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For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

~1 Corinthians 16:9

A Bittersweet Graduation and Reunion

Lydia became a Christian early in our time working in Ukraine. Her granddaughter, Natasha (far right) became a Christian in 2005. Soon afterward, her mother (left), Galina became a Christian, and finally Lydia did too.

On June 3, of this year, Lydia passed away and was reunited with her daughter, who lost a battle with cancer in 2016.

One of the stories Lydia shared with us feels especially relevant in these times. Lydia was only 5 years old when her family was forced to provide housing for Nazi soldiers during the German occupation. She remembered stealing a cube of sugar from the rations of a Nazi general and lived to tell the tale! Despite the reputation of cruelty associated with the Nazi occupation, the unusual kindness, giving her a piece of his chocolate ration.



"My dearest mother, it is hard to accept that you are no longer here with me. Thank you for the love, life, care and warmth you surrounded me with. You will remain forever in my heart, memories and prayers, I love you endlessly. May your memory be eternal and bright"

-Svyeta Kulish (daughter)



Рідна моя мамо, важко змиритися з думкою, що тебе більше немає поруч. Дякую за життя, любов, турботу та тепло, якими ти мене огортала. Ти назавжди залишишся в моєму серці, у моїх спогадах і молитвах. Люблю тебе безмежно. Вічна та світла пам'ять тобі, моя найдорожча матусю.

general showed her

Her story reminds us that conflicts have many victims, some of whom may be less obvious. Even in situations where we are tempted to see everyone wearing the "wrong uniform" as our enemy, we may be surprised to discover that the hearts and circumstances of individuals in those uniforms are more complicated than we expect. This is a difficult lesson

to remember in the midst of war. There are undoubtedly Russian soldiers who do not want to be a part of Putin's war, and who have their own complicated stories and circumstances. As Christians, we are not called to hate, but to look at people as Christ would want us to, and remember the humanity of those on every side of a conflict.



Galina, Anya, Elena, Lydia, Tamara

An Open Door for Effective Service

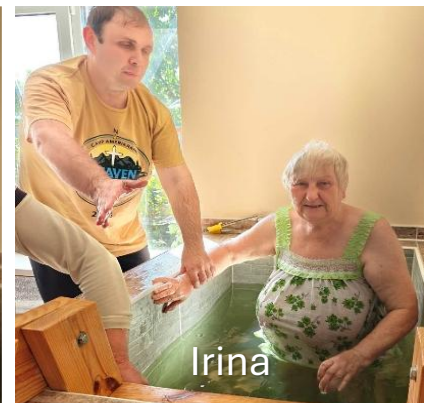
We are all wondering when the war in Ukraine will come to an end. Ukrainians are wondering the same thing. Yet even in the midst of adversity, they have not lost their faith.

It's been an eventful summer in Ukraine. We had seven baptisms, pictured at left and below.

Valentina's husband was killed in an explosion several years ago. It is wonderful to see her make a decision for Christ.



Valentina



Irina



bombing of Selyanskiy Market

Close Calls

Slavik has reduced his travel to Nikopol to about once a month because of the dangerous conditions of traveling. On a recent trip, shortly after arriving in Nikopol, they learned that someone had been killed by a drone on the same road they had traveled earlier that day.

On another occasion, Artem was asked to run an errand at the "Selyanskiy" Market, in Nikopol. As he was preparing to make his purchase, he realized he had forgotten his wallet. He left the market to go back and get it. As he left, a drone struck the market.

Six people were killed and 29 others were injured, thankfully Artem was not among them.

The Selyanskiy Market is only two blocks from our old apartment in Nikopol. Places that once represented ordinary life are places of tremendous danger.



Mykolai, who was part of our work there, was recently drafted into military service. His position was bombed, killing two others but leaving him with shrapnel wound on his head. He has undergone surgery, but at this point we have no further update.

Taking Ownership

Mykolai, left, at our VBS in 2015

Since Slavic relocated and can no longer maintain a constant presence in Nikopol, those who remain have done what they can to keep things going.



The church at the rehab facility in Karapoishe started attending joint services with the church in Bila Tserkva.



They organize their own cleaning days and maintain the property. One young man, Edik, is currently staying at the building because vacant properties are often looted.

We still have several faithful Christians in the village in Pokrovskoe. During his last trip to Nikopol, Slavik was able to bring encouragement and supplies to those families as well.

It is encouraging to see the people who remain taking ownership of the work and caring for one another despite the circumstances around them.

Generous support!!

We want to extend a special thank-you to the youth of the Tyler Street Church of Christ. Their recent VBS included a fundraiser for Nikopol Evangelism.

Because of the dire emergency needs people are experiencing, little extras are often an afterthought. Yet those little extras can be incredibly meaningful to people who have had so little opportunity to experience anything resembling normal life.

A significant portion of their offering will go towards decorating the youth hall, and providing some artistic and activities for the ladies. We are so grateful for their generosity and their desire to bring some joy and normalcy to people living through such difficult circumstances.

Speaking of support

Misha, (at center) Katya' brother, helps to run the rehabilitation facility a ministry, he has helped with for many years and was supported through a family from Canada. Unfortunately, that family is no longer able to continue their support.

We are now looking for a church or family who would be willing to step in and provide this ongoing support.

Misha and his family can be supported with **\$200 per month**. If you or your church would be interested in learning more about supporting Misha and his family, please contact us. We would be glad to provide additional information about their needs and how you can help.

