

# PRAY FOR UKRAINE

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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. Shortly after the attack on Ukraine by Russia, Irena and Joel quickly packed up a few belongings and headed to Irena's hometown on the outskirts of Kyiv.

Subsequently they had to flee to Poland where they are now, helping organize **aid for refugees** through a network of churches, providing shelter, food, and basic supplies to those in need.



Since arriving in Poland they have connected with other organizations to purchase and distribute much needed supplies to those in need in Ukraine as well. We are receiving regular updates from them and have put their prayer requests on page 2.

**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](http://www.onechallenge.org/give)

## OC's Connections in Ukraine

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.

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As we get reports from Ukraine and those helping there and in the surrounding areas, they continue to express their deep gratitude for much needed supplies enabled through the generosity of many. They also emphasize the **great support they feel from our prayers**. Keep praying!

## CURRENT PRAYER UPDATES

4/3/22

- **Pray** for the people of cities like Bucha. Irena says, *“I was in total shock and disbelief today when I saw several photos coming out of Bucha. Bucha is free from Russians, but what they left there is beyond words. Dead bodies on the streets, tortured people in the basements. All dead. My heart is so broken for my country. Bucha was such a beautiful town, 20-minute drive from where we lived. Joel and I got married there. How long, Lord? How long?”*

4/1/22

- Bob reports: *“We continue to deliver emergency supplies daily to our four Ukraine locations. Through our German partners, well over **110 tons of aid has already been distributed.** Our Shelter Plus facility in Ukraine is near the city of Mariupol where extreme devastation and loss of life has taken place. We are sheltering many refugees plus ministering to about 200 special needs children. In addition, for over 20 years we have partnered with several ministries in the Kiev area, and now they have become strategic places delivering humanitarian supplies along with a message of hope.”*

- **Pray** particularly for the many women and children fleeing Ukraine, who are arriving in a foreign location, do not speak the language, have no home or food, own only the things in their suitcase, and have no hope for their future.
- **Pray** for Bob as he gives counsel and leadership to many refugee families and as he facilitates rescue funds and help during these difficult days.

3/15/22

- **Praise God** for providing a massive warehouse where Joel, Irena, and a few other organizations are collaborating to collect and distribute supplies to refugees and to those in Ukraine.
- **Praise God** all the churches in Ukraine are working together on the receiving end.
- **Pray** the people are nourished both with food but also with hope in Jesus Christ.

3/8/22

**Pray** for Joel and Irena for:

- A place to live and a base of operations for continuing to help. Her parents are with them along with other family. There is an extreme shortage of housing in Poland, so much so that the Polish authorities are starting to limit the number of Ukrainians allowed into the country. Pray for housing to be available.
- It is getting much more dangerous for Ukrainians who are trying to leave the country. Some have been killed trying to travel to the borders.
- Finances to address the massive needs. Joel is working with several international organizations to accumulate humanitarian supplies to be sent into Ukraine. A warehouse has been secured, and goods are being collected. Pray for housing for the people who are involved in that effort.
- For her family members who stayed and are still in the war zone.