

July 2026 Czech, Ukraine, UK

CZECH

We spent a wonderful evening in the eastern end of the Czech republic, meeting again with sister Daryna and her boyfriend MISHA. We baptized Daryna at a Bible School in Kiev, Ukraine before the war when she was a teenager. Then came the war, and her cousin's husband was killed, leaving her cousin with two little children. We evacuated her, the children and Daryna's mum sister Irina to Poland and thence the UK. Daryna and her dad brother Igor remained in Ukraine- there were some hard goodbyes when they parted and the family were separated for a time:



Brother Igor eventually got to the UK and is with sister Irina in Kent, leaving Daryna in Ukraine to finish her university course. She finished, and then went to Czech Republic, where she met MISHA, who had fled a frontline town in eastern Ukraine and got to Ostrava, Czech. There he turned to the Lord, got on his feet, got a job and a car. Daryna was able to share the true Gospel with him, and he desired baptism. He invited his aunty, cousin and some other young Russian-Ukrainian folks who had also fled the nightmares of Eastern Ukraine. We baptized him in their

presence in a wonderful ceremony which surely triggered rejoicing amongst all the Angels in Heaven.





Video of the entire service, all in Russian but you can catch the joy, at <https://youtu.be/rBmyOAluPLA> . Really God is a great God and our Lord Jesus is the most active Lord, working through the most awful human situations to bring about His saving plan for all who want to be His people.

UKRAINE

The bombing this week has been heavier than usual, especially in Kiev and Kharkov. All our dear ones are accounted for, but the mental health toll is huge. As it is likewise on those of our brethren who are in hiding, fearful to go out lest they be grabbed off the streets by the Military Police and forced into army training. When draft dodgers are arrested, they are treated brutally and assigned to assault brigades with a high chance of being killed. Used as cannon fodder. A widely attested picture is emerging of serious abuse of conscientious objectors at the barracks where they are held after being pulled off the street- just have a read of Forum 18: UKRAINE: Conscientious objector's violent death at military base "being covered up"? - 25 June 2026

UK

Soon after the Ukraine war started, we assisted sister Tatyana [baptized by us decades ago], her daughter sister Svetlana and the three children to flee eastern Ukraine to Poland, from whence they got to England and were very kindly cared for by sister Cilla Palmer. They're now established in the UK and have a council house on a new estate. They have earnestly continued

in their faith and now the oldest grandson NAZAR decided for baptism. With great joy we had a get together... with sister Tatyana remembering how she used to baby sit Evia and still remembered her birthday! This is the long term fellowship of the spirit in the Lord Jesus. Tatyana described how she left the flat she had lived in for 30 years, locked it up, taking 2 suitcases of her things with her. She lugged them as far as she could, with her legs swelling up... left one in a railway station and then, further on, left the other one in a bus station. And she has thrown away the key to her flat. Their town has had every petrol station destroyed by drones, all schools and supermarkets no longer function and it's just a ghost town. It's all so traumatic. But they are doing very well. So hard for sister Svetlana too, she was trained and worked as a neurologist but her qualifications aren't recognized in the UK so she's working in a care home, putting her back out caring for overweight stroke victims. Only our hope in the Lord Jesus and understanding of His love gives life any sense of meaning. We had truly wonderful fellowship together at their home, with Nazar reading Romans 6 from the Russian Bible Companion app:



Nazar wanted to be baptized in a river; there are many rivers in Fenland where they live, but they generally have reeds and no easy access to the water. We asked Al where would be a good place nearby where we could access a river for a baptism. Al suggested driving out to a pub called The Five Miles From Anywhere" where there was a boat slipway which went into the river Cam [from whence, 'Cambridge'].



So we drove out to this pub, which was indeed five miles from anywhere, in the middle of nowhere. And indeed there was a slipway into the river. But what Al didn't tell us was that there were two aggressive and very territorial swans with their little ones, swanning around at the end of the slipway... and rising up on their legs hissing at us when we approached. They were really aggressive. We stayed there for a while, praying for an answer. There were reeds everywhere else along the river and "Private Property" signs. Prayer indeed changes things, and the little swans [cygnets] for some reason did a runner from mum and dad, and sped off down the river. The aggressive swans went after them. And we could quickly get in the water and baptize Nazar, with much rejoicing from his mum, grandmother and all of us. There's a video of the baptism at <https://youtu.be/02K-dRoTPXk>



Our meetings in Croydon go on so well- but we really do need more support. We've gone down from 4 meetings / week to three, and now down to two / week. Not because of lack of need nor interest, but because of lack of resources. If at all you can come and help or otherwise support, please do. And please pray for our efforts. We are absolutely on the front line of mission work, dealing with all manner of people and issues. People coming in stoned on drugs or dehydrated, people coming eager to learn about the Bible, people who'd given up on church but are attracted by our slogan "Give God another go". There's ample work both spiritually and practically with cooking, cleaning up, keeping law and order etc. But the rewards are just so wonderful. Our very first baptism from Pub Church was Karen, about four years ago. She came to church this week and gave her testimony of how she has quit cigarettes, gambling and alcohol. Really amazing, such an ordinary, standard woman... who is open to the Lord's saving work for her. You can hear her testimony given last Sunday at <https://youtu.be/vdvVvSPSLgs>

The 'hold on' rate amongst those we baptize is really good, even if not everyone baptized can attend every week.



PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For all those suffering such heavy bombardment at the moment in Ukraine
- For more boots on the ground in South London UK
- Thanksgiving for how God has used this horrible war to reach out to honest hearts all over Europe

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