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*"If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."
 —I Corinthians 15:19-22*

Easter in War

story by Sarah Klazinga,

Administrative Assistant for the Committee on Diaconal Ministries

The smell of chocolate fills the air, oozing out of open shop doors. People bustle up and down the cobblestone streets. A horn drones from a ship in the port. Restaurants are full of people slipping in for a quick cup of tea, or a cappuccino and a croissant. Vendors offer pussy willow branches on every corner. There are flowers everywhere—irises, tulips, roses—huge bouquets of roses! The first signs of spring. The church bells ring and the cathedrals swell with the sounds of "Christ is risen!" It's Easter in Odessa, Ukraine—at least, that is how I remember it.

Four years later there are no people chatting over a cup of tea. The flower stalls are empty. There are no exports from "The Breadbasket of the West." The churches and cathedrals are silent. War has destroyed the historic port city of Odessa. Millions of people have evacuated. Those that can't are enduring the horrors of war. In the wreckage of what sin in the world has done, we hold fast to the promise of the resurrection: Christ, our hope in life and death.

The believers in Ukraine continue to meet for worship and prayer throughout the week, as they are able. Even so, they

continue to open wide their doors for hospitality. And they are working hard to support their members on the frontlines of war, and to disperse humanitarian aid wherever they can.

To date, the OPC's Ukraine Crisis Fund has received \$522,808.48 in generous donations. Portions of those donations are being disbursed to a variety of ministries throughout Eastern Europe while other opportunities continue to be explored. (Read more about that in David Nakhla's article below.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, as they live and serve others, in this war-torn country and beyond.

Coming Together to Aid Ukraine

by David Nakhla, Administrator for the OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries

The OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries is committed to using the gifts given to the Ukraine Crisis Fund for ministry to those affected by the war in Ukraine, ideally through Presbyterian and Reformed avenues—those with whom we share similar understandings of God's word and the proper uses of diaconal

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continued from front

funds. In seeking to determine where the funds might be used the best, we have grown in our understanding of the number of Reformed and Presbyterian churches, missionaries, and organizations ministering to Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe.

Planned Assessment Trip of the Ministries to Refugees, May 10-16

Further, I am planning to travel to Eastern Europe for a whirlwind assessment trip of the various ministries, accompanied by Rich Bout, the URCNA Missions Coordinator. The dates for this trip are May 10-16. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this trip.

Mission to the World (MTW, the PCA's mission organization), has had a presence in Ukraine since the early 90's, following the fall of the Soviet Union and communism. As a church-planting mission, MTW birthed the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine (EPCU). There are now 16 EPCU churches and/

or church plants sprinkled throughout Ukraine (and one outside of Ukraine in Krakow, Poland), see the map on the [website](#).

Prior to the war, MTW had teams concentrated in three cities: L'viv, Odessa, and Kiev. At the outbreak of war, MTW determined to relocate most members of the team in L'viv about 200 miles west to Krakow, Poland. The team in Odessa moved its operation 350 miles west to Brasov, Romania. The team in Kiev has been dispersed to various places.

MTW established the Ukraine Crisis Church Fund with the goal of raising \$4 million. In less than 8 weeks, they raised almost \$4.5 million (\$75,000 of that is from the OPC's Ukraine Crisis Fund). *Continue reading this article:* <https://opcdisasterresponse.org/coming-together-to-aid-ukraine/>.

SERVE



Short-Term Missions

OPCSTM.org

NEW OPPORTUNITY

English 4 Kids—Quebec

Help is needed for Summer English Camp for Kids. For more information [contact Olivia Durham directly](#).

The Uganda Mission

- **Immediate short-term need** – Facilities Engineer in Karamoja, Uganda.
- **Long-term help is needed as well.** Please contact Douglas Clawson directly: douglas.clawson@opc.org.

Boardwalk Chapel, NJ

A limited number of staff openings are available. Contact the Chapel: boardwalkchapel@gmail.com.

Contact us:

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OPCDisasterResponse.org

Serve in Ukraine

Mission To the World (PCA) continues to take applications to gather information about interest in possible trips to Ukraine.

Looking for Help in Tornado-Damaged Kentucky

Reformed Mission Services, an organization we have worked with for many years, continues to have an opportunity for volunteers to come alongside those affected by the tornadoes that hit Kentucky back in December of 2021.

Go to our website for more information.

OPCDisasterResponse.org.