. There are four main areas that our pastor and commander Valery Alymov is currently organising:

**1. Front line respite care:** providing for the immediate needs of the soldiers who suffer much back pain due to being forced to carry heavy packs on top of their armour and weapons for 30–40km. Once a month we bring a team of masseurs and chaplains to provide physical, psychological and spiritual support. I was part of a team of 30 who went in April, half professional masseurs and half chaplains. We served soldiers from four battalions over three days. On one day a portable sauna was brought in to help people relax.

**2. Renewal centres:** last weekend I travelled with Valery to visit Makariv and Vinnytsia, where churches who are interested in supporting the military have buildings they are willing to dedicate to this purpose. It was



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With each other  
To the edges**



exciting to see the way God had clearly matched up the needs on one side and possibilities on the other. The idea is that soldiers needing renewal will be sent by their commanding officers for 7–10 days where they will receive psychological, physical and spiritual support. Each centre will be equipped with a gym, massage room, doctors and other professionals. The two larger buildings have not been completed, so work and finances are needed before they can be used. Please pray that all the necessary resources will be found both to complete and equip these properties and to run the programmes.

**3. Family support:** The support for the bereaved families continues but we need God's direction as to how best to continue developing these relationships. We provided a gathering for the women at the beginning of May, however, far fewer people attended than expected.

**4. Marriage support:** Marriages of military servicemen are under tremendous strain, due to the different pressures and misunderstanding on both sides. Statistically, 80 per cent of service personnel marriages are falling apart. This escalates the family's pain and significantly weakens the whole society. Valery is planning marriage retreats in the mountains to help couples understand how the war changes each partner's priorities, in order to strengthen understanding and acceptance. We are looking for speakers to come and serve at these retreats.

This is just some of the chaplaincy work that is going on. The other visits to provide regular chaplaincy support continue, as well as work by the dental teams. After seeing the need for massage, I took an intensive course for chaplains wanting to provide this service.

News from the Tabernacle of the Living God: we praise God that TLG is growing, with new people regularly joining. The course Foundations for Christian Living has been well appreciated for helping people have confidence in what and why they believe. However, the effects of the war go deeper. Another four men from our community have been forcibly taken into the army this month. Many people are suffering stress-related diseases like cancer, and heart problems as the air attacks continue. We seek to be led through all God's gifts given to the church.

In June I will be back in Africa to teach the Genesis change groups ([genesisprocess.org/changegroups](https://genesisprocess.org/changegroups)). This follows on from the individual Genesis counselling I provided last year in South Africa and which Dean Perry taught in 2024. People who know how to use Genesis tools will be applying them in groups, which provides greater support and accountability. This time the training will be held in Mwanza, Tanzania. Following this I will participate in the ISAAC East Africa conference, where I have both plenary and workshops to lead.

The monthly prayer calls, supporting the ISAAC network, have been going well ([isaac-international.org/about-us/online-prayer-meetings](https://isaac-international.org/about-us/online-prayer-meetings)). We have now started bimonthly forums on topics relevant to the ministry. The first session in April was Serving from a Position of Spiritual Strength.

If anyone would like to receive short weekly news updates, please let me know.

Blessings from Kyiv,

Alison



*Photos from top to bottom: Chatting with a soldier; sharing at the support gathering for bereaved women; massages; visiting a rehab centre*



## Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

I hope that you're inspired as you read about Josephat in Tanzania who has changed his future through a CMS-linked project. And, see how mission partner Ann-Marie has changed global policy impacting women at risk of female genital mutilation. Read their stories and others at [churchmissionsociety.org/empower](https://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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