

UKRAINE

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

May 6, 2022



GreatCommissionSociety
SEMPER FIDELIS, SEMPER PARATUS



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Tony Anthony

Video report of our work in Ukraine so far: <https://youtu.be/DUIYDjTdhLc>

Here are two interviews with Ben Fryer at BBC ESSEX about our response efforts in Ukraine. Listen now:
22nd April 2022: <https://youtu.be/nVpyYRoFhnl>
24th March 2022: <https://youtu.be/0eQCuDC32BQ>



Over the last 10 weeks GCS and its collaborating partners have been responding to the fastest refugee exodus from any country in modern history.



In just over 2 months we have sent over 900 tonnes of humanitarian supplies directly into areas of Ukraine facing acute shortages of food, water, and medical supplies. We have evacuated over 57,700 refugees to safety, and our border-crossing teams in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, and Moldova have supported untold numbers of refugees fleeing the war.

Huge efforts have been made to meet the needs of families in their darkest moments, and we have focused our efforts on a strategic threefold response as follows:

RESPONSE 1:

Responding to the vast needs of refugees coming through the border-crossings has drastically slowed down. At the start of the invasion, the first wave of refugees coming through the border-crossings was truly horrific, with lines of cars stretching 35 km, and people standing in sub-zero temperatures for as long as 30 hours in the snow. Our teams worked relentlessly to support people at this stage by giving out blankets, hot drinks, food, and sharing the hope of the Gospel.



People still cross the borders, and our ground teams continued to provide transport, food, water, accommodation, assistance in their onward journeys.



RESPONSE 2:

Shipping convoys of humanitarian supplies to Ukrainian cities near to the country borders happens every day. These supplies are distributed to displaced communities. While our returning vehicles evacuate women and children wishing to flee the country, we are now finding that most people want to stay in Ukraine as they do not want to leave their husbands, sons, and homes. Tens of thousands of internally displaced people are flocking to the western cities of Ukraine despite the sirens signalling the threat of Russian attack.



RESPONSE 3:



Shipping critical humanitarian supplies to Ukrainian cities facing Russian attack where people are trapped and without food. All vehicles transport refugees to safety to safer regions of the country or to the border-crossings. A fast-deteriorating humanitarian crisis continues to unfold in Ukraine where hundreds of thousands of civilians are trapped in besieged cities

without water, food and electricity as Russian troops continue to press deep into the country. With the support of our partners, we have sent through over 900 tonnes of humanitarian supplies directly into areas of Ukraine facing the greatest need.



One of our convoys was delivering food supplies early in the morning to a community in VITRYANI HORY (Windy Hills), which is a suburb in the north-west corner of Kyiv. Russian shelling hit a residential area only 800 metres from where we



were unloading supplies. Residential apartments were destroyed, someone's son was lying dead in the debris. We prayed and ministered to many people in the chaos. Our teams have willingly put themselves in considerable danger to be able to reach people in desperate need.



We have been ministering to so many civilians who have suffered grotesque war crimes. I have had countless conversations with people who have shared in graphic detail stories of family members and neighbours who were raped and murdered. Stories of hanging, looting, and torture by Russian soldiers, leave me completely lost for words.

All donations have been used to procure wholesale food supplies, medicine and first aid kits, fuel, lorries, coaches, and minibuses. Humanitarian supplies have typically included the following long-lasting items:

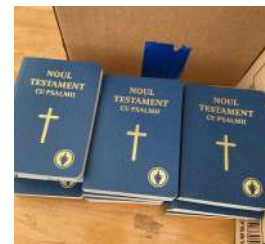
Pasta
Potatoes
Buckwheat
Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce
Soup
Rice
Beans and pulses
Tinned meat
Tinned vegetables
Flour
Yeast
Tea/coffee
Salt/Sugar
Tinned fruit
Biscuits
Bottled Water

UHT Milk
Cartons / Bottles of juice
Jars of baby food
Bread
Medicine
Tourniquets
Wet wipes
Feminine hygiene products
Nappies
Blankets
Sleeping bags
First Aid Kits
Gospel Tracts
New Testaments
Fuel
Generators



A huge effort has been made to meet the needs of families in their darkest moments. GCS has seen an inspiring response from people across the world wanting to volunteer both inside Ukraine and in its neighbouring countries to support the multitude of people affected by the war.

GCS friends and ministry partners have kindly donated to support volunteers on the borders assist families as they arrive with almost nothing, and the aid workers in Ukrainian cities helping those unable to flee.



GCS would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the following organisations and individuals who have gone the extra mile to support the work in Ukraine in a practical way (in alphabetical order):

- BER Asia Pacific
- Dave Whitworth of Emerald Solutions Group
- Fight for Freedom
- Gospel Tribe
- Owen Pomana of Humanity NZ
- Paul and Francey True
- Rapid Relief Team
- Ron Mark (former Minister of Defence for New Zealand)
- Solid Rock Mission
- ...and to the many faithful individuals who have not been mentioned here who have supported the work in Ukraine.

Your donations have enabled us to provide essentials like food, water, medicine, transport, fuel, and shelter, as well as enabling trauma and pastoral care, and evangelistic ministry to people whose lives have been torn apart. Thank you for placing your trust in us, and our work. Thank you for standing with Ukraine.

As the security situation allows, GCS and its partners on the ground will continue to respond to existing and emerging humanitarian needs – but we urgently need your help.



Our GCS teams in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, and Moldova continue to take humanitarian shipments and conduct evacuations every day.



As Russia unleash heavy artillery barrages against multiple Ukrainian positions in the south and east of the country, GCS and its partners are preparing the largest rescue emergency response and we urgently need help. We will be transporting a critical shipment of 80 tonnes of humanitarian supplies to the following cities: Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhya, Nikolaev, Zolotonosha, Pavlograd, and Kyiv. Our convoy will consist of 20 coaches, and 20 large minibuses, which will enable us to evacuate a little over 3000 women and children.

We are still in need of funding to purchase enough wholesale humanitarian supplies, and fuel. If you would like to help, but not sure how, please donate to the registered GCS UK Charity account to help us address this escalating humanitarian catastrophe. Please donate what you can to help us save lives.

There are several ways you can do this:

BANK TRANSFER

Account Name: Great Commission Society
Bank: Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 309890
Account Number: 16270268
IBAN: GB53 LOYD 309890 16270268
SWIFT/BIC: LOYDGB21592

PAYPAL

<https://www.paypal.me/gcsuk>

GCS WEBSITE

<http://www.greatcommissionsociety.org>

STEWARDSHIP ACCOUNT (for UK Tax Relief: Gift Aid)

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/gcsukraineappeal>



We live in an evil and fallen world. Where the light of the Gospel has not been proclaimed, the people are in bondage to the god of this world. Whether in the form of hostile religious worldviews, restrictive government policies, or warmongering world leaders, Satan poses a formidable threat to those who would seek to shine the light of Christ into the darkness.

The strategy to overcome the evil one is spelled out clearly in Revelation 12:11, for it says, "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

The Lord Jesus has assured us of victory because of His shed blood. 1 John 5:4 says "for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith," and that faith is expressed in the testimony we confess of the transforming power of the Gospel.

Friends, it is the Gospel that we must live out in our lives, show through our actions and most of all proclaim with our words. Let us do all we can to save lives and reach souls with the hope of the Gospel!

God bless you and keep on keeping on...

Tony Anthony

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