

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.

Continue to Pray for Relief Work

The attack on Ukraine by Russia forced One Challenge workers, Irena and Joel Colon, to flee to Poland where they are now, helping organize essential **aid for refugees** through a network of churches.

They **continue to coordinate the relief effort** at the storage warehouse. More recently, these efforts are much more difficult due to the high cost and purchase restrictions on fuel. The challenge is to find drivers who are willing to transport goods, knowing they may be unable get fuel to return to Poland.

Joel explains: "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 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.**"

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)

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.**



As the war continues to rage, keep praying with us for:

- an end to the war
- trucks, drivers, and fuel for relief delivery; safety for all
- Ukrainian relief workers who are literally constantly on the move trying to get medical supplies and food to the embattled cities and towns that desperately need it
- those who have lost spouses and family members
- moms who may become single moms any day, to have wisdom and provision from God for them and their kids in the absence of their husbands
- the Evangelical Polish churches receiving many Ukrainians to love these people well, and for provision as they stretch themselves with meager resources
- the Gospel to bear fruit during this time as Ukrainian churches are exploding with growth

PRAISES: GOD AT WORK AMID HARDSHIP

In Poland

Seven years ago, a Ukrainian pastor and his wife came to a town in Poland, not sure why God had led them there. The church has grown slowly, and people had been blessed over the years. Then the war started, and suddenly there was a great influx of refugees. Many have found fellowship and the rich teaching of God's Word. Recently someone paid for the large facility where they now meet. The pastor says, "Now I know why I came here!"

God had prepared him and his family to be a blessing to those who were staying — with hopes of going home soon — and to those who were "on the way" to other countries as refugees.



So many of these hurting people are faithful Christ followers now being thrust into the welcoming countries of Western Europe: Germany, Sweden, and the U.K. Europe has been characterized as the "least reached continent" filled with people who have forgotten that they once worshipped God. They don't even know there is a God who reigns over their cynical secular humanism. One of the men, a refugee — with a new, hopeful look on his face — said, "Now I know why we are going to Sweden!"

In Italy

OC worker, Mihai, responded to a last-minute request to house and feed four Ukrainian refugees for a night. He writes: "After cooking them a bountiful breakfast, we held hands and prayed. The family then began singing the Ukrainian national anthem. It was an emotional time in which my neighbors, having heard them singing, stopped by to send their greetings once again. One of my neighbors wrote me a message that said "roughly" in Italian: 'If this is what it means to be a Christian evangelical, then I am interested to learn more.'"



Mihai continues, "The situation in Ukraine has truly impacted my city of Genova. Evangelical churches have been working in collaboration to organize clothing and food collections to send in semi-trucks to Ukraine once a week. It has been awesome to see people helping others and motivated to make a difference. It also is a great testimony for people to see the Church helping the most vulnerable in real and practical ways. We are blessed to be a blessing!"

Because I have worked for over 20 years in Romania, I am also able to write friends in Romania directly to receive our shipments and also connect Ukrainians who entered Romania and want to go to Italy with churches in both my city and other locations in Italy. We live in a truly global world and the Body of Christ is working together, even simultaneously through friendships. For instance, I am part of a Romania-Italy-Ukraine-Hungary Whatsapp chat that people write needs and requests in every day. It's almost like a relay race: Romania receives them at the border, houses and feeds them, Hungary provides them transport, and then Italian Christians receive, house, clothe and assist them into integrating into their new life as refugees. **How cool to see the Body of Christ in action showing love to our neighbors!"**