



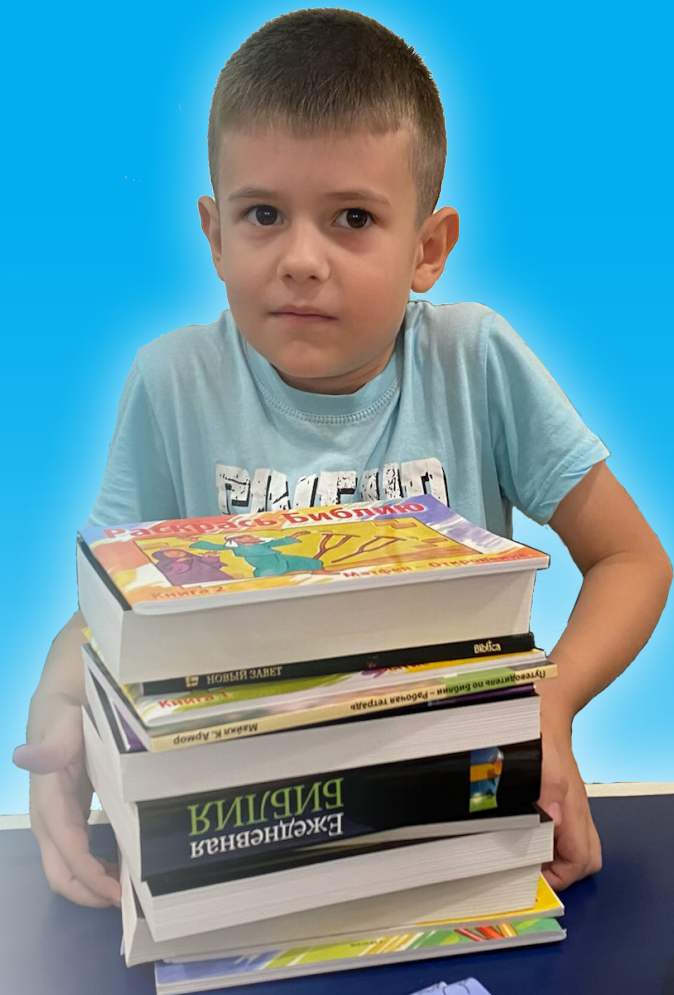
PHA is “Being Family”

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AUGUST 2022

- Stories to Pray About
- In Memoriam of Vitya
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PHA is “Being Family”

FAMILY TIME

by Andrii Bilokonnyi

When?

Without a doubt, today for all Ukrainians very important questions begin with the word “When ...”. Many are sure that the most important question with this word is when will the war end?

Everyone who is at least a little familiar with the consequences of war knows that war is loss, fear, and death. Losses that seem irreversible to us and the uncertainty of the future scare us the most, because we have a constant inner desire for stability and even growth in various areas of our life.

I often imagine myself in the place of close disciples of Jesus Christ. I remember their communication and I think what I would do in His company. What I would dream about or what would I plan. Most likely, I would have asked Him the same questions as his disciples: “When will You sit on the throne of glory? When will You restore your own, God’s order in the world? When can I sit next to You in Your Kingdom?” After all, during those years spent next to Christ, I saw many incredible and wonderful things that strengthened my faith in the almightiness and power of God’s Son. I even saw His power over death. He only needs to say a few words to raise the dead.

I feel that the time of our glory with the Lord is near. I even stopped noticing His intensifying experiences on the eve of the expected grandiose events. And now ... arrest, trial, shame. “Crucify, crucify Him!” I hear from afar. I ran away. I try to hide. I cannot believe that death destroys all my plans for the future. I don’t know how to live on...

We are well acquainted with the story that describes further events after the death and burial of Christ. People thank God for His resurrection, which brought to humanity the gift of forgiveness and grace. But the question “When?” has been on our lips for thousands of years because there is always a serious reason for this. When will the war end? When can we return to our home? When will there be order in the world? When will we live in peace and be well?

This incomplete list of questions regarding the improvement of our personal lives can be supplemented and read all the time, and not only in the place of constant artillery shelling or other earthly troubles. Any normal person always wants security, stability and confidence in the future.

However, in any place and at any time, I do not want to forget the important questions with the word “When”, to which the Son of Man gives quite simple and clear answers. Let’s try today to get the right answer to these vital questions.

“God! When did we see you hungry and feed you? or you were thirsty, and we gave you drink? when we saw you as a stranger

and welcomed you? or naked and we clothed you? when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?”

(Matthew 25:31-46).

May God bless and keep safe.

- Andrii Bilokonnyi,
PHA Director of Ukrainian Operations



KAMIANSKIE

by Illya and Zina Parkhomuk

War is fear, pain, and loss. Many lose their cozy nest that they have built for almost their entire lives. They lose their jobs, their favorite things, but still, when they remain alive, they thank everyone and for everything!

On March 14, 2022, a group of refugees arrived in Domik from Severodonetsk. Literally at night, they were taken out of the shelling, where they left almost all their things, but they did not forget the dog and cat.

We thought about leaving them in Domik, but eleven more people came there, so I was forced to take the women with the animals to my home. I warned Zina that today I was sleeping under the same roof with three ladies, and asked her not to be jealous :).

After dinner in our house, we continued to communicate and raised a number of religious topics. Faith, Scripture, Doctrine, and Jesus. In our case, the conversation continued until midnight. They left the next day, and the words they said before leaving



were: "Thank you very much for your hospitality and love. The information that we heard yesterday was very valuable for us since we have not heard anything like this in our whole life. We definitely have something to think about."

I communicate with many people, but today I understood that a person has lived two times longer than me and may not have heard the Word about Salvation. I thank God that the Church, Domik and my family were able to serve these people who have lost a lot. And I am very glad if they find Christ in their life who can blot out any loss!

- Illya and Zina Parkhomuk
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Kamianske

THANK YOU PHA FAMILY

Because of the support of the PHA Family, those suffering the effects of the war in Ukraine are being shown Christ's love. This love is shown in many forms. PHA's Ukrainian Ministry Partners are providing food, hygiene supplies, kind words, prayers and emotional support in three Ukrainian cities.

You have helped make great things happen. We need the help of the PHA Family to continue to provide this support. Please consider making a gift today. Your gifts to PHA make possible the stories such as the ones shared in this newsletter. As the war continues, the needs in Ukraine continue to increase. Without you we cannot meet these needs and winter is coming.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Sincerely,
Chris and Christy Hill
Co-Executive Directors, PHA

IN MEMORIAM

by Tetiana Ilmeyeva

In Memoriam of our brother and friend Vitya...

He had just turned 18 in January, meaning he becomes independent and responsible for his actions as an adult. We were telling him to be careful with the decisions that can lead him to jail. He was sometimes emotionally led astray, where he would be hard to control himself. He was always on the extremes whether it was about happiness, love or anger.

I've known Vitya since he was in the 7th grade. He became part of the closest kids circle very quickly. He always recalled how my husband Vanya asked him to come to Domik after church. He was open for the communication and friendship ever since. He was changing and growing in the church and with God. We, of course, wanted him to change more and faster but now I see God had His own story and pace for each and every one of us.

He loved my son, Myron, he loved all the little kids and knew how to make them laugh. Vitya wasn't afraid to take up arms and go fight for all of us whom he loved and cared about. Words fail to express all the feelings in me writing this article.

He was planning to come visit my family in Kyiv and wanted to go see the States, just out of curiosity.

He didn't want to die without bringing good in this world.

Vitya, you brought lots of good here. You taught us new things and you won't be forgotten. I hope to see you again in the best place where we will be able to peacefully visit. You'll be playing chess with Vanya and for sure making Myron laugh. We love you.



"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
"John 15:13"

Vitya was killed in action fighting to defend his country.

- **Tetiana Ilmeyeva**
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Kyiv

DNIPRO

by Maryna Flehontova

Blessings in Disguise

I heard a saying once that after every dark Friday always comes Sunday. The life of our Lord and Savior is a vivid manifestation of that. This past Friday for many of us in Dnipro was a dark and scary time, but as Sunday came so did many of its blessings.

The following is a good reminder for me (and sometimes I wish it also were for many other people too). If you ever doubt whether you should go to church on Sunday, whether you should worship the Lord God, King of Kings, a Sovereign Ruler of all the universe, or rather rest, sleep in, go to the market, spend time with the family, attend a game, you fill in the blank - always, always choose worshiping the One who can enhance and turn into good any of your earthly experiences and will help keep focus on even greater things above.

This past Sunday, as it became a tradition, we had Christians and non-Christians gather to listen to the Word of God. However, what was different this time is the response I got from our refugee guests. Typically, people would approach me to ask for more medicine, or bedding, or whether we started helping out with other items, like pots and pans, and beds (we haven't), but this time several ladies approached me to apologize and to offer help. I thought I would have to pinch myself. Interestingly, all of their names were Tatiana. So, one Tatiana, came up to me and apologized for being so demanding the week before. She said she realized that no matter how many pillows and blankets one has or doesn't have you won't be able to take anything with you if God calls you today. The other two Tatanas offered their help, they said, "If you need cleaning of the church building, or fixing anything, or help with your shopping, any help, we'd be glad to be useful". They left their phone numbers with me.



My husband must have done a really good job preaching. I always see it as a privilege when I can be present at his sermons. This past Sunday I was with the kids again, though. This is a different kind of privilege, but a blessing too.

Please, pray that we have enough wisdom and energy to organize, and delegate, to find application to people's enthusiasm in the church, and may His church continue to grow and strengthen shining ever so brightly.

**- Maryna Flehontova,
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Dnipro**



FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Maryna Bilokonna

Pancakes (Oladky)

1. Put yeast in warm milk, add egg, mix with sugar and salt. While constantly stirring add flour. Cover the dough with a kitchen towel and put away in a warm place so that it would rise.
2. Cut peeled apples into small pieces.
3. Before frying add apples into dough and stir mildly.
4. Fry oladky in a thick pan greased with melted butter. Put the dough in the pan with the help of a spoon dampened in water, and fry oladky on both sides until golden crusted.

Enjoy your meal!

-Maryna Bilokonna,

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhzhia

Ingredients: Flour - 450 gr, Eggs - 1, Milk or water - 450 gr
Yeast - 12 gr, Sugar for dough-18 gr and for presentation -90 gr
Apples - 120 gr, Melted butter - 50 gr, Salt



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