

Dear Praying Friends,

It's the very last day of April and in that, you can read that we kept hoping and hoping that there would be amazing news to pass along to you. The war continues. In fact, right here at the beginning I'll say that these next nine days are very strategic days.

May 1st is a huge holiday in the former Soviet world, kicking off a span of days off and festive things culminating on May 9th, so-called Victory Day. I say so-called because it celebrates the former Soviet Union's victory over fascism, with a definitive emphasis on their perception of their primary role in that victory. They call that war The Great Patriotic War. I belabor that point because this war in Ukraine is intended to be a legacy-maker for Russia's president, finally defeating Naziism and securing his place in the history books. As such, the Russian military needs to secure some significant wins, not only because of the early and sustained failures, but because dissent and criticism is creeping into very public places at high levels (see [here](#)).

For Ukrainians who are exhausted and giving everything they've got, it's a daunting task to keep giving it their all. We are seeing strain in everyone we know and in everything we read. Yet, as each and every one will tell you, fighting for their home is natural and should be to the very last ounce of what you have. They are determined that having given so much, they are not going to stop until they have removed every last enemy Russian and weapon from their land.

We have been hopeful this week, and then back to 'yikes.' It was encouraging to hear the seminary talk of how to do classes again and even to begin some online classes – this week! Mark is in discussions about how to give his program's students the next class, right now in June. And our church in Kyiv took Easter Sunday as a wonderful time to start gathering those in the city for in-person worship again. It's a wild mix of online and in the room, but it is working and we are so thankful. And while we were meeting with some of those staff still in the city Thursday night, they paused and then commented, 'Oh, it's probably the de-mining crews detonating stuff again, since there wasn't an air raid siren.' But it wasn't. Two missiles were hitting Kyiv Thursday evening. And

raid siren.’ But it wasn’t. Two missiles were hitting Kyiv Thursday evening. And not on the outskirts.

Mark was talking with his assistant program director during the week and the man was hopeful that he will get to see his family soon. He sent them to another country and like so many, they have been separated for a very long time now. When Mark asked him when he thought that would be, Sasha replied, ‘After May 9th.’

It’s hard to keep waiting, but we know the Lord is doing his work in his perfect timing, so we keep looking to him. One thing we wanted to share with you is a video our teammates put together of the ways which funds donated have been put to use, which you can see [here](#) (it’s about 20 minutes). We this week of a young American man who had come to Ukraine to help, and who came to know his Savior there through the testimony of a Ukrainian serviceman. He wanted to be baptized before he went to the front and if you’re on facebook you can see his overwhelming joy on this page: Ірпінська Біблійна Церква/Irpin Bible Church – post from April 27th). Irpin is one of the sites of horrific destruction, and there’s this jewel shining brightly in those ashes.

I’ll close for now, but we thank you so much for praying and for praying and praying and praying some more. There are some pictures at the bottom from our WorldVenture colleague Randy Hacker, who has been very involved in getting aid to Ukrainians in Poland and even more in Ukraine, another outworking of the funds given to WorldVenture fund we mentioned before (link [here](#), if you’re interested).

Donna, for the both of us





Randy Leone Hacker

April 19 at 2:19 PM · 🌐



What did you do this morning? I sent 10 metric tons of food to 4 churches in Ukraine 😊

👍❤️👤 108

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