



Ukraine Mission



Ukraine is a beautiful, independent, the second largest country in Europe (after Russia), about the size of Texas, and twice the population of Florida, about 42 million people. It has often been invaded because of its rich resources including coal, its rich soil and hard-working people. It was dominated by the Soviet Union and Russia for over 70 years. Currently there is a military dispute (a real war) between the Ukrainian Government and Donetsk - Lugansk regional separatists supported by Russia.

Letter from Toretsk Church widow, Lena Chernyh

Greetings to you, my dearest brothers and sisters! I am Lena Chernyh, writing to you from Toretsk. You cannot even imagine how joyful it is for us to know that you remember us and you are concerned about us. We have the best memories from the years when you were able to come. It is so different now. So sad. Our church is very small now. We call each other, check on each other. We do get together when we can. I live alone, close to the dividing line between the two fighting sides. When the shooting starts it seems it is right here, near my house. The walls and windows are shaking. Most of the people from my street have gone to wherever they could go. It is painful to go outside and see my neighbors' houses empty and ruined. I am 83, quite mature age, but I am still able to take care of myself, glory to God. Every day I start with bringing water, wood and coal in the house. It is cold now, most of the time I have to be in the kitchen, near the stove to keep the coal burning. Winters are so long. I am thankful to God I am able to walk and I am thankful to you, Christian family, for helping me keep my house warm. May God keep you warm and safe, my dear generous brothers and sisters. I pray for the wellbeing and health for you all and for your children and grandchildren. With Love, Lena



Humanitarian Aid from USA arrived to the war zone, Toretsk, Donetsk region



In January 2021 with the help of Dalraida Church of Christ, Montgomery, AL, and other generous donors a container of humanitarian aid arrived at the Church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk, in western Ukraine. The Ivano-Frankivsk Church leaders then shipped half of the container contents to schools and hospitals in Toretsk.

Toretsk hospitals and Schools received 10,350 facial masks from USA Christians in February. Here is a Thank You note from the teachers.

"City Department of Education and all the teachers are expressing gratitude to the Christians of the Church of Christ for your warmth and kindness, for the ability to perceive our problems as your own. The use of facial masks is very important to overcome the pandemic. The 5000 protective masks you sent to us will help us to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Thank you for always being there for us. We wish you unending energy, health and prosperity. May God bless you."



PLEASE help feeding children in Toretsk Schools: 7,10,12,13,16,17,18



Because of unemployment and poverty in Toretsk, which is in the war zone—on the request of the teachers, parents and the city Department of education — we American Christians provide \$0.65 lunches for 205 especially needy middle and high school children. We also provide 1/2 the cost of lunches for 64 elementary school children (the city of Toretsk pays the other half).

Thank you for your prayers and support! If you would like to know more about the Ukraine Mission or make a donation, please contact Bill and Lyuba Wharton: 352-372-9202
Address: 9044 SW 79 Ave, Gainesville, FL 32608 E-mail: wlwmail@yahoo.com



Letters from two elementary school students. Toretsk School 12

1. Dear friends, my name is Kirill, I am in the 4th grade school №12, in the settlement Kurdumovka. I go to school by bus, because there is no school in our village. When there is a lot of shooting and shelling, buses do not run, then I study at home with my mom. My mom is disabled and she is sick often. In our family only father can work but only in summer when the harvest is ripe. I leave the house early to catch the bus. On the way to school I think about our lunch. When I come to school it already smells like delicious food. At the big break my classmates and I eat our meals. Everything is very delicious! Our director told us that the money was donated to us by American Christian families. I don't know you, but I think you are very wonderful people. Thank you for thinking about us and caring for us. May God grant you all the best!

2. My name is Philip. I am eight. I am a pupil of the third form at School number 12 in the settlement of Kurdumivka but I live in a small village Ozarianivka. I want to say thank you for your help. It's very important for my family, we need help. Our house is damaged by war and then completely ruined after a heavy rain and wind. Our neighbors let us live with them for a while. I have a mother Kate and little brother Gleb. He is two years old. I have a cat too. Thank you for feeding me. I wish you never live in war and never be hungry. Best wishes, your friend Philip.

Helping Orphans in Toretsk and Mariupol



Toretsk orphanage is thankful for the gloves, hand sanitizers, and disinfectants from American Churches of Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters at Church of Christ! Biggest and warmest Christian Greetings to you from Children Pilgrim Republic in Mariupol, Ukraine! Thank you so much for these unexpected, wonderful, loving gifts you sent to our children. Our children do not have families; we, Pilgrim Republic, are their family. Our great friends from Mariupol - police department officers came to visit us with lots of strawberries and footballs; and they also delivered huge boxes with the gifts from you: beautiful clothes and blankets! This was the most joyful occasion ever! Your nice cards and gifts made this day so happy! We loved to see our children's joy and are happy to share some photos with you. Please thank everyone who contributed to this gift of love! We are proud to have friends among American Christians! We will be praying for you. Tatiana Karpuhina, Director, Pilgrim Orphanage Foundation

Dear brothers and sisters at Orange Avenue Church of Christ thank you for your prayers and support of Ukraine mission. If you would like to contact Bill and Lyuba Wharton or make a donation for Ukraine Mission, please contact: Bill and Lyuba Wharton 352-372-9202 9044 SW 79 Ave Gainesville FL 32608 E-mail: wlwmail@yahoo.com

Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Christ Building 5 years construction



We have been cut off from doing face-to-face evangelizing in eastern Ukraine during the war and Covid pandemic but we have been working closely with the church at Ivano-Frankivsk in western Ukraine. That church has sacrificed heavily to build a building, provide support to

hospitals, orphanages, welcome refugees from the war zone, and keep the regular Church services and Bible classes in person and on-line. This Church is grateful to USA Christians who have been supporting them in all their activities.

The beautiful new building WILL BE MUCH MORE THAN A CHURCH BUILDING: It will:

- Let the Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Christ move into their own home after 20 years of being pushed out by authorities from their rental apartments as "not a real church but some fanatical cult;"
- Be a center for evangelism and for helping to start and grow other churches in western Ukraine;
- Receive, store and distribute humanitarian aid;
- House a preacher training center and offer classes for the church members and community;
- Support children being released on the streets from orphanages.

There is still a lot of work to be done on this church building. Most costly items that are needed to secure all necessary legal papers for occupancy of the building:

Design specifications and distribution of electric power lines plus fire alarm system for entire building; design the distribution of water, sewerage, heating, ventilation, sub floor and floor lining and subceiling (for now, the 1st floor only).

To complete the checklist for legal occupancy the Church needs about \$95,000.

Every prayer and donation will be highly appreciated.

Russian/Ukrainian Ministry is supported and overseen by the Elders of the Meridian Woods Church of Christ, Tallahassee, Florida, with additional support from other Churches of Christ and individuals.