

March 2022

Dear Christian Assembly Church family,

I hope you are well today.

Mark and I (Tom) want to give you an update on the use of the initial \$250,000 that we were able to give to be used to help Ukrainian refugees in Jesus' name. We believe the size of your gift to help the Ukrainian crisis warranted a detailed report back to you on the use of the funds. Here is how the money is being used:

**Foursquare Disaster Relief with Chad Isenhardt and Jeff Roper. \$150,000.** This is the largest allocation because their work is the broadest, and they were set up to immediately get help into Ukraine. They are working through a network of 33 Ukrainian congregations in the country and then dozens more in Poland, Romania, etc. They are taking food, water, medical supplies, generators, etc. to help people throughout the country. I posted a video on my social media account that they sent showing the food being delivered (and bombs blowing up a building ahead of them as they were delivering food, etc.). If you are not following me on social media, I encourage you to do so whether on Facebook or Instagram as I will post periodic ongoing updates there. The 33 churches are spread throughout the country, and all have thousands of refugees around them needing daily help as they try to escape westward.

**Young Life Eastern Europe with Al & Stacy Anderson: \$50,000.** As you may know, Al & Stacy were sent out from us 15+ years ago to start Young Life in the Czech Republic. Since then, the ministry has grown, and they now oversee Young Life for all Eastern Europe. Here are how the funds are being used:

- **Relief in Ukraine.** Czech staff have gone to Ternopil, Ukraine multiple times. Young Life is encouraging youth to give and support the people who are fleeing by providing humanitarian aid for the trips. They are working with a Ukrainian church there who have 600 people who they are feeding daily - most of whom are on their way to Poland (so it's not the same 600 people every day). They need food, generators, gasoline.
- **Refugee Center.** Al found a small hotel that went bankrupt during Covid and will be getting the keys Friday. They are taking the Young Life youth there to serve and clean on Saturday. It will house about 40 family members of YL Ukraine staff who are now refugees. The men are still in Ukraine running a refugee center out of their ministry center. The women are scattered around Europe feeling alone, depressed, in refugee camps. They will all come to this place and live and have some community and their husbands can know their wives and children are being cared for while they serve feeding people in Ukraine and traveling to Kyiv to try to get people out.
- **Ukrainian Language Clubs to share about Jesus.** They found some Ukrainian volunteers and 2 Ukrainian YL staff who will start new Ukrainian language clubs in 2 cities in the Czech Republic. They are praying to find more Ukrainian leaders to start more

Ukrainian clubs for refugee teenagers. Some of the Ukrainian leaders will need to be paid because they need money to eat. So, some of the funds will be paying them to run these Young Life clubs which gives them a job so they can eat but also moves the mission of verbally sharing the gospel forward. Refugee housing is often paid for by government assistance, but they must find their own food or money to be able to feed themselves.

**Freedom Church with Pastor Vitaliy Marynets: \$25,000.** This is a Ukrainian church we are connected to via two members of CA (one of whom is a Ukrainian national). The church is caring for hundreds of refugees a day (people migrating west). They are also humanitarian driving supplies into Kyiv and Kharkov. The supplies are food, water, generators, gasoline, and basic medical supplies.

**Light Church with Pastor Benji Horning: \$25,000.** Benji is a friend of mine who leads a church in San Diego. Prior to the war, their church had a mission partnership in Ukraine caring for 180 Ukrainian orphans led by Ukrainians. Those orphans are now in Germany, but they need funds for the care of the orphans (mainly basic needs such as food, warm clothes, etc.). Benji is in Germany and has updated us on the need. So, these funds are being used to help care for these 180 Ukrainian orphans.

Each of these leaders are known, trusted people that are living out a gospel-centered, compassionate response to this crisis in Jesus' name. As I write this to you, I am reminded of God's Word which tells us, *"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you"* (James 1:27). You are living out that very verse through your faith and generosity. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With Hope & Gratitude,

Tom Hughes  
Co-Lead Pastor, Christian Assembly Church