



DECEMBER 2023
PHA is "Being Family"

FAMILY TIME
by Andrii Bilokonny

Apple Tree
"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." - Martin Luther King

I have a certain number of childhood traumas, stories about which are already becoming jokes among my friends. Even adults sometimes injure each other, trying to make a joke out of some life situation. It is much worse when adults traumatize children with their actions, not realizing that in this way they are spoiling their future.

A boy from the fifth grade in an orphanage school is almost the naughtiest among all children of his age. He has a hot temper, often has an inadequate reaction to the remarks and requests of his educators and teachers. The school psychologist explains that he has a mother who, most likely, subjects him to frequent physical punishments when he is at home. They also have very difficult living conditions and problems with alcohol addiction.

With each passing year, the boy becomes more independent due to the rapid growth of his body and confidence in his strength. He has a heightened sense of justice; he can even fight because of the conviction of his rightness. After graduating from the orphanage, this young man is indeed a difficult teenager, but he is also one who felt opportunities to change his life and began to grow up in our eyes.

All the time he was ashamed of his smile, but when he started

making money, he asked me for support. He gave me his money for safekeeping, and when he had accumulated a small amount, he asked me to go with him to the dentist. It turned out that he had dreamed of straight teeth since childhood. I was surprised, I said that he was old enough to visit a doctor on his own, but I agreed because I loved him.

The two of us made a preliminary appointment for the same time with two dentists. We arrived together at the clinic, sat in two dental chairs that were almost next to each other, joked, endured pain and dreamed of our Hollywood smiles.

Russia started a full-scale war against Ukraine. I suggested to my friend to stop the process of creating a beautiful smile. Jokingly, I told him that we will soon be buried under the ground, though smiling beautifully. What's the need in it? He did not refuse treatment, but he also did not refuse to participate in the defense of our country. He knew very well that he could die, but he did not plan to.

War is a huge trauma for absolutely all people, regardless of age, gender, nationality, place of residence, or financial status. I look out the window, smiling not quite a beautiful smile at the autumn sun. My hero, in his new body, smiles somewhere in a new world, waiting for our meeting.

They say eating apples can make our teeth healthy and beautiful. If you can still plant an apple tree today, do it.

- Andrii Bilokonny
PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhzhia

DNIPRO
by Oksana Tanchenko

A story about a soul that was brought to God by the terrible war in Ukraine:

Konstantin is the name of our brother in Christ. His family was displaced twice. They lost all their property, work, housing, they have nothing left. In 2014, fleeing from the war, they left under terrible shelling from the city of Horlovka to the city of Bakhmut. There they started all over again. Bit by bit they restored their living conditions, learning to live in the new realities. They tried to live a normal life, dreamed, smiled, and gradually calmed down. And here is a terrible 2022 for all of Ukraine! The city of Bakhmut was destroyed to the ground. There is no housing, no work, no property... Konstantin and his family again left their hometown of Bakhmut to Dnipro under the bombardment of enemies! How to live on? They only had documents and some small things with them... By the will of God, their family settled near our church. Passing by so many times, he also decided to register for help. But after talking with Sergey Flegontov, he became interested in the Word of God. He visited the worship, prayed a lot. Ihor Hamaga baptized him this year and now he shares the Word. Understanding that the meaning of life is the very life given by God. Having lost everything, he gained the MAIN thing.



- Oksana Tanchenko
PHA Ministry Partner: Dnipro



PHA'S MINISTRY: BY THE NUMBERS
SINCE RUSSIA'S FULL SCALE INVASION IN FEBRUARY 2022



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.

ANTHEM
by Tetiana Ilmeyer

Since the war has started, I mostly write articles providing my own emotions and thoughts about the time and the situations I find myself in.

This September I exchanged several messages with my friend whom I hadn't talked to for years. The conversation started after one of my social media posts asking to support my husband's combat brothers. Her husband was still at war, and she didn't share much information, she just said that she was trying to be ok. We agreed to meet for a cup of coffee but didn't set a date to meet.

Then, a couple of days ago she posted a poem that gives a hint that something went wrong. The next day her photo is changed to a black background and she announces that her husband died and provides information about his funeral.

I have never met him. I knew he was a warrior since 2014 and Maidan. As I listened through the ceremony in the church, I realized he was in all the hotspots of this war, literally defending almost every city you could have heard of in the news.

First time I cried listening to the national anthem while watching the videos with the people coming out in the streets with Ukrainian flags during Kherson liberation. Today I cried listening to it and bowing in front of the tomb with the courageous Ukrainian hero that I haven't met before. Bowing to his wife and his mother. He was 29. He died protecting me and every Ukrainian, our land and the truth.

And as it was recalled at the church today: 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' John 15:13 (NIV)

Please, keep praying for Ukraine, for our army, for our warriors that bravely passed away, for the widows and orphans.

- Tetiana Ilmeyer, PHA Ministry Partner: Kyiv



WHY SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE IN WARTIME?

In the midst of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, hope remains a beacon of light in the darkest of times.

While the headlines may have moved on, the war rages on. Cities are still being bombed, and countless individuals remain homeless, hungry, and in despair. Yet, our battle is a different one - a battle to offer aid, sustenance, trauma care, and most importantly, hope.

Hope that transcends this world.

Just as Jesus healed and fed the people in His time, his ultimate mission was to offer eternal hope through the gospel. We follow in His footsteps, offering physical assistance so that we can share that same eternal hope with those in dire need.

Will you stand with us in this battle? Now is the perfect moment to spread Christ's love.

A generous donor has stepped forward with an extraordinary offer: they are willing to match every dollar you contribute, up to a total of **\$50,000**. This means your donation will have double the impact, enabling us to make an even greater difference in the lives of those we serve.

Will you stand with us in this battle?

www.pha.family/donate



KAMIANSKE
by Eldzhun Aliyev

One day we received a call from a man asking for help with housing. It was a couple, Mykola and Elena. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, they were forced to leave their hometown of Vuhledar. They had nowhere to go and found out about us through the social networks and that we help people. When they came to us, they were broken and tired. They lost their home and property. When they ran from the house to the bomb shelter, they took only a few things with them.

It was cool outside when they came to us. When we met them, they were dressed in sweaters and house slippers. Then we settled them in an apartment, provided everything necessary for the first time: products, clothes, household chemicals.

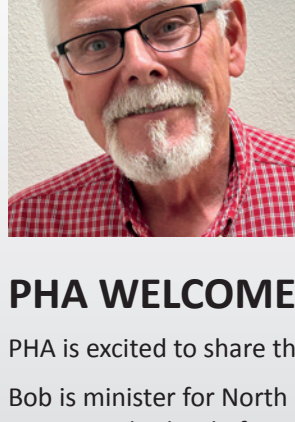
We became friends and they started telling their story. How they ran to the shelter, which was designed for 50 people, and there were 300 of them there. They lived there for 2 weeks, there were 50 beds, they had a chance to sleep only for an hour so that everyone could rest. For 2 weeks, their city was shelled and there was no way out. After all this, they came to us, we helped them.



Before meeting with us they did not believe in God at all, but after feeling our love and care, they began to ask themselves who we are and why we care about them. They could not believe that such people existed in this world. We started saying that we are believers. They were impressed that our care and love was sincere and free. After first-aid, we helped them get to the border and they went to Spain to see their daughter. When they got there, they sent us messages with words of gratitude. They said that they met different people all the way to Spain, but nowhere did they meet such sincere people as us.

There's a church next to their house in Spain that they want to visit. They wrote us a letter saying that they hoped to find a people like us there. The love of Christ that lives in our hearts and that we showed to them greatly influenced their lives. They wanted to meet the same kind of people in whose hearts lives Christ. We continue to communicate with Mykola and his wife and support them. We pray that one day they will accept Christ.

- Eldzhun Aliyev , PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Kamianske



PHA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER!

PHA is excited to share that Bob Martin has joined the PHA Board of Directors!

Bob is minister for North Main Church of Christ in Winters, Texas. He earned his degree in concentrated Biblical studies through Brown Trail School of Preaching in Hurst, Texas. Bob is known to be a good leader and organizer, having been involved in numerous community clubs and organizations and youth camps. His passion is working with and for children. He and his wife Jenny have been married 43 years and have three married children and 6 grandchildren.



FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN
by Maryna Bilokonna
MEDOVYK (Honey Cake)
Dough:
3 eggs
1 sugar (approx. 200gr)
2 tsp. of soda
2 tsp. of cocoa powder
3 tbsp. of honey
50 grams of butter

Put the whole mixture in a double boiler for 10 minutes. Allow the mixture to cool a little and add 3 cups of flour. Divide the dough into 9 parts, put it in the refrigerator for 2 hours.

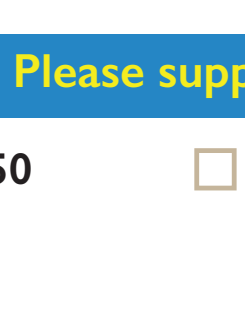
Take every piece out then roll them one by one on the parchment paper before putting each on the oven baking tray in the oven. Bake every piece at 190 Celsius (340 Fahrenheit) for 5-7 minutes or until the flatbread gets a dark golden color.

1st Cream:
1 egg 0.5 +2.5 cups of milk
1 cup of sugar
3 tbsp of starch
Mix everything except for the 2.5 cups of milk. Boil 2.5 cups of the milk and pour into the mixture, cook for 5 minutes, stirring.
2nd Cream:
400 grams of butter
1 tbsp of sugar
Grind together.

Add the 1st cream in small portions to the 2nd cream and mix thoroughly each time. Spread the cream over the flatbreads stacking one on top of another. Let it cool and 'get wet' in the fridge.

Now we have a difficult time, it is hard for us to plan for several days, weeks and, even more so, months ahead. Everything around us changes rapidly, there are many factors that we cannot influence. In this difficult time of war, we have a desire to feel the warmth of family holidays, which we usually create in the Domik facility. But each of us and our friends have a holiday - birthday, regardless of our plans and surrounding circumstances, it comes every year. I am happy to make a cake for the birthday boy this month, I want to share the recipe of this cake with you.

Enjoy your meal!!
- Maryna Bilokonna, PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhzhia



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