

## September 2026 - Ukraine

### UK

It's our alcohol free garden party this Saturday 5th September! All welcome at The Woodfields, South Croydon. Do join us in spirit.

### UKRAINE

God's great blessings have continued with our work in Ukraine this week. We're eager to tell you of two wonderful baptisms.

Firstly, INNA in Poltava. Inna is the granddaughter of sister Ludmila and brother Gennady who are now asleep in the Lord and who Duncan baptized well over 30 years ago and who were very active in the ecclesias that were formed at that time. Inna came across correspondence between them and Duncan from 30 years ago, and a Bible Basics. She read this and searched for Duncan online and requested baptism. She is married with children, living in Gennady and Ludmila's previous home. She and her husband entertained us and she made a beautiful cake from only natural ingredients, mainly blueberries- a testament to what's possible under wartime conditions. We just marvelled at the ways of providence. In the photos you can see the photos she found of her grandparents being baptized by Duncan, and she is holding an envelope with some of the correspondence. And so she too was baptized, in a bath tub in their yard:







Whilst in Poltava we dropped in to see sister Ludmila K who works very long hours running a kiosk where she sells pet food. She is so full of faith and joy at the prospect of the Kingdom. She has no joy much in this life. Her son is a sapper in the army, on the very front line, with a very low life expectancy. We bought her some flowers and prayed together in her tiny kiosk; she was just so joyful:





Then there was GALINA who we baptized in a lake north of Kharkov, just a few miles from the Russian border, with an air raid going on at the time. Air raids are almost constant there, day and night. Galina never married and lived a quiet, normal life, working in a factory, not much interested in God/Bible/Jesus; until... her parents died, she sold their house- and then the bank bankrupted and she lost most of the money; Galina's factory was bombed and she was left jobless; and her health collapsed. She found herself unemployed with little money, when that wasn't how she had been for most of her life. So she was driven to rent a room in a delapidated tennement block with all facilities shared, in a village some way out of Kharkov, on the front line. It could easily be overrun by the Russian soldiers at any time. We offered to take her home after the baptism but she said there was no way we would be allowed to drive anywhere near her place as quite literally, war is going on there. Although minibuses for the local residents do operate to take them in to Kharkov. So living in that situation, she searched for answers to "Why" on her phone internet and came across Duncan, his app and talks. We prayed together, looked at scripture, had a baptism service sitting in the car, and then baptized her in a lake with the sirens blaring and missiles overhead. Video at <https://youtu.be/DsiTd9vAN08>







God in His mysterious ways has brought each to Christ, baptism and the promise of His kingdom when Jesus returns.

Whilst in Kharkov we visited our household sister Ludmila P. She can barely walk anyway due to a collapsed spine, and lives up 4 flights of concrete steps in an apartment block with no lift. Electricity is often off, and currently they have no water. The day we were there, the water tanker

had come to the area and people were lining up with 5 liter containers to get water. She still has a phone, and when we called she said she was too sick to get out of bed and had run out of tablets and also money to buy them. Usually when visiting her she put on a meal for us before we broke bread, and she was ashamed she wouldn't be able to feed us. We went there and found she had invited a good neighbour to come and get her out of bed, dress her- and prepare us some food. That's how deep is the hospitality culture. Her family all live over the Russian border and can no longer send her money as they used to. And she cannot get to them nor they to her. We noted down her medication and took photos of her condition, and video. And despite an air raid going on, drove around to find a pharmacy that could help, and that had stocks of her medicines [many are out of stock]. The larger pharmacies are within shopping malls, but because of so many direct hits on shopping malls, the malls are closed and the shops within them. So it wasn't so easy to get the medicines. But we did, and they cost about three times her monthly pension. So it was meant to be that we were there and able to help her. There were tears of gratitude to God, and again, glory to Him redounded through your generosity enabling this. She had carefully noted each time she took which tablet... but then the notes trailed off as the tablets ran out... so good to be able to help:





In Kiev we visited brother Klim; he's been stuck in his flat for 4 years, hiding from the military police who are going around pressganging men into the army. He is stuck in his flat like a prison for the Lord, but brother Klim doesn't waste his time even though he's confined to his flat. He's active for the Lord, inviting young spiritually minded folk he knows to his flat to discuss spiritual matters. He's hoping to be able to win these people to Jesus. Please pray for God's blessing on his outreach. He invited a young British volunteer called Johnny [originally from south London] to his flat to meet us; we were very impressed that Klim had persuaded this young Christian man of the unity of God. We look forward to further contact with him.

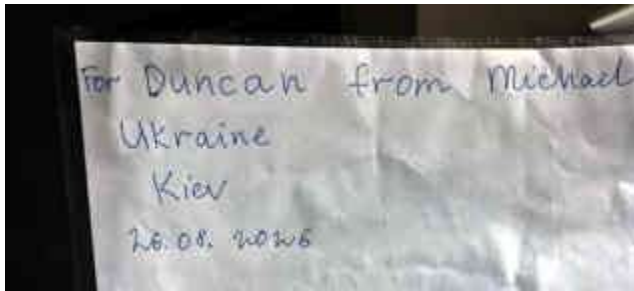
We managed to visit sisters Ludmila and Natalia (mother and daughter-in-law). Ludmila (mother) and her husband brother Vladimir had their flat struck by a missile 2.5 years ago. They both survived the strike but Vladimir (husband) was seriously wounded and has since fallen asleep in the Lord. To our surprise, a team of French tradesmen have repaired the entire flat complex and Ludmila is back in her newly renovated flat. It's now new and modern with modern appliances, but nothing replaces a husband. And the new flat hasn't detracted from the glory of the kingdom. Natalia has a difficult life caring for her disabled son; the constant, round the clock [currently] air raids in Kiev are just destructive of mental health. Anyone in her situation knows the difficulties. Natalia has a strong faith and supports her mother-in-law as well as caring for her son. We broke bread together and enjoyed a meal with them.

The 'before and after' photos are significant. This is the same block of flats where we were just after the direct hit, and now rebuilt:





And young Michael [Misha] drew some pictures for Duncan during an air raid:



Some way from Kiev we visited our beloved sister Nana. Over the last few years we've reported how they lost their homes and families in the occupied areas, and went to live in a derelict house far from anywhere, which they amazingly converted into a warm home and cleared and farmed the land around it. Now the owner has asked them to leave... they are renting one room in a house on the edge of a town with just a bed in it, with shared kitchen and toilet etc. with the other residents. They who once enjoyed a middle class life, with a flat and car... and down to living with no stability in their mid 70s in one room. It's really the story of the book of Job in real life. But they have such a strong spiritual attitude, no bitterness, longing for the Kingdom... and as ever, eager to break bread together, knowing the Lord's suffering and resurrection alone provides the context for our difficult lives. They're really in a bad way. Together their pensions are tiny and they no longer have land on which to raise animals and grow vegetables. Alexei goes out fishing and caught a rabbit, which they fed us with. Please do pray for them and be inspired by them.





We went on to see brother S, who has deserted from the army and is living in a very remote location. Living alone as a subsistence farmer, scared to go to the nearest village shop lest he is picked up by the military police gangs that roam around and suddenly appear outside village shops to grab men for the army. We did a huge shop for him, of food and various household things one needs when living subsistence farming. Due to the bombardment of so many warehouses, there is a limitation on how much basic foodstuff you buy at one time, and we wanted to get him enough pasta, rice etc. to survive a long time without needing to risk going to the nearest shop. We had to buy in 4 goes to get all we wanted. He is extremely lonely but so strong in faith, breaking bread alone and reading daily from the Bible Companion. We had intended getting goats for him but the opportunity arose to get a cow... and he can sell the excess milk to local villagers. Although a cow costs more than many goats we felt it was the right thing in the circumstances. And it also has meat value in the future. He has a stable for it on the property he's in. You can see Mark getting milk from it. We visited him well after dark, gave him the things we'd bought at a supermarket, money and arranged for the cow- and then sat down to a humble meal of borshch and then, as he put it, we did the most important thing- the breaking of bread together. Indeed it is the cross, the Lord's death and resurrection, which alone puts everything into perspective. And provides us with that blessed Hope at the end of this tunnel. That was such a wonderful breaking of bread meeting, the spirit of Christ was there in that very humble home that night, Mark recorded it but it's in Russian, at <https://youtu.be/hgJGagLsUks>











We also met brother Oleksej, baptized by Duncan in the early 1990s and a regular attender at Bible Schools in Ukraine all those years. His wife needs an operation and we gave significant funds for this. He like so many is unable to leave the flat much because of the gangs roaming around press ganging men into the army. It really is a depressive experience, what with the constant air raids.

The needs of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine are significant and cannot be ignored. If the Lord tarries, probably there will be decades of "Rebuild Ukraine!" projects, but the time of acute need is actually right now for our brothers and sisters. We're so grateful for your support and simply ask that it continues.

We've put together another brief video of a few significant moments, see <https://youtu.be/pq7VzSKRcuk>

#### PRAYER POINTS

- For those under bombardment in Ukraine
- For those confined to their homes, surrounded by fear on every side
- For those unable to access medical care
- For those raising children and grandchildren in an atmosphere of danger, fear, anger and confusion

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks