

MINISTRY IN THE TIME OF WAR

The story that I want to share briefly is not over yet, and we hope that it will end soon. But I think now it's too early to talk about an end.

The congregation of Nova Kakhovka had many plans and desires: evangelistic projects, distributing humanitarian aid, working with young people, and finishing minor repairs inside the premises of our worship place. But the outreach opportunities for the ministry are many.

Our congregation in Nova Kakhovka is quite small; it has about 25 church members, 5 confirmands, 20 young people, and about 30 kids who regularly visit our Sunday school.



Everything changed on February 24. At that time I was on a short vacation in Odessa. The morning began with explosions and air raids. This marked the beginning of the war! By the afternoon of that day, the Russian invaders had already entered the city of Nova Kakhovka. This took away any opportunity for me to return to the city of my ministry. Our apartment and all our belongings were cut off for us. All that practically remained was what we had.

God richly blessed, for there was not a day when we did not have something to eat or where to spend the night. When you serve God, despite the difficult circumstances, the essence of life does not change. You continue to serve God and his people.



The Lord blessed to take my wife Irina and younger son Mark to a safe place - to Germany. I thank everyone who participated in this process and who today help our refugees survive the hardships of wartime. Thank you for prayerful support, for humanitarian supplies, for food, for finances, for the words of encouragement that we receive abundantly from many of our partners and friends.

Together with the pastors and some brothers of our synod, we took on the service of volunteers and work with refugees. We provide humanitarian aid, and food is transported to different needy regions of the country. Women and children are taken out of dangerous places of warfare. We organize transit points and escort of refugees to the border and to some extent abroad. A large amount of work takes place on the territory not captured by Russian invaders.



My pastoral heart worries about the people of the Nova Kakhovka community. The situation in Nova Kakhovka is not simple: lack of food, lack of necessary medicines, constant danger from the occupying troops, disconnection of communications and the Internet, lack of work and money. Today there is no opportunity to get to Nova Kakhovka, and there is also no way to leave from there. Some people break through and leave at their own peril, but this is always a big risk to life.

We pray intensely for the safety of the lives of people in the occupied territories. With the funds that the Lord blesses through you, we support those in need, transferring parts to their bank cards so that they can purchase the goods necessary for survival. The Lord is with us here and with them there, and blesses and preserves all who fully trust Him.

Today I am in the city of Dnipro, where our congregation has opened their doors to the refugees so that people can stay few days over, receive a warm meal every day, have a shower or talk Pastor Sergey or myself.

Sergey Bevz and I serve here people who leave hot spots (war zone) and need accommodations, rest, and food. God is working mightily in our center and the Word of salvation is proclaimed in Christ Jesus.



I thank God for each of you who in this difficult time for us in every way participates and supports us and, through us, many people whom we can serve today. The Lord in this situation uses each of us in His place for the glory of God.

I ask you to continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, for communities and ministers, for safety and protection from all kinds of evil.

We bless all readers in the name of Jesus Christ.

Missionary Valera Verba

