

PRAY FOR UKRAINE

released March 4, 2022

For many years, One Challenge USA has served pastors and believers across Ukraine. Longstanding friendships now form channels through which practical assistance can flow in their greatest time of need.

We are working closely with OC field staff in Ukraine to prioritize urgent humanitarian needs and carefully steward the distribution of funding where most needed.

You can be part of this team effort to love courageously in Jesus' name. Read a first-hand account of OC workers Joel and Irena, who are seeking to help those on the ground. Join us in praying for Ukraine using this short guide.

Workers in Ukraine

One Challenge workers **Joel and Irena** have been serving in Ukraine since they got married in 2008. We got this report from them shortly after the attack on Ukraine by Russia.

"We woke up to explosions at around five something," Joel said. Then they got a call from Irena's father who simply said, "The war has started."

Irena and Joel quickly packed up a few belongings and headed to Irena's hometown on the outskirts of Kyiv. They have been able to stay safe in a house with a basement.



Even amid great uncertainty and danger, Joel and Irena are helping organize **aid for refugees** through a network of churches, providing shelter, food, and basic supplies to those in need.

History in Ukraine and Connections

One Challenge worker, **Bob**, has been working in Ukraine and the surrounding countries since 1997, when it was the Soviet Union. For 23 years, OC workers have partnered with believers, pastors, and churches in a broad spectrum of ministries.

Those ministries have included extensive programs for leader development, sports ministry (including starting sports leagues), pastoral training, biblical coaching, evangelism and orphan ministries. Along the way our colleagues have helped 150 former communist youth camps transition into Christian camps. God has been on the move in the Ukraine!

Please pray for wisdom, direction, and protection for the 200+ Ukrainians who are connected in various ways with the seven ministries structures which Bob has catalyzed in Ukraine...almost all of whom are still in Ukraine. One of the major ministry structures is being used as a shelter for people who had to flee their homes.

Ukraine Relief Fund

One Challenge has open channels to direct your gifts to those in need in Ukraine. If you feel led to help **provide relief** to Ukrainians on the ground, you can [give here: www.onechallenge.org/give](https://www.onechallenge.org/give)

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER

1. Ask God to redeem this situation by drawing many people to Himself. May Ukrainians and Russians discover that Jesus is the only true source of peace, safety, comfort, truth, and freedom.
2. Ask God to deliver Ukraine from evil. May He have mercy and heal this land. May He give Ukraine peace and the chance to develop as a nation that values truth, justice, and freedom, all rooted in the goodness of God.
3. The conflict between Ukraine and Russia can spill over into personal conflict within families, especially when family members live on opposite sides of the border and are influenced by different sides of the "information war." Pray for unity and a love for one another that supersedes the problems between the countries.
4. Pray for Christians in the military. This is a challenging time; ask God to guide them as their faith is being tested in new ways. Ask God to bless their wives and children with peace and safety while loved ones are gone.
5. Pray for the various world leaders involved in diplomacy over Ukraine.

6. In the past few years, the Ukrainian evangelical church has become much more passionate about sending its own cross-cultural workers to reach the lost. Pray that this conflict will not dissuade Ukrainians from taking the gospel message to Russia and to other lands.
7. Fears stemming from the conflict come up frequently in conversation. Pray that mission workers and other believers will have many opportunities to explain to their neighbors and friends the reason for the hope within them, even in this time of trial.

*(adapted from SEND International website
11 Ways to Pray During the Crisis in Ukraine)*

CURRENT PRAYER UPDATES

3/2/22

Pray for safety for Joel and Irena and Irena's family, as well as for their ministry partners in the country.

Also pray for God's clear guidance for Joel and Irena in this challenging time, in their ministry, personally, and with their businesses.

Pray for them as they work to distribute relief and aid and for arrangement of supplies for distribution.

