



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 prayer partners,

It is a joy to stop and capture a fraction of what God is doing here in Ukraine and beyond. Thank you so much for your long-term partnership. It's hard to believe that it's already 20 years of serving here in Ukraine.

Things have been a lot harder this spring, with heavy attacks on the eastern cities and loss of ground previously regained. Another estimated 500,000 people have moved to Kyiv, to add to the eight million internally displaced people. As you may have heard, the government is requiring all men aged 20–60 to report to the local military office within 60 days, which is causing a lot of tension. Please pray for peace and unity in the country as well as protection.

In order to fulfil our spiritual responsibility to defend the country, we (the Tabernacle of the Living God) have increased our commitment to intercession. Every three hours, members of the church here and abroad connect via Telegram chat to pray for the government, the army, protection, peace and the spiritual condition of the country. Do join us Our three-day prayer and fasting retreat in May brought great strength to the 80 church members who attended. We are looking forward to several others later in the year. Eurovision Mission to Europe has organised another National Day of Prayer on 22 June.



Praying for the country

The many secondary complications from the war are increasing, including ecumenical struggles on a personal and regional basis; secondary health problems such as heart attacks, a rise in cancer cases, problems with digestion and sleeping; increased relational stress and divorce following long periods of separation and partners experiencing very different challenges. The energy crisis is another major complication. Before the war Ukraine was a net exporter of energy, however 70 per cent of its capacity has been destroyed. Some parts in the east have not had power for over a year. Here in the capital, we have the privilege of electricity about half the time.

Rosie, a British friend, and I attended a forum of 200 army chaplains at the end of May to serve the food, which also gave us the opportunity to attend most of the sessions. People shared their struggles, joys, and recommendations for the future. <u>Click here for a short video of the forum.</u>

Chaplains from TLG and other churches not only make trips to support the soldiers near the front line, but also visit the wounded in hospital (many of whom are there long term) and the widows whose husbands have died in battle or simply gone missing, and run camps for children who have lost their fathers or mothers.



Click here for a video of a recent trip. We have another event for the widows west of Kyiv later this month and will run several camps this summer.

I am extremely grateful that I could take a holiday last winter and spend a couple of months with my younger sister Cynthia and her husband Andrew in Australia, where she emigrated 17 years ago. I had not been there since their marriage 14 years ago. Before leaving I was definitely experiencing emotional fatigue. Though I was still functioning, true compassion for people had dried up. Praise God I returned feeling fresh and keen to return to service. Together we visited various Ukarumpa school friends in different parts of the country and several third cousins, some of whom I had never met before. We also took the opportunity to return to our homeland of

Papua New Guinea, where Mum and Dad served for nearly 10 years. It was a real joy to revisit our childhood home, schools and community. Even though it was 40 years since we left, there were still some people who remembered us. We were able to attend a translators' forum, which was very interesting. The faces have changed but Wycliffe is still continuing the vital work of Bible translation for thousands of people groups who don't even have the New Testament in their language.

I broke my long return journey with stopovers in Dubai and Moldova so that I could share some of the Genesis material with the Russian-speaking church and a Christian rehab centre respectively. Praise God for his faithfulness all around the world.

In March, while I was away, the face-to-face Genesis group had a serious conflict with TLG. Please pray for forgiveness and healing for all involved. Nevertheless, they still ended with encouraging testimonies of God, restoring identity, and freedom from a victim mentality. The online group, comprised of Ukrainians living in different European cities and in Ukraine, ended a couple of months later with testimonies of freedom from depression, from fear of others' opinions and from depending on unhealthy food. We really need God's guidance and grace for the way forward.

An initiative called Christians for Ukraine facilitates a wide range of projects, including aid distribution, evangelism and promoting biblical values in the process of government. The Declaration for the Reconstruction of Ukraine. has been signed by the vast majority of Evangelical churches in Ukraine. Please pray that it will be adopted in many government departments.

This summer, in partnership with local churches, we plan to run interdenominational missions in three regions (oblasts), including children's camps, evangelism, and aid. In the face of tremendous suffering and destruction, we know that many people are hungry for real answers. Please pray with us for God to heal broken hearts, for practical details and physical and spiritual protection.

I have been asked to speak at the next international ISAAC conference in Kuala Lumpur in September. As usual the aim is to strengthen the Christian response to addiction in the region. We pray this will be a significant time for the way forward as an organisation. Thanks again for your prayers for all the arrangements, travel, participants and long-term fruit.

With gratitude for each of you,

Alison







Photos from top to bottom: Cynthia, Andrew and me with PNG friends; with our aunt in Sydney; our childhood home in PNG; chaplaincy ministry



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