KEITH & RITA HAYWOOD

CHURCH CONNECTIONS TEAM – OMUSA

AUGUST 2022 Pray for More UPDATE



"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Dear friends,

We hope you are having a great summer. We have spent most of July indoors, except for our morning walks before the heat builds up. We are looking forward to spending most of September in Holland where the temps should be cooler and the humidity less intense!

Ukraine Crisis Response

One of the great encouragements of this year has been the generous response we have witnessed as US churches contributed to the OM Ukraine Crisis Response project that was set up to serve those uprooted from their homes and homeland because of the war in Ukraine. OM teams in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Hungary, Czech and Romania have served 224,400 people through 109 church partnerships on the ground in their nations. Over 2400 volunteers have been mobilized to help in this effort. The funding provided by American churches and donors, combined with gifts from other parts of the world, have enabled us to provide this robust response.

OM teams continue to serve Ukrainians who are displaced, participating in camps, home visits, border ministry and more. **Thank you for praying for the ongoing ministry to Ukrainian refugees and for those on the frontlines of this work.**



One of our partner churches gave funds to print 40,000 Ukrainian New Testaments. We have been involved in the collaborative effort of several ministries to make this project a reality. The New Testaments were delivered this week – 20,000 to OM and 20,000 to other European partners of the US church. **Pray for these "seeds" to be sown and watered so that there is a harvest of people who come to faith in Christ.**

Ukraine – Salvation Amid War

Ina, her husband, and their neighbor lived in the war zone in eastern Ukraine. As the conflict neared their town, they feared they would have to evacuate. Being elderly, they were apprehensive to leave their home again, having fled in 2014 during the initial battles in the east. But as war came closer, they knew they had no choice. They loaded up their car and headed west, having no idea where they would go. Somehow, they managed to get the number of the OM ministry house in Vinnitsa, southwest of Kyiv. Stefan, the OM leader, welcomed them as he had many other refugees during the previous weeks. Upon arriving, the trio were scared, traumatized and uncertain.

They wondered who these people were that they were now living with. Could they trust them? They didn't say much the first couple of days. Each morning and evening the OM team had a prayer time. They invited their anxious guests to join them. The three just sat and listened to the songs and prayers.

After a couple of days Ina surprised the team by praying out loud with them. Not knowing the Lord, her broken prayers were raw and honest. "This must surely be God sending us to this place. We had no idea where we were going. Now we feel at home.", Ina prayed.

At the end of one of the prayer times, Ina remained in her seat as the others filed out. She asked Stefan, "Can you explain to me what is salvation?" Stefan and his wife shared the gospel with Ina and that day she gave her life to the Lord!

Stefan reports that there are many more stories of Ukrainians like Ina who are coming to Christ amid the war. **Please pray for more Ukrainians to find salvation in Christ during the conflict.**

Answers to Prayer

- **New Staff Member:** We are excited to announce that we have found the right person to join our Church Connections Team!! After reviewing more than 60 resumes and conducting several interviews, we believe that God has guided us toward this person. We will share more in our next update.

Requests for Prayer

- **Pray for the onboarding process** for our new co-worker who will start on August 15.
- **Pray for Crossover Church from California,** going to the UK on mission from Aug 5 – 15.
- **Reporting, Planning and Budgeting Process for 2023:** We continue to spend a lot of time in planning and preparation for the coming year. Pray for wisdom and perseverance in completing entries in our database and spreadsheets!

We are grateful for your prayers for us and the work that God has placed in our hands with OM. As always, if there is something we can be praying for you about, please let us know.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Keith & Rita