



PROGRAM FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

AUGUST 2023

PHA is "Being Family"

ALARM

by Tetiana Ilmeyerova

Alarm by Viktoriya Amelina:

*The whole country is in the air raid alert
It's like going to execution every time
Each of us
But aiming at one
Usually the one at the edge
Not you today, set off alarms*

(The writer was killed by a Russian missile attack at Kramatorsk, Donetsk region)

My Thoughts and Actions in the Morning: Another air raid at night, no explosions in our district, we slept all night through. What a luxury. Checking on the news, especially the ones about explosions in the cities and places where our close ones are.

At Breakfast: Giving thanks to God about the night, praying for our close ones and for our Army, citing my son: "so our enemies would go away from our land and won't ever be back."

While Going to the Playground with my Three-Year-Old: Another air raid, checking on what kind of threat is in our region, if the missiles or drones move our way. Staying in walking distance to the basement, just in case. The threat is

away, the air raid is over. We continue playing with the other kids on the playground.

While Trying to Live a Normal Life Throughout the Day: Drinking coffee from your favorite coffeeshop, buying goods in the store, working, reading to your kid, having meals with the family, but constantly checking on the news and being alert. Living here and now, still trying to enjoy this life without questioning yourself if it's safe enough to keep your kid here with you, what would you do in case of the rocket or drone falling close, what would you do if they blow up the nuclear electro station, thinking of where the shelters are in case of the air raid, how long can you live like that, what if this winter would be even worse than the previous one, if you help the army enough, what else should you do to help others, and million more thoughts every minute.

Then it's Dinner: Putting your kid to bed, reading through the news, falling asleep.

And Again, Comes Morning: Another air raid at night, no explosions in our district, we slept all night through.

Not you today, set off alarms

"I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me."
Psalm 3:5 ESV

- Tetiana Ilmeyerova
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Kyiv

KAMIANSKE

by Illia and Zina Parkhomuk

The Path from Friendship to God's Family

This story is about a family of displaced persons. At the beginning of April 2022, a family contacted us. They found Eljun, one of our ministry partners, and asked for temporary shelter. Two women, the mother Nina and daughter Oksana, were refugees from Vuhledar. How to live? Where to go next? Where to settle down? They had only worries and anxiety...

But God decided many things in their lives. At first, brother Mykola (he's in the Armed Forces) provided them with his home while he was away serving. Since that time, PHA has been helping this family with rent for almost a year. After one month in Kamianske, they started coming to the church and after three months they started participating in studies about baptism.

After that there was a long period of silence on their part. The church and Domik continued to help and show God's love.

Once after worship, they asked for individual communication, and we had 2 of them:

1. For the first time, they sincerely thanked us for all the help we provide, for the love and care both from the church and from our family. After that they gave me a small package and said: "This is for dinner..." When I opened it, I was very surprised because there was one of my favorite dishes "sushi"!
2. The second time I liked it even more. Of course, I was counting on sushi! But it was much more. They all said with one voice: "We long for salvation, and we wish to accept Christ into our lives." As I always stop people from doing this step immediately after service due to the emotions, I suggested a meeting on Thursday.

They had attended all the classes and they went to church for more than a year. I had no doubts about their decision. But if they had doubts, everything would go the other way around.

Thus, precisely on the 10th anniversary of my wife Zina and I's wedding, these women, and in the future our sisters, decided to enter into a Covenant with the Lord. I took it as a very wonderful gift from God, for our anniversary.

Until now, they had many hesitations, many problems, and many obstacles. But they made the most important decision in their lives. Cleanse yourself from sin, accept Christ and follow God. The war brought a lot of problems, difficulties, and pain but we thank God for the fact that through such difficult trials, He changes eternity in a person's life.

Their words after baptism for the whole congregation were as follows:

"We are very grateful to God for the church, for Domik, and for all of you. We lost almost everything in our lives. Our home, our savings, a lot of strength and health. But we gained God's big family, and God and you are the only and most valuable thing for us today."

We pray and long for victory and the end of the war. But I always wonder at how God can turn everything around for His Glory.

- Illia and Zina Parkhomuk
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Kamianske



THE PHA WEBSITE HAS A FRESH LOOK

If you have visited the PHA website recently you might have noticed a few changes and a fresh look. If you have not visited it lately, please check it out! We'd love to hear your feedback!

www.progamforhumanitarianaid.org

DNIPRO

by Oksana Tanchenko

Children's Eyes Became Adults' in a Moment

Personally, as a woman, as a mother, I am always concerned about the fate of children. The fate of my daughter and all those children whose lives were crippled by the war. Many people have lost property, housing, and personal belongings. Entire cities have been lost and completely destroyed. Cities where they were born and grew up. Where they worked peacefully and took care of their families.

In one moment, everything changed. People in tears, in fear and despair are saving their lives and the lives of their children from the invaders who are destroying our nation. Our native land, our Ukraine. That's why my soul hurts the most about children. Because many families with children come to us for help.

Everyone is different and so similar when we treat them with sweets and give them children's Bible literature, coloring books, and toys. Children rejoice as if they have come to visit and receive gifts, and in those moments they feel happy. Their eyes shine like bright stars.

This terrible war forced us to reevaluate all values and to honor every moment of our God-given life.

One Sunday while the service was going on, it was a normal day, sirens were on, but people were no longer hiding, they went to our church for humanitarian support, because support is very necessary. Children's voices were heard, laughter in the room, noise, a hum.

I paid attention to one girl. A little girl. She was sitting aside and practically did not react to anyone. It turned out that she came with her grandmother, but this is a usual thing, because many parents work on weekdays. The old grandmother came up. I asked why the girl was so sad. It turned out that this fragile princess was left on this earth without a family, she became an orphan and the only person she has now is this old grandmother guardian.

The family was taken away by the war! Russian terrorists took it. She was the only survivor after a bomb hit the house where the family lived. I cried because I remembered my daughter Angelina at that age. I was overwhelmed with feelings. What can I personally do for this girl? I came up and hugged her. She agreed to take a treat and a coloring book. I asked the grandmother what else we can do to help? She asked for bed linen and towels. Thank God and the PHA Family for the fact that we have the opportunity to help such families.

Grandma said they were going further west. They were invited to a rehabilitation center for such families. They will not return to Dnipro. The grandmother and the girl left, and I, watching those who came later, caught the satisfied looks of the children who received goodies and willingly took pictures.

We pray and ask you to pray for our people for our victory over the invaders. So that "eyes of our children are not as adults", so that they would shine with happiness and children's dreams instead! So that they grow up in a family where there is a mother and a father. And those sirens were never heard again.

- Oksana Tanchenko, PHA Ministry Partner: Dnipro



NEW PHA ADDRESS

PHA has a new mailing address! Please send all mail communications and donations to our new address:

P.O. Box 5266 Tyler, TX 75712

FAMILY TIME

by Andrii Bilokonny

Tame the homeless.

"You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed" (based on A. de Saint-Exupéry's fairy tale "The Little Prince").

Ukrainian word божж ('bozhzh') – bum – is an abbreviation from the time of the Soviet Union, which was used by the police to denote people who did not have a documented place of registration of their residence. Over time, this abbreviation became a common name for homeless people, beggars and people who lead antisocial lives.

For almost a year and a half, active hostilities have been taking place in our country, which do not have clear borders. You probably know how many problems, horror, destruction, injuries, and deaths this Russian aggression brings against our people. Russia is destroying our entire infrastructure, for them the enemy is all the residents of Ukraine, that is why, every moment of their lives, absolutely all Ukrainians are in mortal danger.

Statistics in our country say that since the beginning of military aggression, in February 2022, from 5 to 8 million people left Ukraine to live abroad. Another 5 million Ukrainians are registered as internally displaced persons, while almost 2 million people have left their place of residence for the second time (many residents of Eastern Ukraine fled their homes in 2014 for the first time due to hostilities only to have to flee again now).

The PHA Family constantly provides support and help to people affected by military aggression. Many of them, with tears in their eyes, say that they are now like homeless people. People say they have a documented home address, even two, but many are mourning the loss of their homes, jobs, family, and friends. Now is such a time, like what is written in the fairy tale about the little prince, people are trying to "tame" each other. To become necessary to each other, to feel support and friendship, and to gain patience to endure all these trials.

When I see this, I think about the feelings and tears of people because of their losses and compare my life to the life of the homeless. I always remember one "little prince" from our PHA Family. His body grew rapidly and gained strength. His heart was always open to love. It was him, who when being questioned "Why do you need this water baptism?" answered that he could not live like this, being close to us and not belong to our family.

Once he asked me how we manage to tame people like him. I answered like the Fox from the fairy tale, we need each other. Over time, he told me that he had found a bum that he wanted to tame and asked me for advice on how to do it better. What could I advise? Be patient, remember what we did to tame you, as you said. That was my advice.

Once, our little prince, smiling with pleasure, showed me a photo of a dirty young man on his phone and said that this is exactly the bum that he practically tamed, acting according to our rules of life and attitude to people. He said that he started by giving him food, then he gave him the necessary clothes, and now he has practically finished the process of domestication. Soon the war began, our little prince became a great defender of our country and died.

To tame is to make the tamed person always be around. Not because of force or shackles, but because of his personal desire, a sense of security, gratitude, support, and help. This is so similar to the situation of being blessed from the Bible standpoint when a person is close to God, feels the need of Him, and the Lord takes care of him. A person tamed by God's love will never feel like a homeless person.

"...Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."
Romans 8:34

- Andrii Bilokonny, PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhzhia



PHA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER!

PHA is excited to share that Karlie Marr has joined the PHA Board of Directors!

Karlie is a graduate of Texas A&M University where she earned a BA in Marketing and an MS in Data Analytics. After graduation, she began her career in Consumer Product Goods working at Kraft Heinz in Account Sales for H-E-B. She currently works for Lactalis Heritage Dairy analyzing the Cheese category for grocers including Kroger and Albertsons. She lives in San Antonio, Texas with her husband Tyler Marr, and their cat Scout. They currently attend MacArthur Park Church of Christ. She has a passion for children and currently serves in the High School ministry at her church. In her free time, she loves traveling, cooking, and coming back to Kyle Field to watch the Aggies win.



FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Maryna Bilokonna

Hombovtsy

Hombovtsy is a forgotten dish of the Ukrainian national cuisine. Don't be in a hurry saying it's just a lazy varenyky. Believe me, they're different and I think they're tastier!

Mix the first six ingredients into a dough, make little balls with the dough, put them on the cutting board. Boil in a large amount of water. When the hoboovtsy are ready, roll them in the mixture of breadcrumbs and sugar before eating.

Enjoy your meal!

- Ingredients:**
- 400 gr cottage cheese
 - 1 egg
 - salt & sugar by taste
 - 2 tbsp flour
 - 2 tbsp semolina
 - berries or chocolate
 - 80 gr breadcrumbs
 - 40 gr sugar

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