



PHA is “Being Family”

P.O. Box 12087
College Station, TX 77842
(979) 220-5691

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APRIL 2023

- An Example of Invincibility
- Words of Thanks
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- East Texas Giving Day!



PHA is “Being Family”

Family Time

by Andrii Bilokonnyi

What are YOU doing here!?

Several dozen years have already passed since the time when I took my first steps in approaching Christ and His Church. There are events and the inner feelings caused by these events that are difficult to forget, for example, the first meetings with small groups of Christians. I remember well how I, together with my preacher friend, started attending Christian meetings at someone's home. At that time it seemed to me that I was among old people who had practically already lived their earthly life and were fully ready for a new life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Most likely, you know how such gatherings look, the meeting begins with a greeting and a prayer, (mainly for the state of health), then we sing a psalm, the preacher asks which one, and people offer the most popular one, with the words “My beloved in heaven land, my home is in heaven...”.

Then I tried to sing along with everyone, and my brain just screamed, look at these people, what are YOU doing here!?

Yes, then I imagined myself young and had many dreams about my future life, my faith was based on the forgiveness of my sins and a new life, saturated with the Lord's love. My trials, temptations, disappointments and struggles with myself were just beginning. With each subsequent year, I sang the same psalm about my heavenly home, no longer paying attention to the age of the people

who became an integral part of my Christian life. Over time, I began to miss the old people whom I no longer saw, and to rejoice in meetings with people who were present at every Christian meeting.

Now, looking at the people at every meeting, singing together with them a psalm about our heavenly home, I feel love and happiness from the realization that this is my Christian family and my future.

With many who read my story, we do not speak the same language, we do not have the opportunity to pray together and sing psalms about our heavenly home, but we all have access to the language of love and the feeling of God's presence in our lives. Look around you, look at our PHA Family, doesn't your brain ask, what are YOU doing here?

Thank you to everyone who supports the ministry of PHA Family in various ways. I am sure that you and I do things that are difficult to forget. You know that Ukraine and Ukrainians have to go through difficult trials, and you should also know that starting from the first meetings, even when receiving humanitarian aid, you and I give people the opportunity to feel like they are in the family circle, thus establishing our common, happy future.

- Andrii Bilokonnyi,
PHA Director of Ukrainian Operations



DNIPRO

by Maryna Flehontova

It's been a year since the war came to Ukraine. Over this time, we have seen and experienced things that definitely have been transformative to us as a nation and as Christians. Regardless of the destruction and devastation that the war brings, it was uplifting to see God's Hand at work, His provision, His guidance, and His continued blessings through hands and feet of His people. Focusing on that helps cope with terrible realities of our everyday life.

THANKFUL

by Tetiana Ilmeyerova

I recall my thoughts while reading, hearing stories from my great grandmother, or watching movies about wars. I was wondering how people were getting married, visiting theatres and restaurants, giving birth, and raising kids.

It may not be worth mentioning as it's a world-wide known fact that war is disgusting and pathetic. Instead of creation and development it brings ruin and destruction, pain, death, chaos and panic.

There are still lots of unanswered 'why's' in every Ukrainian head. There is the list of traumas: physical, psychological, and social that would need to be worked on and some will still stay with us until our last day.

On the other side, thank God for that opportunity to at least to live and to see the other side. We gain new experience and new levels of gratitude.

We're thankful for the electricity and water in our homes, for men and women that are ready to fight and protect our country and its people, for the ability to eat and drink what and when we want, for the hot shower, and for the ability to sleep in our warm, dry

Life has to go on, and internally displaced families that we continue helping from week to week serve as vivid examples of that. Over the year our team in Dnipro was able to help hundreds and hundreds of people. Many families came to receive help with their children, and what would always become apparent very quickly is how fast the children had to grow up. This one story that we'd like to share with you is about a girl, who is not even a teenager yet, but who already knows what it's like to have her life uprooted in an instant. What it's like to lose your home, school friends, peaceful and comfortable life and to learn to be strong during air-raid sirens, during explosions and ruin, and seeing adults cry and not have it together.

We've never thought that we'd have to hear this phrase again "children of the war", we heard it from our grandparents or great-grandparents, and no one expected that our children would have to repeat this fate in the 21st century. Our team met the girl in the photo last week and she just touched everyone's hearts. She wanted to show how she appreciates what we, adults, do to help people. She brought us gifts, her own handmade toys. She also shared with us that she makes them to raise funds to help the armed forces of Ukraine continue to fight and stand strong. Needless to say, many of our ladies had to fight back the tears. It was very touching to get the kind of thank you from a child with serious eyes and a very mature attitude to life already.

When you read this story, please, say this time a prayer especially for the children of our war-torn country. May they still experience the joys of childhood, may they not be forced to grow up before their time, and not have to deal with things that even adults have trouble figuring out.

- Maryna Flehontova,
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Dnipro

and cozy beds. But more than anything, we are thankful for the ability to be close to and hug our beloved ones.

Thank you, God.
Please, bless Ukraine with victory and may your peace reign in my home, on all 603,700 sq km: from Donbass to Zakarpattia, from Chernihiv to Sevastopol. Amen.

- Tetiana Ilmeyerova
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Kyiv



KAMIANSKE

by Illia and Zina Parkhomuk

Time passes, more than 9 years of war have already passed, and more than a year since the full-scale invasion. During this time, I managed to visit almost all regions of our country. I heard many stories from both the military and civilians. I see what happens to a person's psyche when they experience manifestations of cruelty that was shown in their direction. The reaction of believers and non-believers is significantly different.

Believers, who left their homes and were left without a roof over their heads, have hope in God. And you know, God always answers their prayers and satisfies their needs as He promised "And whatever you ask in My Name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" John 14:13. And also faithful soldiers who protect their families and their country. But with regard to non-believers, this situation is very diverse...

This story will not emphasize people with the IDP (internally displaced persons) status, but this is a person who cannot be ignored.

Valentina is at first glance a disabled person who constantly needs help. In fact, she is a very creative and versatile person. She was born disabled. And everything in her life was arranged in such a way that she would stay lonely. She had only hope in God. At first, she was told that she would not find a husband, but God did. Then she was told that she would not be able to have children, but God blessed her with a daughter without any defects, alive and healthy, who gave birth to a grandson.

If you look and talk a little longer than my story, then in general it is possible to see a story similar to Nick Vujicic (If you do not know who Nik is do yourself a favor and Google him).

So, we met once near the Center of Administrative Services (CAS), where we had an evangelization on June 29, 2022. Of course, we were oriented to talk with IDPs, but she came up, we talked, she gave us a poem, and took my phone number.



Our communication continued after September 10. She called, asked questions about all the meetings. She began to come to "women's and prayer meetings and worship." She had already accepted Christ, but she had not been to church for a long time since she moved. After another time, she said: "I have never received so much positivity and inspiration anywhere than in your community. Women's meetings at Domik and worship are a great blessing to me, may I become a part of your big family?" She came to the Lord a long time ago and followed His Word. I was left to answer: You have always been a part of His Great Family, but from now on we can continue this journey together.

We provided them help several times from Domik and Church. She is disabled, her daughter and grandson are refugees, her first husband left her and she has been living with another for 20 years. Having huge physical problems, she continues to love life, appreciate people and the Church. In my opinion, this is a really great example of invincibility and love for life.

- Illia and Zina Parkhomuk
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners:
Kamianske





PHA'S MINISTRY: BY THE NUMBERS

SINCE THE WAR IN UKRAINE BEGAN, THE PHA FAMILY HAS PROVIDED:

Food Packets

6397

Hygiene Packets

5599

Personal Medical Supply Packets

1791

People with Short or Long Term Housing

1103

THANK YOU, PHA FAMILY, FOR BEING
"HOPE IN CRISIS" AMIDST THE WAR IN UKRAINE!

PROGRAMFORHUMANITARIANAID.ORG

THE NUMBERS PRESENTED IN THIS REPORT REFLECT PHA'S BEST APPROXIMATION BASED ON MONTHLY DATA COLLECTIONS.



Every week, we distribute humanitarian aid kits to internally displaced Ukrainians with nowhere else to turn.

Help Provide "Hope in Crisis" to those in need in Ukraine.

**East Texas Giving Day is
April 25th!**

You don't have to live in East Texas to participate in Giving Day!

Help us meet our \$5000 match!!!

–Give.

–Like, Comment, and Share PHA Posts.

–Make a Celebration Page!

See how at: pha.family/Celebration

WWW.EASTTEXASGIVINGDAY.ORG/PROGRAMFORHUMANITARIANAID



Ingredients:

400 ml of milk

500 ml of sour cream

200 g of corn grits

1 teaspoon of salt

100 g of brynza cheese

FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Maryna Bilokonna

Banosh from Zakarpattia

Banush or banosh is a viscous corn porridge cooked in cream or sour cream, seasoned with 'shkvarky' or cracklings (you can use fried bacon), mushrooms and cheese, etc. Ukrainian national cuisine dish, widespread in the Carpathian region, in particular, belongs to Hutsul cuisine.

In a saucepan with a thick bottom, bring 50 ml of water to a boil, add milk and sour cream, heat to 80 degrees Celsius.

Pour in corn porridge while stirring. Cook for approximately 10 minutes.

Fry the bacon in a pan, put it on top of the porridge, also put pieces of brynza cheese on a plate in pieces.

Enjoy your meal!

-Maryna Bilokonna,

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhzhia



Program for Humanitarian Aid (PHA)

Name: _____

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I WANT TO JOIN THE PHA FAMILY:

____ Prayerfully

____ Financially through a one-time donation

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 Other: _____ ☐ I would like to be contacted with more information about PHA.

____ Financially through monthly recurring donations

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 Other: _____ ☐ I know someone who would like to hear about this ministry.

Donations can be made through the PHA website: www.ProgramForHumanitarianAid.org