



The Thomases to Ukraine

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

June 30, 2025

Dear Praying Friends,

According to a recent report from the UN, the number of civilian casualties during the war in Ukraine has “surged by nearly 50% in the first five months of 2025.” For instance, on June 17 Russia launched 472 drones and missiles primarily at Kyiv resulting in 30 civilian deaths and 172 injured. Pastor Dima wrote of one of these attacks, ***“The night was difficult, everything was burning, a lot of smoke, with Shahed drones above our heads for 3 hours. Then the ballistic missiles arrived, and it was very loud. Sometimes, I think that the next message I write to you will be from heaven.”*** While testimonies like this are deeply disturbing, they provide an opportunity for the grace of God to be magnified. For example, every Thursday and Sunday, Pastor Dima shares at Living Hope Baptist how refuge is found only in Christ with the new believers and attendees who come seeking sanctuary.

Last week’s youth camp, sponsored by Compassion for Ukraine, offers another example of God’s manifold grace being known during war. We have held these during the three summers of the war. A young man who was influenced by one of last year’s camps is Victor from the Kharkiv area. Before attending he purposed that he “would not listen” nor take God’s Word into his heart. However, through the power of the gospel, elevated by your prayers, Victor realized his lost condition and later received Christ. He is now preparing for baptism, and writes, ***“I thank God that I already live a new life.”*** What’s even more thrilling is Victor, now 17, served on staff at last week’s camp! Now Victor exhibits the grace that transformed him, and shares of this grace that others may be transformed.

A final example of God’s endless grace on display comes from one of our partnering pastors. He reports that many aid organizations are no longer operating in his city and that aid is difficult to find. In a recent evangelistic aid distribution service, an attendant fainted due to intense heat. Medical personnel came to take him to the hospital, but the individual refused stating, ***“If they take me away now, I won’t be able to get food (aid) and I will starve for a week.”*** Our national pastor concludes, ***“Your help to the people of [our city], brings great glory to God and directly saves people’s lives.”*** Your gifts to CFU are “making a difference” not only in lives physically, but more importantly they’re impacting souls eternally. As the war in Ukraine intensifies, it is providing a greater opportunity for God’s grace to shine even brighter. We praise God for our national partners, and for you. Thank you for being conduits of His grace in Ukraine, through your prayers and gifts.

Your friends and faithful servants,

Derek and Julie

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