



The Thomases to Ukraine

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

March 10, 2026

Dear Praying Friends,

Dima has pastored Living Hope Baptist Church of Kyiv while caring for his young family throughout Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine—now entering its fifth year. Recently he wrote to me, ***“I used to worry about the future of my family, but God said to me, ‘You do the work that I have entrusted to you, and I will take care of the rest.’ Every time doubt comes, God reminds me of what He promised.”*** Dima took this promise to heart. He has diligently remained faithful to God's calling, and God has honored that faithfulness—not only by protecting and providing for Dima's family through this treacherous time, but also by blessing his ministry at Living Hope.

One of those blessings is Sergei. He is 42 and, like many Ukrainians, grew up seeing God only through the pretense and formality of the Orthodox tradition. Early in the war, not long after Living Hope resumed services, Sergei began attending. The gospel gripped his heart. He asked questions, sought truth, and eventually came to saving faith. He was baptized shortly after. Today Sergei attends faithfully, serves alongside Dima and has begun to preach and teach. In last Thursday's Bible study, he taught on *forgiveness*. In his message he shared that for seven years he carried bitterness toward someone he could not forgive. But through the power of Christ, he has forgiven—and now he is teaching others the same liberating truth.

What a blessing to see God's faithfulness in Ukraine—to His servants like Dima, and through them to souls like Sergei. Their steadfast obedience is being honored by God while bearing fruit, testifying to the transforming power of the gospel even in the midst of war. What a joy it is to witness these testimonies and see lives changed by the gospel. What an encouragement it is to partner with you knowing that your diligent prayers before the throne of grace are bringing spiritual victories for the glory of Christ in Ukraine. **May we be challenged by our Ukrainian partners to continue in prayer and to simply do the work God has entrusted to us, believing that He will take care of the rest.**

Your friends and fellow servants,

Derek and Julie

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