



The Thomases to Ukraine

*...Preaching, Planting, and Perfecting
in the Slavic-Speaking World!*

July 21, 2026

Dear Praying Friends,

Recently, Dima — the pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Kyiv — shared an application from Mark 4:35–41 that deeply encouraged my heart. In that passage, the disciples find themselves in a “great storm.” Convinced they are about to perish, they cry out to Christ, who is astonishingly “in the hinder part of the ship, asleep.” They awaken Him with a desperate and honest question: “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Jesus rises, speaks the words “Peace, be still,” and then asks His own penetrating questions: “Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?”

Ukraine has endured its own storm these past two months. Multiple ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles, and relentless drone attacks have struck across the country. In just one week, Russia launched over 1,450 drones and 1,640 guided bombs. In one of the largest single assaults, more than 68 missiles and 350 drones targeted Kyiv — the most intense ballistic attack on the city in the entire four-plus years of the full-scale invasion. July alone has brought devastating loss: one attack killed over 30 people, another on July 6 claimed 26 lives. June had already been the deadliest month for civilians since April 2022, but July has surpassed it. Until you have lived through nights filled with sirens, explosions, and the ominous hum of drones overhead, it is impossible to grasp the terror and sleeplessness these attacks bring.

Amid this, Dima wrote something remarkable concerning Mark 4 and Jesus asleep in the boat during the “great storm.” He said that they pray, **“Jesus, teach us to sleep like You slept.”** Since praying this, Dima writes, “We sleep better than earlier.” Christ never promised to remove us from every storm, but He did promise to be with us in the storm — and to supply grace sufficient for the storm. Thank the Lord for His servants in Ukraine who can lay their heads on their pillows during what should be sleepless nights, yet are finding rest through Him. May we learn the same truth: that in the center of His will, we have nothing to fear and everything to hope in, because He is in the boat with us. **Christ is sovereign over the storm — always, fully, and forever.**

Through your continued prayers and generosity, Compassion for Ukraine — together with our faithful Ukrainian partners — is reaching people who are living in fear yet discovering hope in Christ, the One who calms every storm and remains ever present in the boat with all who call upon His name. Thank you for faithfully doing your part.

Your friends and fellow servants,

Derek and Julie

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