



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)

Dear friends,

Thank you for your support and prayers, especially over the last 15 months. In this letter, I want to share with you glimpses of how we are learning to live with the reality of ongoing war.

As you know, I have been able to remain in Ukraine with my community and church family – I explained why in [an article for CMS Magazine](#) last year. This is my home, so as I pray I naturally pray for “us” and “our land”.

Life in Kyiv

Since summer last year ground fighting and occupation have been pushed out of northern Ukraine to the south and east. The main concern is for the people in Kherson region whose homes are destroyed by war and now floods. In the rest of country there are ongoing random airstrikes most days. Praise God that many are being intercepted. (One night when I was up late in my flat with no curtains, I was actually able to watch the missiles being intercepted – rather like watching a horrible large scale Nintendo game!)

The sirens go off mostly at night, but also during the day. When the city is under alert, all public transport stops – so you can end up stuck. Going towards curfew, you have to get inside, which means finding expensive taxis to get home.

Explosions that might once have been a shock are now part of everyday life. Although we adapt, we are constantly on the alert. This affects different people in different ways, depending how each person deals with stress. Everyone is affected, but some people are being destroyed by it – there has been an increase in alcoholism and violence, which I see through neighbours or shop keepers drunk or smelling of alcohol, and more generally people are reacting more quickly and harshly than they would normally.

It is very, very sad. Because so much of the economy is affected, many people are struggling financially – either to find work or being paid less. With couples separated long term there have been many marriage breakdowns. Everybody has gone through unsettling and uprooting.

There are also good things coming out of the situation for some people – some are better off, if they have been able to get abroad, learn English and some get better jobs. But others abroad are really lonely – as there may not be other Ukrainian speakers nearby.

There is a huge network of humanitarian aid and charity workers who have stayed in the country, and have set up all sorts of networks, connecting with like-minded people resulting even in some weddings! Some people have found purpose in this kind of work.

Tabernacle of the Living God

Every morning and evening at nine we pray for an hour or more online to intercede for all aspects of the country. In the morning we thank God we



Restoring the ruins: with my church, Tabernacle of the Living God, offering practical support.

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



are here, and each evening pray for a quiet night; the mundane realities of life are reliant on prayer in a more tangible way than before.

As a church we had already strengthened our community during the pandemic – we met in groups of up to 10 in homes around the city. Likewise at the outbreak of war, rather than scattering, the core group of around 40 all moved together four times during our time away from Kyiv. We were a living, moving tabernacle bringing our sacrifice of worship and intercession for the people each morning and evening. Naturally, we grew in faith and relationship again.

Since returning to Kyiv, we have developed a restoration ministry, supporting people in practical, spiritual and emotional ways – meeting the immense needs around us. One part is trauma training. I, along with others from the

church, have participated in training from Christian organisations who have come to equip people to help Ukrainians deal with trauma they are experiencing. I feel this is line with the gifts and ministry God has called me to. We offer this ministry to anyone now, but people need to feel safe to process their trauma, so once war ends, there is likely to be a greater need, as the trauma can come out. It is heart breaking to continually see so much destruction around us.

One large ministry is Waves of Hope: currently in Chernihiv Oblast working with YWAM. YWAM are building prefab homes, and TLG are responsible for the spiritual side. Between 9 and 18 June TLG provided a venue for outreach ministry, including evangelism, children's work, worship and "soul caring". This will continue on 17–26 August. You're welcome to join!

My flat

Over a year later I am still struggling with the aftermath of a major fire in my flat. This was unconnected to the war, but the process of cleaning up and repairing has been made more complex by it due to the shortage of workers and the soaring material costs. The consequences of the fire have been harder for me than with the war: war is being dealt with as a group, and after the initial escape, we are now carrying on with life and praying. The flat is only my problem. Praise God it is now liveable but still lots more to be done. Disruption and coping have been a large part of life this last year and a half.

Connecting online

Many of you are part of the Intercession for Ukraine group on Zoom, Saturdays at 7pm. The invitation and detailed weekly report go out on Signal. Please let me know if you would also like to participate.

Please pray for:

- Rescue and restoration for the land and people affected by the destruction of the Kahovsky dam. Freedom from occupation and attack for the whole country.
- For people to seek and find God as their source of peace, protection and provision. That the fear of God will come on all who promote destruction and exploitation.
- Spiritual, emotional and physical healing and transformation through the five missions this summer like Waves of Hope.

Alison



Photos from top to bottom: TLG church have visited areas affected by war, run children's camps and offered spiritual support for a YWAM "Waves of Hope" project.



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/nevergiveup

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

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