

CHURCH SUPPORT REPORT

DECEMBER 2024



THE RESPONSE UKRAINE
SPECIAL TASKFORCE
WEA TRUST

*A Ukrainian Bible Society chaplain
praying for a soldier*

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF
EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCHES OF UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine is in its third year. The frenzied Russian onslaught continues on the frontlines, taking hundreds of Ukrainian lives every month. Constant and indiscriminate bombardment of residential areas and civilian infrastructure by Russian drones, missiles, and bombs devastates families and turns homes into rubble. Ukrainians hold firm, but staying strong for years with no end in sight is exhausting. Like never before, we need your prayers for the Ukrainian people, government, military, and believers and for a just and lasting peace in the entire region.

Local churches continue to spearhead the Christian response to the devastating war. Following the successful 2023 Pastors Support project, WEA TRUST, in collaboration with the Council of Evangelical Protestant Churches of Ukraine, launched a follow-up Church Support project that took place between April and September of 2024. Ukrainian churches and denominations were given an opportunity to request funding for their most urgent needs. **Of the 12 denominations and networks that participated in the project, 11 identified supporting pastors and chaplains as one of the primary needs.**

The response from the churches has once again highlighted the crucial role of pastors in their communities and ministries, and on the frontlines. Based on this feedback from our partners on the ground, we decided to make pastors the primary focus of this project while also providing funding for other urgent requests, such as spreading the gospel among refugees and others displaced by the war.

Between April and September of 2024:

12

DENOMINATIONS AND CHURCH
NETWORKS SUPPORTED

190

PASTORS RECEIVED FUNDS TO
SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES, MEDICAL
NEEDS, AND REHABILITATION

65

PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES
RECEIVED SUPPORT FOR RECUPERATION
SEVERAL CHAPLAIN TEAMS
RECEIVED DIRECT SUPPORT

2,000

BIBLES WERE DISTRIBUTED
BY CHAPLAINS

Testimonies

Oleksandra is an elderly woman from a liberated village in Southern Ukraine.

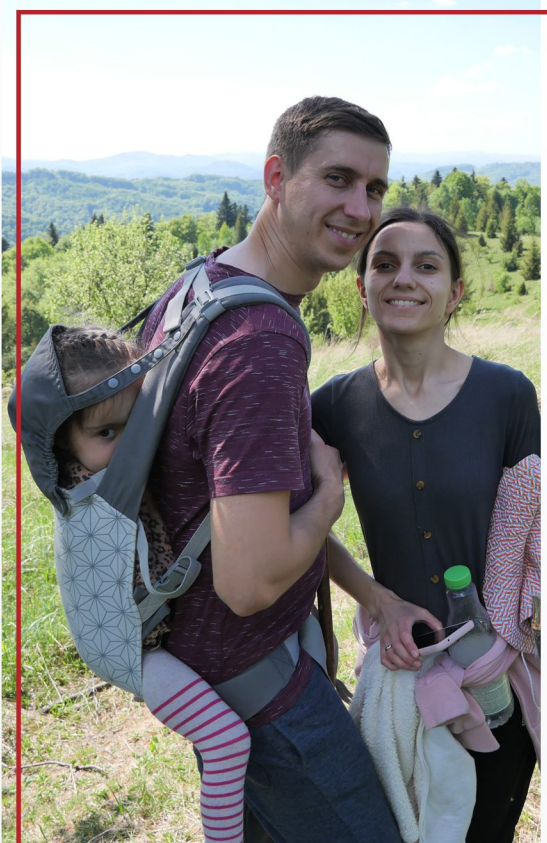
The Russian military occupied Oleksandra's village at the beginning of the full-scale invasion. Russian soldiers searched the 80-year-old woman's house, demanded supplies, and aimed a machine gun at her. **After the village was liberated, volunteers from the Ukrainian Bible Society provided her with food and gave her a copy of the New Testament.** She began reading it and visiting the local church. When the team returned 6 months later, they described her as a completely changed person. Oleksandra, who was unwilling to talk to anyone when she first met the team, smiled and thanked the volunteers for giving her new hope.



The program contributed to the Ukrainian Bible Society's mission of printing Bibles for free distribution by military chaplains and volunteers in combat zones.



“Now, there is peace and tranquility in my heart. Even when there are explosions, He can protect me.”



A pastor and his family on rehabilitation in Western Ukraine

Volodymyr is a pastor from eastern Ukraine. He has a family.

Volodymyr's city has been close to the frontlines since 2014. After the full-scale invasion, the situation in the city became critical, as the Russian military repeatedly shelled it. Despite this, Volodymyr continued to lead a local congregation. **In early 2024, his house was directly hit by Russian artillery and was completely destroyed.** Miraculously, Volodymyr and his family were spending that night in an apartment in another part of the city and were unharmed. Their congregation hall, which was directly adjacent to the destroyed house, was, again miraculously, only moderately damaged.



The program supported Volodymyr in his ministry.

“If we had been home, we would have had no chance of survival. God saved us.”

Maksym is a military chaplain from Kyiv. He has a wife and three daughters.

Maksym has served as a military chaplain since 2021. After the full-scale invasion, his wife joined him, and they served as chaplains on the frontlines in eastern Ukraine. In early 2024, while serving at the front, Maksym was wounded and developed severe complications. After undergoing surgery, Maksym is now in rehabilitation.



The program helped his local congregation cover Maksym's medical bills and support his family while he was recovering.

“I thank God that in my moment of need, the congregation supported me.”



A chaplain who was directly supported by the program reading the Bible to soldiers in a frontline position

Dmytro is a pastor from a frontline city in southern Ukraine.

In 2023, God called Dmytro to start a congregation in his city. Even though the city was under constant Russian attack, he was able to rent a place for the church to meet. Now, over 50 people gather there every Sunday for worship and fellowship and to receive aid. Among those who come to the meetings are people whose houses were destroyed by Russian shelling.



The program supported Dmytro in his ministry.

“War broke all our plans, but it did not break God's plans!”

