

- The Baptist Union of Ukraine -

THE WAR IN EASTERN UKRAINE

- Approx. **11,000 dead**
- Approx. **24,000 wounded**
- Approx. **600,000 children** need psychological rehabilitation
- **1 million** malnourished daily
- **1.8 million** refugees (IDPs)
- **3.8 million** victims
- **5 million** disadvantaged

Military component: With constant shelling, the number of dead and wounded is constantly growing. People are being kidnapped and tortured by militants and the number of arms is being built up.

Socio-economic component: Anti-Ukrainian propaganda is active in the occupied territory and all kinds of aid to civilians sent from the free territory of Ukraine is blocked; essential goods are in short supply and prices are high; it is very difficult to cross checkpoints to enter the free Ukrainian territory, with constant risk of losing everything.

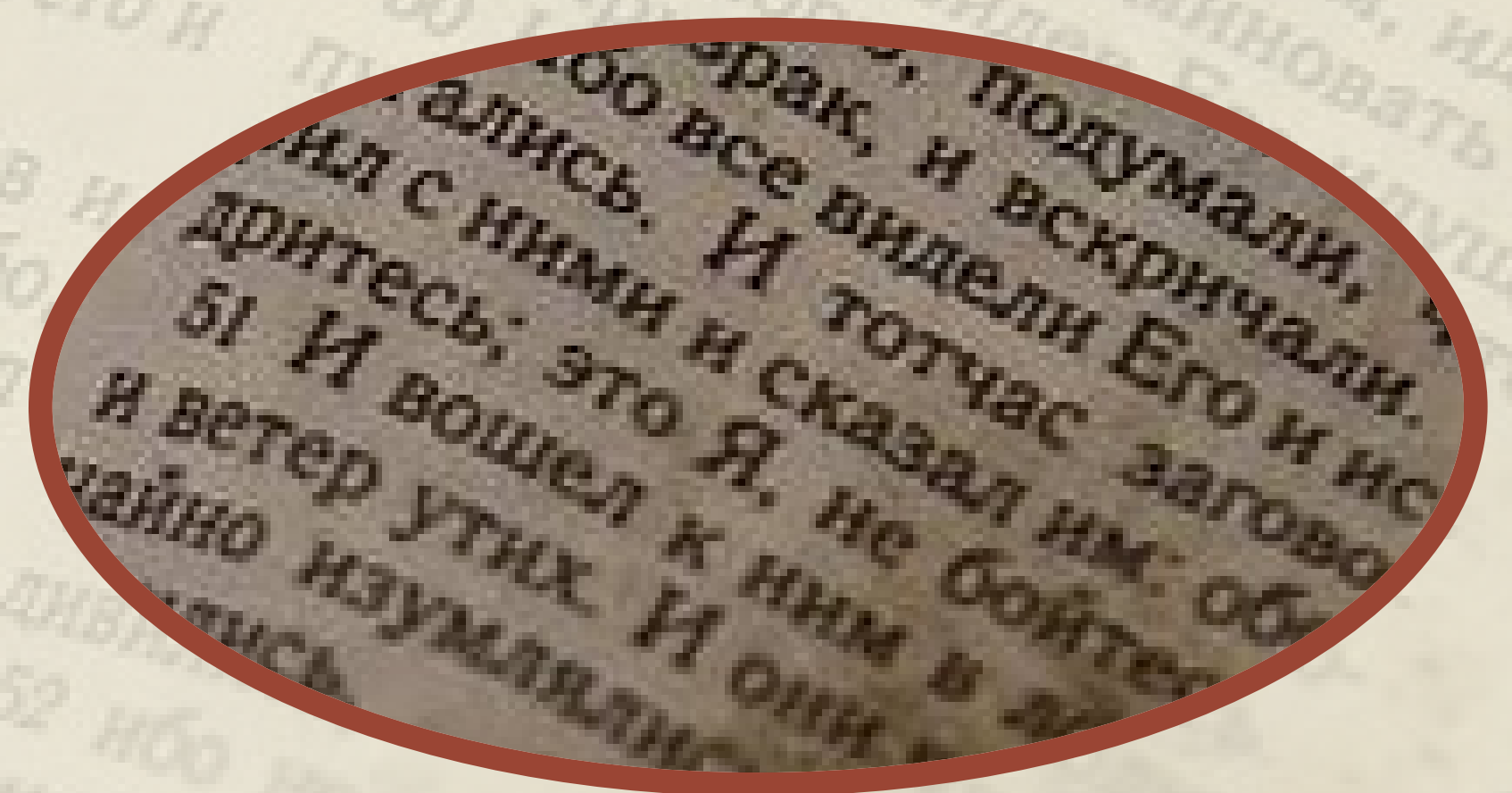
Spiritual component: There is no religious freedom in the occupied territories. People are divided into "us" and "them."



THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

On February 18, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had a first meeting with United States Vice President Mike Pence. During the talks, Poroshenko showed Pence the burnt Gospel of a deceased ATO fighter, found on the battlefield with the Russian aggressors.

The Holy Scripture, held near the heart of the Ukrainian soldier shortly before his death, was found opened to the Gospel of Mark, where the words of Christ are written: "It is I; be not afraid."



"The US will continue to have a leading role in deepening the NATO presence. And while Russia redraws international borders by force, we pray for peace in Ukraine."
Vice President Pence

CHAPLAINS' MINISTRY

- 1. At the front**
- 2. At military units**
- 3. At hospitals**
- 4. Serving widows and their children**

Three dozen military chaplains from the Baptist Union are ministering in these four main areas.

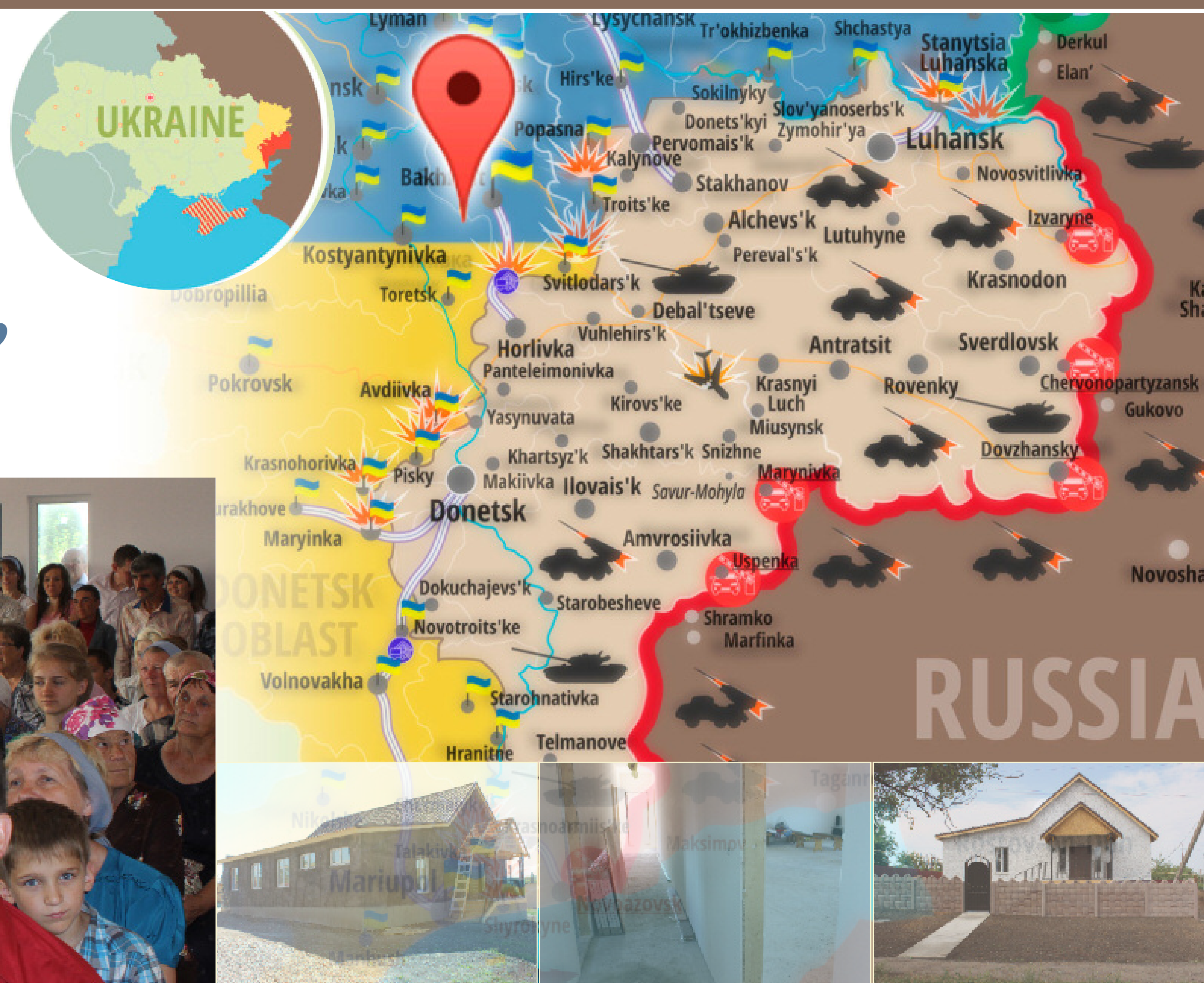
Our chaplains help war veterans to overcome psychological problems and adapt to civilian life. That is why the Compass Center for adaptation and restoration was opened. A group of chaplains are working at the Center in cooperation with psychologists and psychiatrists.

Our chaplains maintain a constant presence at the front. We work with widows, children and relatives of fighters in the rear. Our ministers meet with widows in different cities in Ukraine, and also visit military hospitals, combatants and war invalids every week. Nearly one hundred families, consisting of widows with small children orphaned as a result of the Donbass War, receive consistent help.

We are thankful to God for open doors for evangelism and practical aid among the military and their families, and we pray for a comprehensive expansion of this ministry.



NEW CHURCH Is Born at the “Gray Zone”



A miracle of new church birth has taken place 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the fighting. At the village of Ivanivske, where a Bible study was started back in 2016, as of today eight people have received the Lord and been baptized, and about twenty gather regularly for prayer meetings.

God's blessing goes beyond new people getting saved. In May-June 2017, with the assistance of Salvation Church in Edgewood, Washington, this settlement with 2,000 citizens had a new prayer house built by believers.

In that village we were able to hold the first evangelistic outreach for children in July 2017. Two trampolines were installed, and most of the children experienced them for the first time in their lives. Children came with their parents and grandparents. Along with the physical activity, the children were given food and Bible lessons. Young people gathered in the evenings to chat and to watch Christian movies.



There was an opportunity to help needy families with clothes. After three days of programs for children and youth, a meeting for adults was organized, where about one hundred of them heard the Gospel.

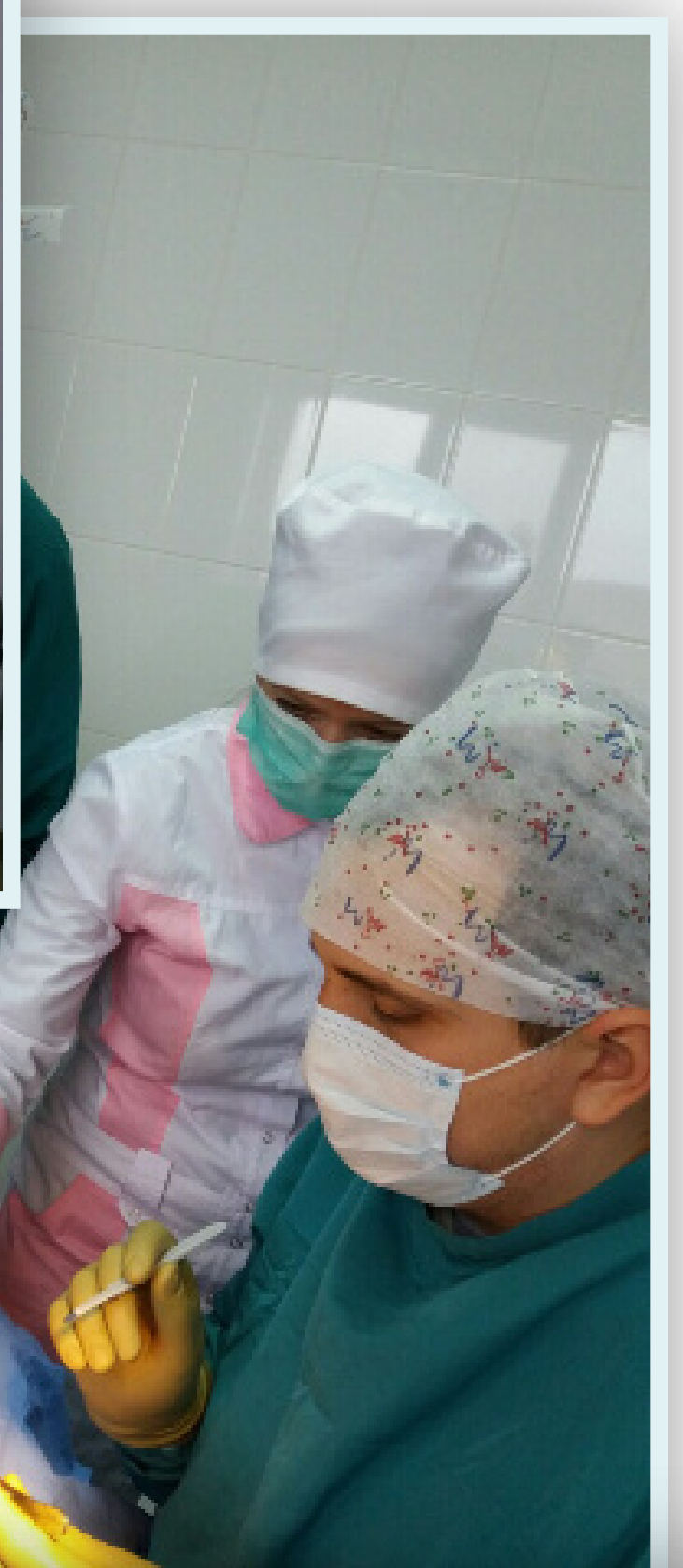
Christian Medical Association of Ukraine

MINISTERING AT ATO ZONE

The Christian Medical Association of Ukraine is a team of twenty-one doctors that provide professional, free medical care to the sick, as a witness to their Christian testimony.

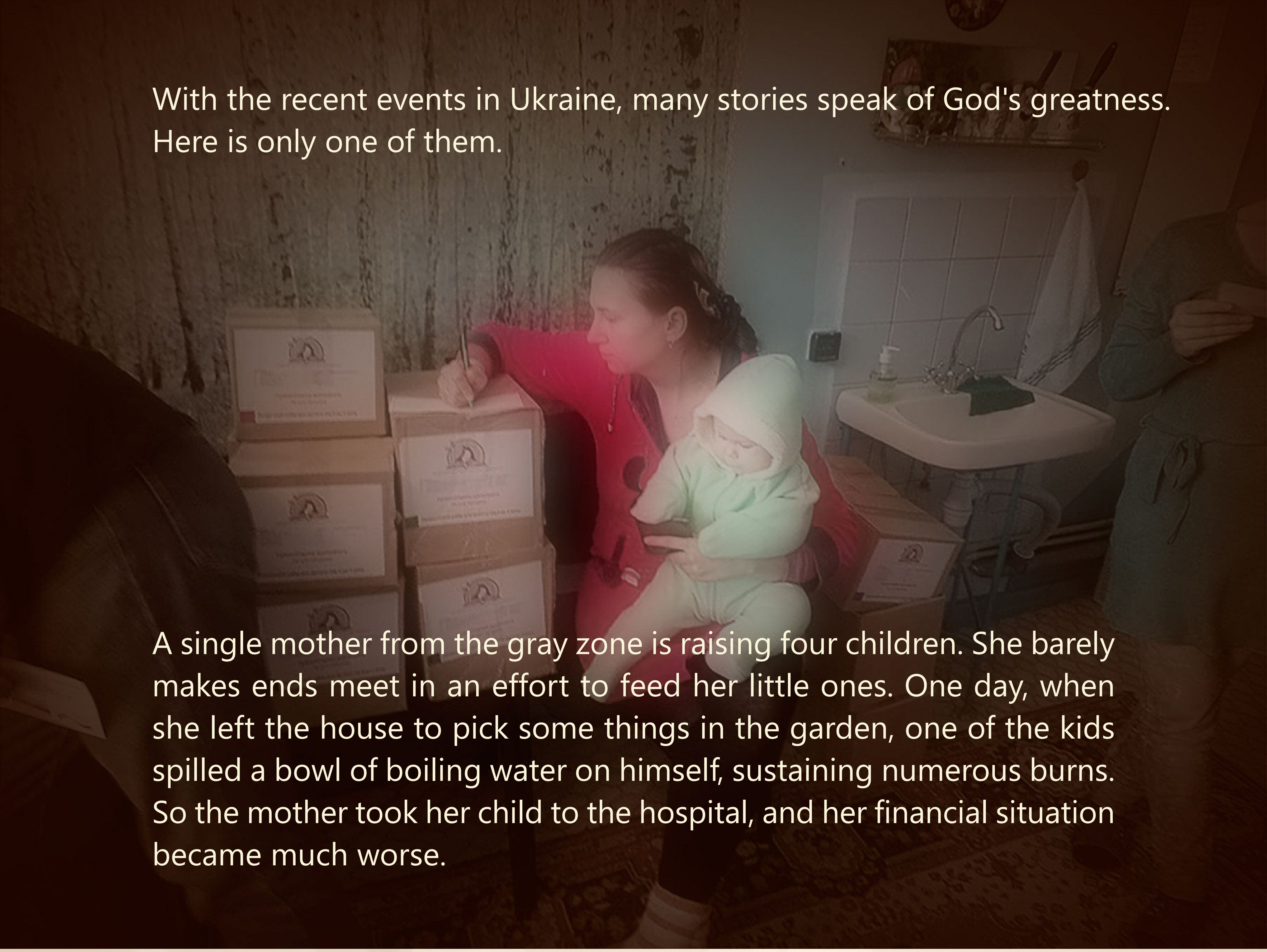
When the Donbass War started, the team immediately began serving victims in the ATO area.

More than thirty trips have been made in the last three years. Each trip takes three days. Aid is provided to anyone who comes for it, and the ministry is held on the local church's territory, where the gospel is shared with the patients.



LIVE STORIES...

With the recent events in Ukraine, many stories speak of God's greatness. Here is only one of them.



A single mother from the gray zone is raising four children. She barely makes ends meet in an effort to feed her little ones. One day, when she left the house to pick some things in the garden, one of the kids spilled a bowl of boiling water on himself, sustaining numerous burns. So the mother took her child to the hospital, and her financial situation became much worse.

In despair she cried to God, "If You are there, please, help me!" At that time our brothers were in the gray zone distributing humanitarian aid. They came to this hospital, found out who needed aid, and provided packages to the needy, including this woman.

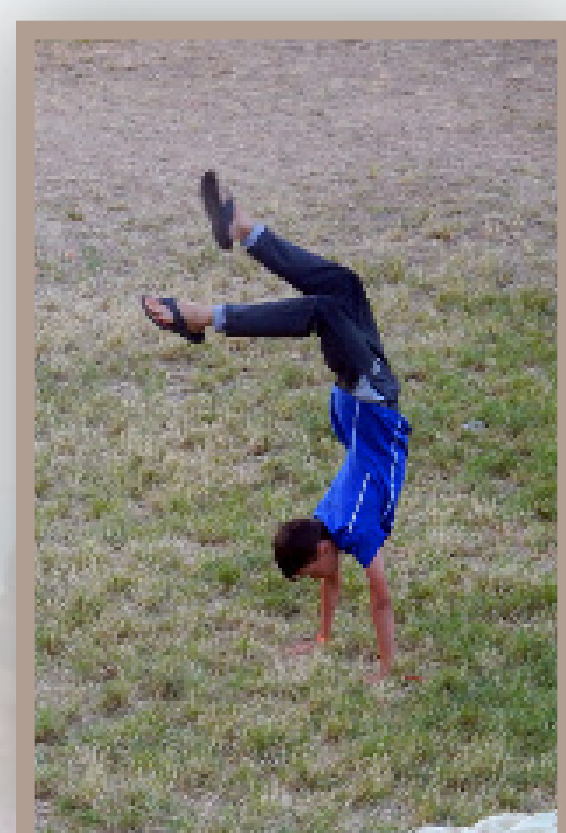
When the child recovered, that mother went to church to find out who were the people who provided help to needy strangers. After a while she repented and was baptized. Praise the Lord!

REHABILITATION CAMP

FOR CHILDREN FROM ATO ZONE



A rehabilitation camp for children from the ATO (Anti-Terrorist Operation) Zone was held July 5-13 at the Graceful Summer base of the Christian mission Grace, located on the Black Sea coast. Thanks to the Lord, it was funded by our partners from Germany, the Bread for the World mission.



Thirty-five children from gray zone areas had the opportunity to rest and get spiritual and psychological rehabilitation. The children had fellowship and Bible teaching. They participated in the ministry, attended church, learned to analyze motivational movies and enjoyed various activities, such as the AWANA club, handicrafts, sports and games, as well as the healthy influence of the Black Sea.

Most of those children were from non-believing homes, so they had an opportunity to feel the love of our Savior, to hear the gospel and to bring it back to their homes.

According to the United Nations, 700,000 children from ATO areas need rehabilitation. So we pray for that ministry to continue and to grow.



OPEN DOOR DURING WARTIME

500 РОКІВ

РЕФОРМАЦІЇ

WWW.R500.UA

The year 2017 is a time of unique opportunities for evangelism. The President's order to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation has allowed the gospel to be spread through official events. There were over 5000 of them already held:



Clean heart, clean city – Cleaning playgrounds, parks, squares, recreation areas.



Youth week – Sports competitions, tournaments, concerts, flash mobs, camps, bicycle rides, festivals.



Couples week – A day of renewing wedding vows, romantic family evenings, seminars and trainings for married couples, TV shows, roundtables.



Ministry week – Day of Good, Day of Orphans and Widows, Day of People with Disabilities, Day of the Elderly, Warm the Heart for the Disadvantaged.



Stop and look! – Banners and posters with Bible texts and the "500th anniversary of the Reformation" inscription on balconies, facades, fences, billboards, cars, and near churches.



Family festival – A parade of married couples through the city streets, showing by example that a happy family is not a myth.



Creativity week – Christian musical groups come together for charity concerts and Christian musicals. Also, exhibitions of paintings with gospel themes are held.



ALL-UKRAINIAN THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION with Nick Vujcic

On September 17, on Khreshchatyk (the main street in Kyiv), half a million Christians celebrated Thanksgiving Day. We thanked God for the way in which ministry has progressed and asked Him to bless our nation in the future. By our presence, we testified to the Ukrainian people about the power of the Protestant movement in Ukraine.

The joint festive gathering of believers on Khreshchatyk started in the morning. An extensive program for all segments of the population was held during the day. And the evening evangelistic program with Nick Vujcic was the final part of a large-scale holiday.

REFORMATION DAY WILL BE CELEBRATED AT THE NATIONAL OPERA

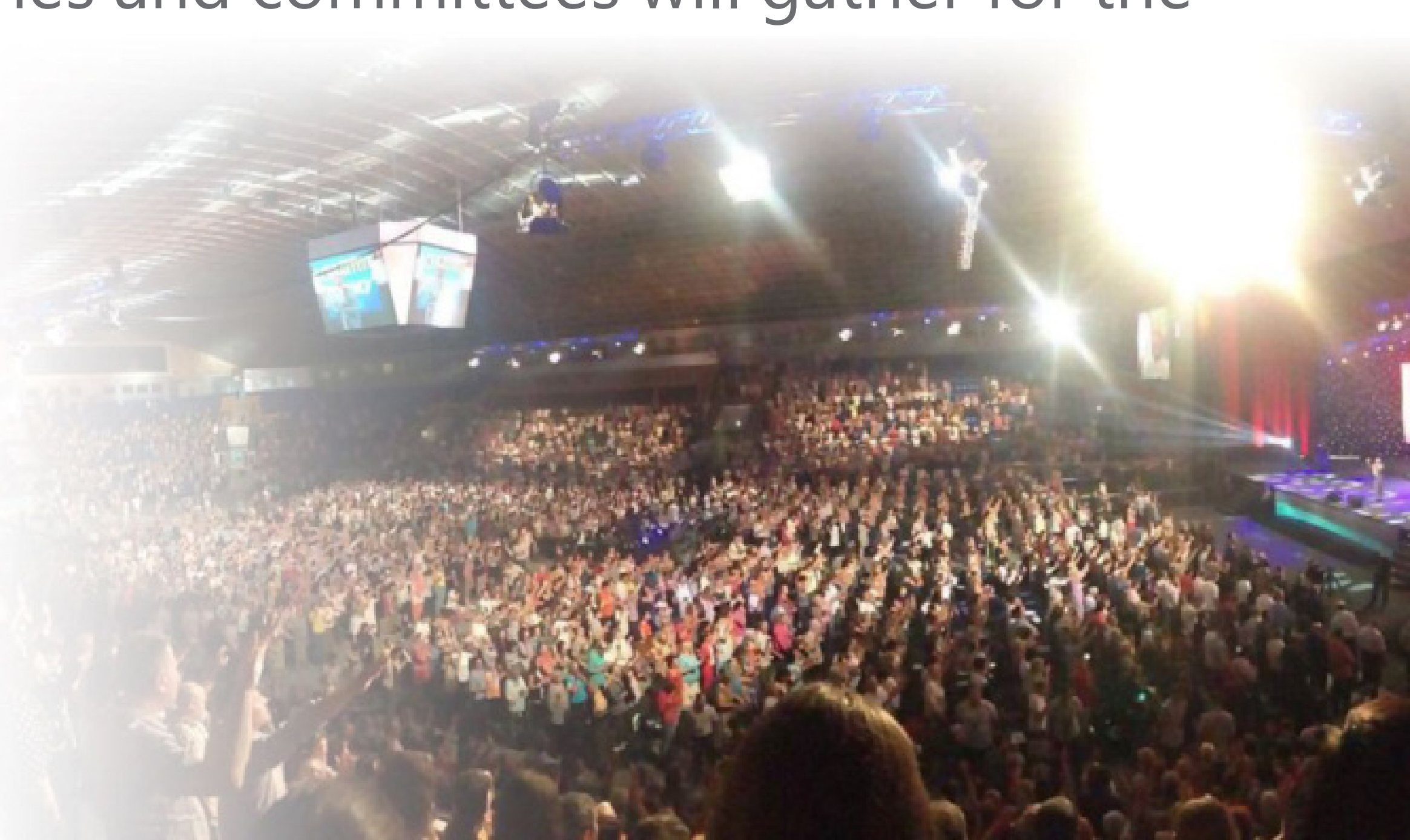
Reformation Day will be celebrated in all major cities of Ukraine on October 30.

The Academy on Reformation Day will be held at the National Opera in Kyiv, with state and Protestant leaders participating. A new movie on the Reformation will be presented, and there also will be a large-scale concert.



SUMMARY FORUM OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

All Protestant leaders, ministers of churches and committees will gather for the official closure of the Reformation year on November 3-5. Various panel meetings, discussions and seminars are planned to summarize what is being done and to implement the most effective methods of evangelism for years to come.



HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS



During the last three years over one thousand tons of humanitarian aid have been distributed, including food packages, hygiene products, heaters, thermal underwear, water heaters, etc. Up to 500 tons of coal and firewood for heating were purchased and delivered to people in greatest need. A significant number of drinking water wells were drilled. More than 40,000 people were served food at the churches' social canteens. Thanks to everyone who has partnered in this ministry.

About 90 tons of essential goods and food aid were delivered in August 2017 alone.



For the ministry of this service ... is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

(2 Cor. 9:12)



One of the brothers distributing potatoes shares:

During previous projects (implementing heating), many people were asking, "Do you have something to eat?" Praise God we could provide potatoes to the neediest people! Many of them were saying words like: "During this war nobody cared for us. Only God Himself and believers were still thinking of us!"

Many people, especially the elderly, could not hold back their tears of joy and thanks.

We are sincerely thankful for the apples we received. Our family consists of (seven people and we stay at the Seli-dovo rehab center. We understand how hard it is for the church to care for us. It is a very hard time for many people, and so many people are assisting us, especially in spiritual areas. When we see sacrifices people make, it makes us realize there are still good people in the world and God takes care of us through them. We are thankful to God for each one of you, our dear friends.

May God bless all of you, your families, relatives and friends.



Please

Pray for:

- *relief aid to refugees and people in need in the occupied territory*
- *rehabilitation camps and programs for children from the ATO zone*
- *new churches being started in the "gray zone"*
- *chaplains' ministry at the front, at military units, in hospitals, and among widows with children*
- *ministry of the Christian Medical Association in the ATO zone*
- *the spread of God's values in Reformation 500 events*
- *material support of projects and expansion of their sphere of influence*



For more information about Ukraine:

- **BBC News:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26270866>
- **CNN:** <http://edition.cnn.com/search/?category=world&q=Ukraine>
- **Atlantic Council:** <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/five-ways-we-have-changed-the-world-s-perception-of-ukraine>
- **UNICEF:** https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/ukraine_newsline.html
- **World Food Programme:** <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/ukraine>
- **USA TODAY** <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/06/20/donald-trump-petro-poroshenko-mike-pence-ukraine/103032910/>
- **The Daily Signal:** <http://dailysignal.com/2017/06/29/russias-hybrid-warfare-battlefield-ukraine-heats/>
- **SPIEGEL ONLINE:** http://www.spiegel.de/thema/ukraine_konflikt/
- **Frankfurter Allgemeine:** <http://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/thema/ukraine-krise>
- **FOX NEWS:** <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/07/01/ukraine-russian-security-services-were-behind-cyberattack.html>

For more information about our ministry, please contact us at: **Ukrpost.ecb@gmail.com**
If you have any questions, please feel free to email us any time.

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please click on the gray box below and use one of the bank details listed in the link.

EURO/USD/GBP

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Pray for **UKRAINE**

