

Dear friends and family,

We are preparing for trip #5 to Ukraine. Over the past couple months so much has happened. Some of my favorite moments have been hearing people share how God is changing their perspective. Hate, bitterness, and despair conquered by Love, forgiveness, and Hope. Brother Victor from Moldova experienced God enabling him to love his enemies. Tatiyana and her family are beginning to process the difficulties they have experienced through a totally new perspective. In the bible Joseph found himself in situations that easily could have filled anyone with hatred and bitterness yet when he faces his "enemies" he was able to not only forgive but to see God's provision. More necessary than any physical supplies we desire to bring with us the message of hope and reconciliation. With Christ, peace, joy, and the ability to forgive can be ours no matter the circumstances.

One night I put my head on the pillow and closed my eyes. A missile was flying. I felt the air pressurize and heard the whistling as it fell...Boom I sat up with a start. It was just a dream I am ok it wasn't real. The Lord has given assurance on each trip that myself and the team will leave Ukraine unharmed. As I try to process what I just dreamt I have a horrible feeling as if it is a warning that those I love and care about will be injured and I will have to witness it. Slightly shaken, I cry out to God and lay this new fear at his feet. He gently calms my heart and peaceful sleep overtakes me.

The next day Tatiana and her family come over for dinner. In a previous update I shared about our first meeting and briefly retold Her account of escaping Mariupol. As we catch up, she describes difficulty sleeping "I wake up and have to tell myself that I am in Odessa that It was just a dream that no bombs are falling right now.". Suddenly I thank God that I know what she is talking about... dreams that feel and sound like reality. The rush of adrenalin as you try to rest. The fear of closing your eyes because you might see what you don't want to.

After we finished eating, Caroline and I sang "It Is Well". We shared how no matter what the circumstances or pain around us we can have peace in our souls. We sang a few more songs and Tatiana and her husband started talking not just about their difficulties but about how God had spared them. This was new. We sat and listened as they gave glory to God for miraculously delivering their family. Before they left, she said " As you were singing, I start to feel like my view is changing. Thank you for coming."

Brother Victor joined our team in Moldova. He recently came to the Lord, and this was his first mission trip. After our first day out evangelizing, I knew he would fit right in language barrier and all. Victor would spot people that others missed... Not just the lady selling flowers on the sidewalk but the one inside the shop behind the counter. I felt like I was seeing God's love pouring out on the people of Odessa through Him.

On our last evening together, my dad asked everyone to share a little about what God did on the trip. Brother Yura translated as Victor poured out his heart. His ethnic Heritage is Russian and not just that, but he comes from a long line of warriors and soldiers. When the war started, he wished that he was younger so he could go join the Russian army. He then said, "I came on this trip to see if I could love my enemies". His desire to see proud Ukrainians humbled by military defeat has changed to a desire for them to know God and be transformed by the Gospel.

Joseph said to his brothers:

"Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life." Genesis 45:4-5

He not only walked in forgiveness, but God allowed him to see that what was meant for evil has been used for good. Only a mighty God has the power to bring about such change.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has brought a shaking spiritually. People who before were hardened against God are now softening to receive the gospel seed. What man has intended for Evil God has the power to turn for good. The reality of our own mortality is not easily suppressed in a war zone. May God's people be faithful through the testing and may hearts turn to Him in total surrender during these difficult days.

To all of those who have been praying for us, Thank you! God is answering your prayers, saving souls, and equipping his people for the task at hand.

Blessings,

Eva

Praise:

God's protection and blessing on each of our trips thus far.

The miracle of true heart transformation.

That we are seeing God's love flowing through His people!

Tatiana and her family are alive.

Prayer:

God's purposes to be accomplished in and thru us as we go again.

More Laborer's.

Please pray for Tatiana and her family. May the gospel seeds grow and bring forth much fruit in their lives.

My shoulder and neck have not been doing well. I would appreciate prayers for total healing and grace to endure till that healing is realized.

P.S.

Tatiana wanted us to tell the whole world what has happened in Mariupol. Here is a link to a song I co-wrote with Caroline giving a condensed version of her story.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMxjhVT_hmU