



March Newsletter 2026

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Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God. Matthew 5:9

Peace is not always quiet. Sometimes it must be pursued, defended and fought for. These men who remain steadfast despite their surroundings, and those who bring peace into war zones in Ukraine, live out these words in real and costly ways.

It has been some time since our last update from Ukraine. In recent weeks, there have been difficult developments, and we wanted to wait until we had clarity before sharing them. Several of the men who have been faithfully serving; bringing peace and sharing the Gospel, have been conscripted into military service. For their safety, we must protect their identities, as the situation is extremely dangerous. We ask you to pray fervently for them. They are being held in military reserve, but the conditions in these facilities are deplorable, and some have become ill.

In recent months Ukrainian authorities have forcibly taking some men, preachers of several churches in Ukraine, from the streets and compelling them into military service. This is no longer distant news; it has affected people we personally know. As a result, the men in our rehabilitation program are living under significant stress. We currently have ten men participating in the alcohol recovery program, and these men are afraid to leave the house.

Slavic has received an exemption from military service because he is caring for five additional children, beyond his own two. However, there is little confidence that these legal protections will always be honored.



Yet even in these circumstances, God is at work.

Alexander, a Christian from the Poznayki Church in Kyiv, was conscripted about a year and a half ago. He refused a combat role, and his request was honored. Instead, he serves in the kitchen and provides medical assistance when needed. His faithfulness has opened unexpected doors; he has been invited to serve as a chaplain to fellow soldiers and has even been given space to host Sunday services. Through his position, the Ukrainian Bible Institute has been able to provide food and medical supplies to the base.

When asked about his situation, Alexander shared the words of Queen Esther:

“..Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.” – Esther 4:14

Two New Creations in Christ

We rejoice to share that two women came to Christ in December, both named Tanya.

Slavic continues to travel to Nikopol twice a month, while spending the other Sundays in Karapoishe. During his absence, we are encouraged to see Artem stepping into a growing leadership role in Nikopol.

The Church

Despite ongoing hardship, the church in Nikopol has remained strong, with around 100 people regularly attending. This is especially encouraging given that 18 members relocated to the safer area of Karapoishe. Even so, the congregation in Nikopol continues to grow.

The church in Karapoishe now gathers about 20 people, and both congregations are welcoming many newcomers.

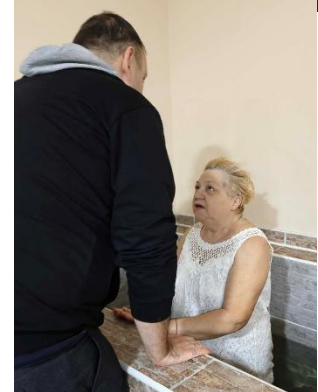
At present, the church in Pokrovskoe is not meeting, and the remaining believers there are joining the congregation in Nikopol.

Life on the Ground

Nikopol’s infrastructure continues to be targeted. Many residents went without heat this winter. When I last spoke with Slavic, they had been without electricity for 15 hours. Power may return briefly, sometimes for just an hour, before going out again.

Recently, School 13 was bombed. This building is familiar to us, it was just one block from our first apartment, and Benjamin played basketball in its gym for several years.

Even in these conditions, the church continues to serve. Many people come seeking help. Last weekend, the congregation organized a workday to prepare care packages and deliver



blankets to those staying in the hospital. As a result, one nurse attended the church service that Sunday.

War in General

It is never easy to speak about war. There is often a pull to hope for military success, which inevitably means loss of life on the other side. Yet we must remember that just as Ukrainians are being forcibly conscripted, many Russians are as well—often taken from rural regions in Russia. Scripture calls us not to rejoice in the suffering of our enemies, especially when many of those we face are not enemies by choice.



In recent months, there have been notable developments. In February, Elon Musk enabled a shift in the use of Starlink systems, limiting Russian access while maintaining Ukrainian connectivity. This has had immediate impact. For the first time since 2023, Russian forces have experienced a net territorial loss and have been pushed back significantly from the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Ukraine continues to adapt, using advancing technologies such as drones to reduce risk to personnel while targeting weapons depots, fuel storage, and refineries.

The hope is that sustained economic pressure, combined with these shifts on the front lines, may eventually lead Russia toward negotiation or, less likely, withdrawal. If the current momentum continues through the coming months, it may become increasingly difficult for Russia to regain lost ground before winter returns in late 2026.

We hope that global shifts may play a role. The weakening of key alliances, particularly involving Iran, could significantly impact Russia's ability to sustain the war. Changes in global trade and supply dynamics may further isolate Russia and increase pressure for resolution.

As we consider these things, we are reminded that peacemaking is not reserved for certain places or certain people. It is the calling of every Christian. Whether on the front lines of a war, or at home, a church, or in your family, peace is carried wherever Christ is made known.

Those who step into broken places with courage, compassion, and faith are living out the very words of Jesus, "Blessed are the peacemakers." And in both the seen and unseen ways, they will be called sons and daughters of God.