



**FRONTLINE**  
Prayer Letter  
April 2022

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in" - Matthew 25:35*



When a 10 year old boy comes up and says "thank you for preaching the Gospel" with tears in his eyes...

It is often said that War is Hell, but it is heartening to hear that many are turning to God because of this war. Today, more than ever, people need the Good Shepherd and the Spirit of Comfort, especially refugees and victims of the war, whom we are helping through our joint efforts with missionaries & local churches.

The recent events surrounding Ukraine and Russia have created serious challenges for many, including for our ministry, and we are trusting in Jesus Christ to meet our needs. The main thing for our ministries in Russia is to be able to keep and pay our employees,

because there is a lot of work to do. Pray that our regular wire transfers will soon be allowed to be sent to our ministries in Russia again. Right now the US government sanctions are preventing it. (Please see the section at the end of our letter called "Sanctions" for more details.) However, it is exciting to see God's blessing and provision in other ways... for a year now we've prayed for the sale of the Nikulino property, and in God's perfect plan and timing, on April 29<sup>th</sup> the sale should be completed and the funds will be available for ministry needs in Russia!

**Ministry to Ukrainian refugees** - So far we have sent \$39,000 to help refugees at 3 locations, and are sending more funding each week or two. Besides providing humanitarian aid, our partner churches and missionaries are sharing the Gospel, praying with people, and even helping to stop human trafficking.



**Poland** – "I thank each person that supports us so we can support people in Ukraine. Every day, we have cars and vans going into Ukraine with aid. We were able to send a few containers with aid as well. We are providing them with lifesaving supplies such as food and hygiene kits, medicines, first aid kits, tourniquets, blankets. We also pray for them



and tell them about peace that Jesus brings into our lives. Humanitarian needs are multiplying by the hour as fighting intensifies in Ukraine. Right now we are planning to buy more first aid kits, bandages, medicine, food, condensed milk, dry broths, pates, helmets, and blankets. Pray for us and the people of Ukraine." – Missionary Evelina Smare



**Ukraine** – We are also working with a missionary pastor in Ukraine, Vladimir Omelchuk, whose church near Kyiv was disbanded due to the war. One of our board members has been to this church many times. Pastor Omelchuk has relocated to Chernivtsi, in western Ukraine, and is serving with another church there, helping refugees. They are using minibuses to bring food, medicine and clothes to the area near Kyiv, crossing through checkpoints, and helping people get out. They also have asked for help to repair an abandoned house near Chernivtsi so they can host 25 Christian refugees whose homes were destroyed by Russian troops in Mariupol. (If you go to his Facebook page,

March 26 post, he tells how you can give to this project directly, <https://www.facebook.com/vova.kts>)



**Moldova** – Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Balti, Moldova, continues to help refugees around the clock, both at the border and in their church. Besides transporting many people from Ukraine to Romania, the church is providing food, hygiene kits, medicine, etc. and a place to sleep.



### The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire Magazine Ministry

Due to the sharp rise in paper prices, we were able to print only 4,000 copies of the newest magazine (topic: "Call to Me") for the same budget, this is the minimum required to reach our audience, since there is no postal service to Ukraine right now.

*"I found your magazine for 2018 with the theme "Conscience." It impressed me very much. Every single article touched me. I am especially grateful to you for the articles "The Purity of the Christian Life" and "Conscience." I read them in one sitting, and then thought for a long time, weighing and reevaluating my life and my conscience. I would love a subscription."* Mikhail S. (prisoner, Kirov region, Russia)

**Prison ministry.** At the end of March, all COVID restrictions on visits to Russian prisons were lifted, and ministry began actively among the convicts again. Thanks be to God. But in early April, the health of Vyacheslav Kozlov suddenly deteriorated. He is a very effective prison minister in the Komi Republic. Brother Vyacheslav has been visiting prisons, often quite remote from each other, for more than 15 years, visiting prisoners' children in shelters and feeding and preaching among the homeless. Although he is doing better, please pray for his full recovery. With our limited funds, we were still able to send him our prison magazines and equip Vyacheslav's assistants with everything necessary for holding festive Easter meetings in prisons.



### RCR Recording Studio Ministry

Nothing changes for our viewers abroad, but Facebook and Instagram have already been blocked in Russia, and YouTube might be, but this does not mean that our ministry is ending. The RCR studio is mastering Russian video resources (RuTube, VK.Video, Telegram) to give Russian residents access to our programs.

### Pirkko Home Liberation Center Ministry

Despite the current difficulties, God's work in the Pirkko Homes is being accomplished. Our leaders, together with local churches, carry out spiritual work to free the residents from addictions and they work physically to provide food. Because of your help, needs were provided for in the centers of Zheleznogorsk, Orel, Dyatkovo, Kokino and Rumyantsevo (beds & bedding, a stove, a washing machine, freezers). Thank you very much! The feeding of the homeless and the distribution of fresh bread & Bibles by the centers in Zheleznogorsk and Rumyantsevo is bearing fruit - due to this ministry people come to the Pirkko Homes and to the local churches. Praise God!



### Sanctions

President Biden has imposed certain sanctions on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. We are listing the rules so you can read them yourselves. Executive Order 14068 (section 1 a iv) prohibits the export of U.S. dollars to Russia or any person located in the Russian Federation. This, together with Executive Order 14024, on transactions involving certain foreign financial institutions, explains why our usual transfers through our banks are blocked. Further details are included in General License No. 18 (from the Department of the Treasury) that authorizes personal remittances from a U.S. person to an individual located in the Russian Federation, excluding charitable donations to an entity. There is a possibility of obtaining a special license to continue our work as before, and we have contacted the Office of Foreign Asset Control, but have had no response yet.

Together, all these rules seem to indicate that RCR-US cannot currently send donations to RCR-RU in Russia, but so far you can make personal gifts to the Russian staff (that are not tax-deductible). To do this, you may write a check to Alexey Tuchin (RCR Vice Chairman) and send it to 9707 NE 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98662, and include your phone number, and he will send your personal gifts to staff members in Russia.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the Ukrainian refugees and all the Christian groups helping them: Evelina's team & Emmanuel Church.
- Pray for Vladimir Omelchuk and his church's project to repair the abandoned house for refugees.
- Pray for a legal way to be able to regularly transfer funds for the RCR ministries in Russia again.
- Pray for God's guidance in these troubling times, especially when and if the leadership in Russia will have to start dealing with how to pay the staff when their cash "cushion" is used up.
- Praise God for the sale of the house at Nikulino; the funds will help our ministry in Russia for 4 months!
- Praise God for everyone willing to help the refugees – both those there and those who give donations here.



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