

3.15.22

Dear fellow workers in Christ,

It's been close to a month since the war started in the Ukraine. This affected us dramatically, as we are in the proximity of this conflict. Daily, we face the challenges of this devastating war within the borders of our neighbor. The Ukrainian people is a peaceful nation, and never engaged in a war, but it suffered from being under the aggression of other enemies. Under Stalin this nation was brought unto starvation and tens of millions of Ukrainians perished. Today, the war devastates again this country. News of bombing, dead civilians, and children are coming on the media. Questions of what is going to be have no answer at this point. Will the war extend in Eastern Europe? Will this turn to be a world war? Only God knows!

In the midst of the devastation, and high migration, we are now focused on assisting our partners in the Ukraine with supporting hundreds of thousands of refugees, that leave the country. Our HeartCry missionaries in Cernivtsy are engaged in helping over one hundred refugees every day, providing shelter and food for them. Some are just staying for a few days, as they crossed the country after running away from cities such as Harkov, Summy, Odessa, Kiev, etc. They try to cross the border into Poland, Hungary, and Romania. Gradually, each country is overwhelmed with the high number of refugees, and try to help them go further into Central and Western Europe.

We are in constant contact with John, Vitalii, and Ilya from Cernivtsy. We sent them financial support, as well as a few trucks of food. Crossing the border is getting more and more difficult. The Russian army is advancing into the West, and soon they will hit the cities where we are helping with hosting the refugees. For a while things went well, as our team was able to host, and provide food. In the last few days, I heard from them, and things are not good at all. They are starting lacking the food supplies. The supermarkets are unable to supply the main groceries, and soon they will be empty. Therefore, at this point we seek to send more trucks with food from Romania.

Another missionary from our HeartCry team is serving at the Eastern border. There is a high flux of refugees coming from the city of Odessa, that is also surrounded by the Russian forces. Our missionaries in Republic of Moldova would host them for a couple of days, then most refugees cross into Romania. Sandu Deak is serving at the checking point with translation, and transportation. Many people run away without being able to take their IDs, and they reach the border without any documents. Sandu helps them to get temporary ID, and cross into the country of Romania.

We hosted a group of ten refugees from Odessa area. They came for a few days to Brasov, and we provided shelter and food for them. They continued their trip to the Western part of Romania.

There are more waves of refugees crossing the border into Romania. The first wave is made of people that were able to load their cars, and drive through Moldova into Romania. They are generally middle class people, and would be able even to rent something in Romania, or the other countries in Eastern Europe. The second wave are people that have some connections in different countries from Central and Western Europe. They get through busses or train in Romania, then they continue their trip further. But, we expect to see more and more people that came with nothing, running away to save their lives. They did not leave right away, as they had no means of transportation, and no way to find accommodation across the borders. But after devastating bombing raids, they were forced to leave their homes, and run away. Most of them are poor people that have no intention of leaving their own country, and start a new life in a foreign country. They want to go back home. These people are seeking to remain in Romania, and wait for the end of this war.

Please, pray for this tragic experience the Ukrainian people goes through. We are all affected by it. Romania is the closest country to the theatre of operations. Once the Russians take the South of Ukraine (Odessa area) we will border directly with this conquering power.

We need faith more than ever to go on, and serve the best we can. We need wisdom to balance the serving of the local church, and the growing needs that are related to war in Ukraine. Please, pray for our Brothers, and Sisters that are caught in cities like Marioupol, Kiev, Harkov, and other places that are completely surrounded by the Russians. Pray for those that stay in the borders, waiting for days to cross. The last days was extremely cold, and hundreds of thousands of mothers with children had to stay day and night at the checking points. Hundreds of volunteers are helping on the Romanian side with food, and blankets.

Any help for getting food, and giving shelter to the refugees is welcomed. We are overwhelmed with the waves of refugees, and the situation is getting worse. On the other side, we rest in God's sovereign plan, and we know He is in control of these times. We are confident that there is purpose is all that is going on here. Life, and death is in His hand. We belong to Him, and nothing will plunge us out of his mighty hands.

Pray for energy to serve, and give the Gospel to these suffering mothers, old folks, and children that are coming into our country to look for a safe place.

From Eastern Europe,

Sorin Prodan

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Soli Deo Gloria