

Workman Mission Newsletter

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Dear friends and supporters, the Russian war against Ukraine has now reached 4 ½ years. The hostilities began in 2014 when Russia seized and annexed Crimea. Between 2014 and 2022, Russia occupied about 17,000 square miles of Ukrainian territory. Then, from the start of the war in 2022 to the end of 2025, Russia managed to occupy about 29,000 more square miles. But reports in 2026 indicate that Russia has lost as well as gained, resulting in a net gain of only about 467 square miles this year. Estimates of occupied land in Ukraine are now at 19-20%.



Meanwhile, Russian missiles and drones are destroying homes, damaging vital infrastructure, and terrorizing communities. Yet Ukrainians, in a determination to remain free, are standing as strong as they can – defending their homeland, supporting one another, and continuing to live in hope despite the constant danger and tragedy.

Nadya went to Ukraine in June and returned at the end of July. Her itinerary took her first on a flight to Warsaw, Poland, where she spent some time with our congregation



of Ukrainian refugees, and from there on a 24-hour train trip across Ukraine to the city of Poltava. War-time travel with constant drone attacks can be dangerous, as can be seen from what happened to the Ukrainian train on the left.



On the spiritual front, the year 2026 is proving to be one of the most productive that we have ever had in Ukraine. With our team of effective workers, we have continued to draw large crowds of people who are interested in the gospel of Christ, many of whom have responded to our evangelistic preaching and teaching.

Our Poltava congregation has ten regular church meetings every week – Sunday worship, Tuesday Bible discussion class plus another class for refugees, Wednesday class for church members plus three evangelistic meetings for visitors, Friday Bible class for Christians and visitors and one for refugees, Saturday Christian fellowship with Bible study and a meal.





Our Poltava team of preachers includes (in order of age) the following men, all of whom have had Bible college training: Volodymyr (far left), Valentyn (middle) and Vadym (right). These brothers are very dedicated to the work of preaching, teaching, evangelizing, and mentoring. In addition, they all take turns in song



leading and other aspects of church worship. And, of course, there are many tasks of daily service required in a multi-faceted work such as we have in the Poltava congregation.

We are so thankful to God and feel so providentially blessed that we have been able to secure this effective team of men to help us in the very successful work that is the hallmark of the Poltava church. And the results speak for themselves.

Eleven conversions have taken place this year in the Poltava congregation. Some were baptized indoors and some outdoors. "Shall We Gather at the River" is always a favorite song of Christians in Ukraine since the river is where so many put their Lord on in baptism. The Vorskla River is right across the street from the Poltava building.



Nadya's Bible classes for women are always some of the more popular events in the Poltava church, since she has a natural desire for teaching and makes Bible teaching her life's purpose. When attendance is greater than seating permits, classes like these often multiply in the daily schedules.

Even when Nadya is stateside, she continues to teach Bible online to women in the Poltava church and in other places in Ukraine. In addition, she conducts regular sisters' prayer meetings online. Her lessons are always grounded in God's Word and have the practical purpose of fortifying the faith of these maturing Christians and deepening their understanding of Scripture so as to better apply its truths and power to everyday life.

Nadya also encourages other sisters to become Bible teachers as their understanding grows and their abilities and desires for service develop.





Humanitarian aid continues to be a vital part of church work in Ukraine. The war and other realities of life in Ukraine makes such aid extremely important to people facing difficult circumstances. Through the generosity of supporters, the church is able to offer practical help and demonstrate Christ's love to families and individuals in need.

Food parcels remain an important part of this ministry. Each parcel provides essential groceries for households struggling to afford daily necessities. These gifts offer immediate relief and remind recipients that they are not forgotten. Members of the congregation help prepare and

distribute the parcels, creating opportunities to build relationships and offer encouragement. The church also assists people who need medicine but cannot afford it. This is especially valuable for elderly people and those living with ongoing health conditions. By meeting urgent needs, the church provides compassionate care, reflects the mercy of Christ, and draws people toward conversion.



Providing actual meals in the church building is also important. We are grateful to everyone who contributes to this work through prayer and financial support. Together, we are helping bring hope and relief to people in Poltava and other places – especially to people who have lost everything in the war.

Street evangelism is also a part of the work in Poltava and other locations. People get Bibles, Christian literature, and invitations to activities of the church – worship, Bible studies and personal talks.



We prayerfully ask you to continue supporting this work, enabling us to spread the gospel, meet urgent physical and spiritual needs, bring people to Christ, and mentor them in Christian service.

Every prayer and financial donation makes a big difference in the success of this work of bringing salvation to the people of Ukraine, Poland and Belarus. Thank you for your part in the great commission that God has entrusted to all of us and for partnering with us in this great mission field in particular. We are counting on you as our co-workers in all these efforts while we still have life and opportunity. And may God bless you!

For the sake of souls,
Gary and Nadya Workman

