

PRAY FOR UKRAINE

released May 5, 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. 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.



Joel and Irena were able to rent a home in their current country, and they share the space with family and ministry partners. They **continue to coordinate the relief effort**, mainly on the phone and onsite at the storage warehouse. They now have eight people working full-time from the European office, and another five helping in temporary or part-time roles. For more details, [read this story](#).

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!

One of the pastors and camp leaders that Bob trained and equipped in the past is now leading a group of soldiers and this is what he does with his men every morning. (This is an actual picture he took and sent).



CURRENT PRAYER UPDATES

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!

4/11

People are desperate, **Irena** explains, “Our guys are **preaching the Gospel** once people receive some food. People are hungry not only physically, but spiritually as well. They need hope that only God can give at this difficult time. Thank you for praying and standing with us.



4/19

Easter weekend **Joel and Irena’s** family was able to get together for the first time since war began. They said, “It was such a wonderful time of catching up, fellowship and just being together as we celebrated the Resurrection of Christ. Our hearts are heavy for Ukraine, and all of us are involved in humanitarian efforts, but being apart isn’t easy. We are truly thankful for this opportunity.” **Give thanks to the Lord.**

Joel explains he and Irena and her family are working in Poland to provide relief and support to Ukraine. “When we started to bring aid in we wanted to distribute it through the churches. Because ultimately our goal is that the church as a whole would be receiving and distributing this aid, and that **people learn that the church is where**

they go to get answers, where they go to get themselves fed, where they go to get answers spiritually, that the church has become the hub and center of the community. **That’s our goal.**”

4/22

Keep praying for the distribution of relief that **Bob** is involved in. So far, more than 120 tons of relief has been distributed in four locations. **Ask for wisdom** as about 1200 refugees are being housed, and Bob’s group is providing activities for kids as well as devotions for all. Because these four facilities are Christian camps, they are well equipped to house, feed, and provide indoor sports opportunities along with the Gospel to the needy refugees. **May God’s word touch lives.** For more, [read this story.](#)

Praise God Bob’s people were able to get about 200 handicapped children out of Mariupol before the worst bombing. They got them to one of the facilities a couple hours away, then across the Polish border and into Germany where they had people and a facility to receive them. Praise God.

4/28

From **Irena**: “**Please, please continue praying for Ukraine.** The war continues to rage in many areas of the country, especially in the east and south. We just found out that Kyiv got hit this evening again, and the town where my dad’s church is was hit by several rockets. It’s been quiet there for several weeks, and people were trying to restart their lives. It is so hard to hear this news. Please continue praying that God will stop this war, because only He can do such a miracle.”