

MINISTRY REPORT OF MISSIONARY VALERY VERBA

(February - September 2022)

1Kop15: 57 But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I glad to welcome you reading this letter. I never stop thanking God for you, because through you the Lord richly blesses us, we have everything necessary to serve people, to the glory of God. We thank you for the fact that both in joy and in sorrow we are moving together for Christ. Thank you for supporting our ministry and helping us overcome all trials.

I want to share with you in a few words the information on how the Lord leads me through this difficult time. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, many priorities have changed, and the Lord calls today to serve in new circumstances. Just as at time of the first wave of COVID 19, we could not understand how to arrange a ministry so that it would be effective in these conditions, so at the beginning of the war, we could not understand how to apply ourselves as a minister in the new circumstances of life. We were not ready, but God has all the wisdom and grace to enable us to work in new conditions, doing the work together for the salvation of man.



Congregation in Nova Kahovka

After the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine, the congregation of Nova Kahovka almost immediately found itself in occupation. The Lord, miraculously, brought my family out to Odessa a few days before the war. Returning back to Kahovka was life-threatening.

Due to the unbearable living conditions in the occupation, - the lack of medicines, finances and life security, - people started leaving Nova Kahovka quickly. Persecution, killings, and looting led to an influx of refugees. Being in the territory controlled by Ukraine, I helped brothers, sisters from our congregation, youth and other people to leave the occupied territory in every possible way. Most of the community members left the city, leaving their homes and property behind. Today, less than 4 people remain in the occupied Nova Kahovka Congregation. The church scattered.

The premises of the church, as well as the rented apartment of our family, are not affected by shelling yet. I believe the Lord will keep it that way. We have given everything into His hands, we hope and trust in Him.

BOARDING SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE

The situation with orphanages is difficult. All boarding schools with which we worked are staying under Russian occupation and survive as best they can. I thank God for the devoted hearts of the leadership of these institutions and the staff, who, despite the situation, continue to serve and work for the benefit of these children.

It is known that boarding schools continue to operate in Kherson and Kahovka. Each of them has at least 30 children, responsible for which dedicated people are bearing.



The life of kids is looks like survival than a life; although even in these conditions the management of institutions does not give up and tries, if possible, to sow good and useful in children's hearts. We are staying in touch with them, if possible, and with God's blessing, I send them finances for the most important needs. If, in peacetime they have needed help and support, then now is even more.

The boarding school "Rodnichok" in Nova Kahovka was closed after the start of the war. The director left the city for a safer place. The territory of the boarding school was occupied by Russian troops, placing their military personnel and equipment on its territory.



MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER

From the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the Lord gave me the opportunity to take my family out of the country. they are in Germany now. And I thank God and everyone who helped during this resettlement, later and supports my family now. It's been 6 months since we were separated and now, we live not only in different countries, but in fact in different worlds. The world in which I live today is filled with mortal danger, suffering, needs and anxieties. But I am grateful that my family lives in another world where they are protected and calm. In practice, I was left without a family and without a congregation - the war divided us territorially.

I have already written briefly about the fact that from the very beginning of the Russian invasion I took over the ministry of volunteer missionary. The Lord took me through a variety of situations, gave me the chance to meet a huge number of people who needed a Word of comfort and God's support. I saw how the Good News very often reached the heart and gave hope in the most hopeless situation.



For a while, my Odessa team and I were engaged in the evacuation of people from the hot spots of Nikolaev, taking them to the border with Romania. After a short time, the Lord opened the sources of blessings for the purchase of food. Our team has started delivering food packages to those in need in many regions of our country. All our actions have always been accompanied by the preaching of the Only Hope - Jesus Christ, in the terrible time of war.



Now thanks [be] unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 2Cor2:14

DNEPR



Later, by the decision of the Brethren Council, I was sent to Dnepro to support the local Lutheran Congregation. Dnipro city became a place where a huge number of migrants from hot spots came: Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkov, and later Zaporozhye and even Kherson regions. The local church has become a transit point for people saving their lives.



We met refugees, provided food and lodging for the night, so that people, being in a calm environment, could decide how to live on, where to go and what to do. Some of them for the first time really came into contact with Christ and His servants, with His plan of salvation and His love.

A few months later, when the flow of refugees decreased, we decided to distribute food humanitarian aid, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Part of the church premises has used for a food warehouse and a sorting center, where hundreds of food packages were formed ... People were calling us, were registered for the issuance of assistance, formed lists, appointed services with the issuance of food. Such services were attended by hundreds of people, both immigrants and local residents. Sometimes there were not enough chairs to sit and people were staying on their feet in the aisle. The Church preached the Kingdom of Heaven!

We continue to take care of difficult categories of people who are limited in their ability to earn a living: pensioners, the disabled, single mothers with children and others.



Realizing the fact that not all people can leave their homes located close to front lines, we have developed a strategy for delivering food packages to settlements in the frontline zone. Arriving in such places, we saw broken or locked shops and pharmacies; there often were no finance ant banks and the possibilities of people were very limited; however due to many factors they could not leave the region. So, our every trip includes the preaching of Christ Crucified and Resurrected; We are bringing a word of encouragement and hope, food and humanitarian aid, medicines and diapers, hygiene products and essentials there.





We continue to pray for the protection of people's lives, we pray for God's mercy on all those affected by this war, we pray for God's peace, in the midst of war and death. We pray for the restoration of peace in our country! We are not looking for the vengeance, we are praying for God's protection!

Dear friends, I also ask you for prayer support of Ukraine and Ukrainians, prayers for all those who suffer and perish in darkness, prayer for the Church in Ukraine so that it is able to fulfill its God-given destiny here on earth, in this period of history.

I ask for prayer support for my family, for my wife Irina and sons, so that the Lord preserves in the Spirit, so that He saves in His hand and gives us everything we need. I ask for prayers for me too, so that my heart is open to everything that the Lord wants to do in me and through me. To be attentive to the will of God and have a spiritual understanding of everything that happens.

I sincerely thank all brothers and sisters, all our friends and partners, everyone whom I know and whom I don't even know personally, for their huge spiritual contribution and prayer support, for financial and material blessings, with the help of which the Lord opens the hearts of many people, thank you for all the blessings which today through you, the Lord serves us, and we serve the people of Ukraine.

I believe that Ukraine, passing through the valley of weeping, will open springs in it, and the rain will cover with blessing; coming from strength to strength, will appear before God in Zion. Ps.83 Amen