



The Thomases to Ukraine

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

January 20, 2026

Dear Praying Friends,

I am writing to share a brief but urgent update and to plead for your continued prayers. Today, I arrived at our camp in Lutsk. Please pray that the Lord will grant me wisdom and grace as I speak at a pastors' conference, for God's Word to bring comfort and encouragement to those who hear. The challenges faced by these servants of God are truly unimaginable. While caring for their families and making difficult decisions to keep them warm and safe, they are also shepherding souls who are enduring the hardships of war, all while reaching out to the lost with hope. Russia has intensified its attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure. Just last night, Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine were struck by a significant number of ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as more than 300 attack drones. **With these relentless assaults and the coldest winter in 20 years, we are on the brink of a humanitarian crisis, by far the most difficult winter in this four-year war.**

The Sunday before last, at Living Hope Baptist Church of Kyiv, the congregation gathered for worship without heat or electricity. With temperatures below 10°F, everyone attended in full winter hats and coats. Yet the auditorium was full and the congregation did not sit in defeat. Instead, they rejoiced in song and listened to Pastor Dima's preaching, while hoping in God's Word. The video link below captures a moment from that service. Pastor Dima shared that his message was from 1 Cor. 9:24 and encouraged that they were not running alone but running with Christ— **“He will run with us to the end.”** Next Sunday, I plan to be at Living Hope. Please pray that I will be a blessing to the church and its faithful pastor.

This Saturday, I will speak at a youth conference with 300 young people, and next week we will hold our winter session at SBI. It will be a joy to be reunited with our staff and students as we open God's Word, sing His praises and have a time of training. Your prayers can and are making a greater impact than you know. For example, we held our winter camp earlier this month with 170 in attendance. Sponsored by Compassion for Ukraine and staffed by SBI, the Word went out and young people from unbelieving families in Eastern Ukraine heard the gospel and were deeply touched. While the cruelty of this war is reaching a new peak, the grace of God is greater, shining more brightly in the darkness of this merciless war. **Please pray and invite others to pray that souls in Ukraine can endure this winter, while finding rest for their souls in Christ.**

Your friends and fellow servants,

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