

Update on Ukraine missionaries

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To: tsukchuang@yahoo.com

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Dear Tsu-Kung and Marie,

I just got back from a trip to Budapest and have some amazing stories to share with

you. I have so much to tell you while it's fresh on my mind.

First, let me explain why I went to Budapest:

1. Many Cru missionaries from Ukraine fled to Hungary, and are currently living in Budapest.
2. I went to talk to them, hear their stories, deliver some supplies and learn how we can be praying for them.
3. I wanted to see and hear firsthand what their needs are. And check that the money you've been sending wasn't getting held up in international banks or elsewhere. **I'm happy to report that your giving has been reaching Cru missionaries without issue.**

Over the five days that I was there, I spoke to about 22 Cru staff members. These men and women are **heroes** of the faith. What they have been through is heartbreaking, and their resilience and heart for the gospel are inspiring.

Around 50 Cru staff have moved out of Ukraine, but about 80 staff are still there.

There is a team of young staff women in Hungary who go to the train station most nights. There they pass out water bottles and sandwiches to the incoming refugees. Since many of the refugees don't speak Hungarian and don't know where to go, these women are able to direct them to safe houses and shelters that are run by churches and other Christians.

There are teams of Hungarian and Ukrainian staff members driving to the border and helping transport people into Budapest or surrounding cities.

The missionaries still in Ukraine are reporting **incredible** openness to the gospel.

One staff couple in Ukraine bought a generator right before the invasion. Once the power was out, they used their generator as a witnessing tool.

They set it near a shelter and run powerlines inside so that people can charge their cell phones. This lets people check in on their family and friends and let them know they're safe. The power the missionaries provide is a lifeline to the outside world.

And even more importantly, while people are charging their phones, the missionary couple gets to share the gospel with them! It's an amazing opportunity in the middle of a horrible situation.

Another group of missionaries who cannot leave Ukraine are using vans to transport medicine and other supplies into the big cities.

They drive almost 300 miles, 3 times a week, from Western Ukraine into danger to deliver aid. Then they pick up Ukrainians who want to evacuate and give them a ride to the border. During the 300 mile trip back, they have many opportunities to tell their passengers about the hope of Christ.

These are the kind of heroes that we are giving to and praying for. These amazing and brave men and women are shining the light of Christ wherever they are.

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Our Ukrainian brothers and sisters lived lives just like ours. Checking emails, running errands, going out with friends, having lunch after church with their families.

At 5:00 in the morning on February 24th everything changed. And they had to leave it all behind.

Most people could only take a backpack or duffel bag. The rest of their belongings they were forced to abandon.

Now they are in a new country, watching the news of their old country grow darker every day.

The overwhelming desire of our missionaries is to go back home and continue their ministry. In fact, in many cases these Cru staff are continuing to encourage their disciples via phone, text and video calls.

They also see the tremendous opportunities to minister to others who've had to flee Ukraine. They have found a new mission field among their refugee countrymen and women.

In the midst of the trauma of fleeing a war zone, our staff have been incredibly generous with others.

For example, one American Cru staff member I spent time with while in Budapest had recently gotten out of Ukraine.

When the explosions started outside of his neighborhood, he grabbed his backpack and all the cash he had (a few hundred dollars).

On the way to the border he met so many people in need that he gave away most of his money. By the time he made it to Hungary he told me that he only had \$13 left!

Most of our Ukrainian staff had prepared a "Go Bag" that included a change in clothes, necessary medicine, a couple of months' salary (taken in advance), their cell phone, charger and that's about it.

They left behind EVERYTHING ELSE, including computers and other items used in ministry.

Most of these missionaries lost much of their support when they had to flee. Most had been funded through their Ukrainian neighbors. But as you can imagine, that support stopped as their supporters were also fleeing the bombs and fighting.

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Tsu-Kung and Marie, you have been so incredibly generous in the past. Our brothers and sisters in Europe are so grateful to you. But I'm asking you today if you will be generous again.

[Will you give today so our Ukrainian staff can continue their ministry in and out of their county?](#)

Any amount you feel led to give will make a difference now and for eternity.

While I was in Budapest I heard many prayer requests. Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers. Our Ukraine staff leader specifically asked for 4 things:

1. Pray for their resilience in the face of despair.
2. Pray they remember their call as missionaries.
3. Pray that they not grow tired in the service of the gospel.
4. Pray especially for their children.

Many staff have very young children. Hearing explosions, seeing jet fighters flying low, fleeing their homes with nothing, not knowing if they should be afraid when they hear an airplane, these are all things the staff told me their children have had to suffer.

No child should have to see and hear and feel these things. Please continue to pray for them.

Thank you for being a partner in the Great Commission. We know our God is greater than all the evils of this world, and I am grateful we can serve Him together!

If you feel God leading you to give, please give generously.

Praying with you,



Mike Duggins
Director of Ministry Development | Cru

P.S. Our Ukrainian missionaries are heroes of the faith. Some are still in Ukraine, some had to flee with just one bag. They need supplies to continue their ministry. If you are able, would you support them with a gift?

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