# KEITH & RITA HAYWOOD

# CHURCH CONNECTIONS TEAM – OMUSA

# APRIL 2022 Pray for More UPDATE



**"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;**

**for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Dear friends,

**"Pray for More"** sometimes means that we must persevere in prayer when situations are not resolved as quickly as we would like. The conflict in Ukraine is a good example that we need to keep praying for God to do more in this crisis. Here is a recent story that we received from our team in Ukraine. Yes, they are still there helping people!

## A story from Ukraine

*Tears flowed as Valentina walked into the warm OM guesthouse in Vinnitsa, just as the sun was setting on the 14th day of Putin's war against Ukraine. She arrived here from the northeastern city of Sumy. Five days before her perilous journey, Valentina had taken nine people from two families into her 2-bedroom flat after their neighborhood had been bombed.*

*Two nights later Valentina was taking a shower around midnight, after the children were finally able to fall asleep. She did not hear the air raid sirens go off but did hear the screams from the hallway outside the bathroom door. Running into the corridor with nothing but a towel around her, she learned that a rocket had struck just 900 feet away from her home. The sky was ablaze with Russian forces bombing her sleeping neighborhood.*

*After a couple of days, the "green corridor" for evacuation opened. The two families told Valentina that they should leave and urged her to go with them. They left very early with fear in their hearts. Travel was slow and treacherous.*

*After a warm meal, I sat with Valentina and listened as she shared her woes, the tears rolling down her cheeks. I prayed for her more than once during the 40 minutes we were together. Her hands were shaking as she held mine tightly. She was taking medicine to calm her nerves, most likely too much. As I prayed her hands relaxed and her breathing settled. She said she believes in God but had never really prayed before. But for the last two weeks, Valentina has been reading an Orthodox prayer book every night.*

*Valentina, the two sets of parents, their three children and a kitten slept soundly for the first time in two weeks. But then they needed to continue their way toward a safer haven. The two families were planning to join some family or friends in a village in western Ukraine, while Valentina is hoping to join family in Europe. Please pray for Valentina and the thousands of displaced Ukrainians like her. Pray too for the OM teams providing shelter, food, a listening ear, encouragement, and prayer.*

## Results from Prayer

- **Spotlight Region Zoom Calls:** We had 6 church partners join the two calls focused on the Himalayas. We are following up with each church to discuss ongoing partnership.
- **Project Funding:** We have received gifts from more than 35 churches toward OM's Ukraine Crisis Response project. We are so grateful for the generous outpouring from God's people to help those who have been uprooted and impacted by the conflict.

## Requests for Prayer

- **Spotlight Region Zoom Calls:** Pray for the next series of Zoom calls which will focus on the Arabian Peninsula Region. *Pray for a few more leaders to sign up and for new partnerships to result from these calls.*
- **New Staff Member:** Pray for God to confirm the right person to join our Church Connections staff as we continue the recruiting process this month. We have interviewed several candidates but did not feel they had the experience we are looking for.
- **Project Funding:** Pray for an ongoing response from the 180 church partners we sent proposals to regarding the work among Ukrainian refugees. The situation in Ukraine and Eastern Europe continue to require resources to serve those who are displaced and hurting.

## Personal Prayer Request:

- Pray for refreshing and renewal for us as we take some time off at the end of this month. Rita continues to do quite well on her medications.

Let us know how we can be praying for you. We are thankful that you are a part of God's team to engage His Church in His mission around the world. As we celebrate Good Friday and the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ this month, may you know the reality of His presence and the assurance of His peace.



*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. I Cor. 15:3-4*

Yours in Christ Jesus,

**Keith & Rita**

If you would like to give to OM's Ukraine Crisis Response, make a check payable to OM.

Write: Ukraine Crisis Response 1802702 on the memo line.

Then mail the check to: OM - Finance, PO Box 444, Tyrone, GA 30290.

Or to give online click: <Give to OM's Ukraine Crisis Response> or go to omusa.org/give