

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 Europe 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 ongoing updates from OC workers Joel and Irena, who are seeking to help those on the ground. Other OC workers report on how surrounding countries are helping refugees. Join us in praying for Ukraine using this short guide.

Continue to Pray

The war with Russia continues with no end in sight. At the moment, more than 100 Ukraine fighters are lost every day as millions of refugees from Ukraine relocate to other parts of Ukraine or flee to neighboring countries.

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, primarily working with Samaritan's Purse and Convoy of Hope.



Warehouse in Poland

The need and supply of humanitarian aid has increased significantly since the early days of the war. As larger organizations have gotten fully set and moving, the logistics for coordinating have grown exponentially. Joel, Irena, and team currently manage all the logistics for about 20-25 trucks a week and deliver about 1800 metric tons of food and aid per month, a portion of

which comes out of the warehouse in Poland. There had been difficulty in getting trucks for deliveries as the cost rose from \$700 to \$3000. Thankfully, God has continued to provide trucks and 100 trucks per month are bringing relief to those in need.

Part of getting the humanitarian aid into Ukraine and delivered is interfacing with different parts of government. The government helps get the aid across the border and helps identify regions where the aid is most needed. The military also occasionally helps identify areas of particular need close to the front lines, but still safe to deliver aid. Joel and Irena took a trip to Kyiv in late May to meet with several government officials and military generals about the needs in various parts of the country and talk about some other areas of cooperation.



UPDATES FROM OTHER WORKERS

One Challenge worker, **Bob**, has had ministry 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. Most recently **Bob**, reports:

“Our ministries, camps, and other facilities are sheltering more than 2,000 families in three countries plus four locations in Ukraine. Our partner camp and churches in Germany alone are housing and feeding hundreds of families. I’m especially pleased with the way our Ukrainian ministries have adjusted their camps and other facilities to house and feed people, run online schools, organize sport leagues, etc., under very difficult conditions. We have delivered over 150 tons of refugee supplies through Germany and Poland to four locations in Ukraine. My desire is to give compassionate assistance with one hand and the gospel message with the other. There is an increased openness to God’s teaching during these difficult times.”

From OC Germany workers:

Refugees from Ukraine keep coming to Germany and need help. Most of our church plants have volunteers who often work beyond their strength, providing for those in need.

From OC workers in Spain:

This summer, as last year, we are hosting interns who are planning special activities for

children in the afternoons/evenings at Diez42. We’re so thankful for those who give of their summers to come bless our Diez42 beneficiaries, local churches, and the long-term team at Diez42 (<https://tinyurl.com/ukraine-diez42>). Please be praying for them — for strength and stamina (in the heat!), for creative ideas, and for opportunities to share the truth of God’s love and His Word. They will focus primarily on Spanish language activities with Ukrainian refugee children but will also be working with other youth from the area.

CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

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**.

Irena wrote on July 19: “**Please pray** for us as we travel to Ukraine for several days. The areas we are visiting are fairly safe, but there is always a danger of rocket attacks. In the last few weeks-months many cities have been attacked by rockets, and many people lost their lives. We were really hoping to be back home by now, but unfortunately the war continues, and only God knows how much longer it will last. We continue to pray for it to end soon, and quite often we get really discouraged, especially when we see all the atrocities that continue to happen. **Please pray** God will give us strength and wisdom to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the way that we can at this difficult time. Because when we are weak, He is strong, and we desperately need His strength right now.”

Please continue praying with us for:

- peace and an end to the war very soon
- safety for all the pastors and relief workers.
- wisdom and courage for Ukrainian President Zelensky and the Ukrainian leadership. Pray they will turn to God in this hour of need!
- wisdom for Joel & Irena to know how and when to act with all the different needs.
- God to use this time of uncertainty and fear to move the hearts of people and recognize Christ as the only hope and Savior
- strength and wisdom for Christian workers and organizations to be the hands and feet of Jesus
- European churches receiving many Ukrainian refugees to love these people well, and for provision as they stretch themselves with meager resources
- sustained hope to overcome the discouragement felt by all suffering from the war
- a continued outpouring of resources and generosity to sustain those in desperate need who have lost so much
- healing from all the trauma of war

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](https://www.onechallenge.org/give): www.onechallenge.org/give. For more breaking stories regarding Ukraine, visit <https://tinyurl.com/onechallenge-ukraine-relief>.