

He told them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to every creature.” —Mark 16:15

Ukrainian Crisis Intervention & Ministry in Poland

Upon the start of the war in Ukraine, Life ministry reacted to the refugee crisis at the Ukrainian border from the city of Krakow, Poland. We planned our first trip to evaluate all that was going on and bring a message of hope to the people, as well as provide leadership training for the missionaries who had come to Poland. Following our departure, we started leading part of the outreach ministry currently going on for refugees in Krakow.



First trip to evaluate what was happening throughout the borders of Poland and Ukraine

Our Life ministry in Charlotte, North Carolina, has been coordinating many volunteers traveling from the U.S. to Poland to serve in ministry outreach. Our ministry participates in preparing those volunteers for outreach events consisting of sharing the Good News, one-on-one or with groups, while providing different tools and training with the current team in Poland. The team we have in Poland helps to coordinate the arrival dates, lodging, and places of service for the volunteers willing to serve in Krakow.

Train station with refugees waiting for directions for available refugee center





On the border of Ukraine

Growing deeper into service and grasping the need for service, we saw that we should continue reaching out and helping people due to the migration occurring throughout Europe. When refugees fled from Ukraine, they often first crossed over to Poland, and then after some time, meandered deeper into Europe, but then eventually ended up returning to Poland. As a result of this, there is a constant rotation of people filtering through Poland, especially Krakow, since it is not far from the border of Ukraine.

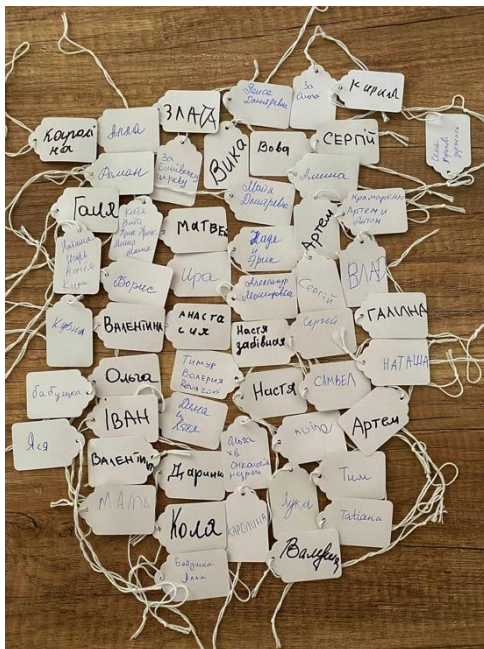
During the first several months following the start of the war, there was heavy traffic of people coming through Poland. Now, after seven months, there are quite a bit of people who have decided to stay in Krakow. By the grace of God, we have been able to stay in touch with some of these people and establish relationships with them.

The team that helped serve at one of the refugee locations on our August trip to Krakow.



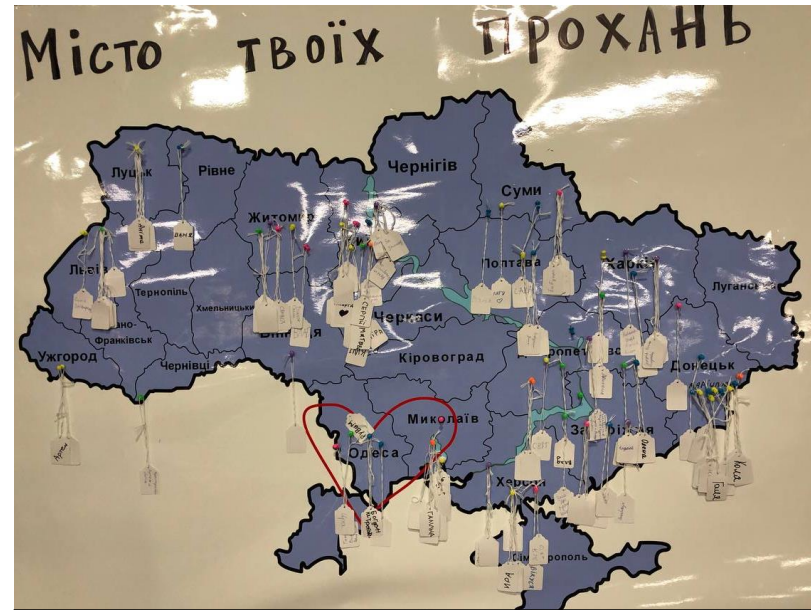
Most Recent Trip: August 2022

Our most recent trip was August 2022. The purpose of this trip was to organize a LEGO conference for kids and adults. This event gave us an opportunity to share the Good News in a much more organized setting than before and to explain the truth through different visual representations such as:



Name tags for map of Ukraine

- LEGO Competitions
- Map of Ukraine
- Give-and-Take Box
- Box with Mirror
- Box with Bible & LEGO Game
- Seminars about Faith, Hope, and Love
- Seminars about Prayer and the Word of God



Map of Ukraine. Everyone took their name tags and placed it on the location for which they have prayer requests.

- Preparing and giving away packages of school supplies to all the kids we could reach out to (over 200 packs were given away).
- Conversations/Discussions about Faith

During the most recent trip to Poland, my family came as well. My kids were able to be a testimony and were able to participate in our outreach program. People would ask me why I chose to come to Poland and serve refugees with my family instead of using this time and money to go on vacation somewhere more enticing. This was a great testimony opportunity of God's love, and I shared what we came to do. Through this question, we were further able to share the Good News.



My family at one of the refugee centers in Krakow.

Another way we were able to effectively share God's love was with the photographer that took pictures during one of our events. One of the attendees at a LEGO event was a woman who was a professional photographer who decided to volunteer and take pictures of our event. After spending some time with us, she was so shocked in what she saw and she told us: "I thought that only old people believe in God and read the Bible, but now I see that the Bible and praying is very relative for young people. I am very impressed by it, and I am so interested to learn more."



One of the photographs taken by our volunteer photographer



Many adults participated in our LEGO competition as well. Following their escape to Krakow because of the war, many of them fell into a depressive state. All they thought about was what they had left behind and, as a result, were feeling drained. Once participating in our team building activities and discussing matters of faith, they were grateful to be able to refocus their thoughts on something new rather than what they had left behind. Many of them felt touched and were given hope. They said they knew they had to re-evaluate their values and come up with a new way of living their life and striving for success.

We visited a variety of refugee centers and shared the same program and played games with kids and adults. We also shared the message of hope that our God is a good God, and that He is personally loving you so you can personally trust in Him. We utilized a treasure box with a mirror inside to strike a conversation about how personal God is—He loves you. We told people: “That whom God loves most is in this box.” People would come and look inside the box and would see a mirror—which represented that God loves YOU most.



**“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.”
—Jeremiah 31:2**



Handing out gifts and supplies to kids

On this trip we also helped kids from an orphanage by providing finances for food and medications and blankets. We provided different supplies for the people who are working with these kids so that they can effectively share the Good News with them. One of the temporary orphanages is in western Ukraine—as of right now there are 60 kids on standby and waiting for the government to provide their future stays/relocations.



Kids would eat bread with sugar



Overall, the trip was very successful. The idea of competitive LEGO building left a memorable footprint for kids to remember this event by. They loved the way you could creatively enjoy the games and, at the same time, discuss faith matters. In addition to the kids, we were able to reach out to many other people.

We currently have four Bible study groups that get together once a week in four different locations throughout Krakow. We meet at coffee shops and in homes in different areas—reading the Bible and discussing Biblical matters. After the events, we added 22 ladies to the four ongoing Bible study groups, which initially had about 15–20 people attending regularly (per group).



One of the ladies groups doing a Bible study



As of right now, we have a team of three ladies: Natasha, Mila, and Polina who permanently moved to Poland—all were born in Russia and moved from Russia. Additionally, we have different volunteers going back and forth and helping them with Bible studies and different events that are organized for Ukrainian refugees.

Before we left, we were able to organize Erev Shabbat with our current team plus others who are serving in Krakow. To many of them it was a big eye-opener that the Lord Yeshua is the Lord of the Shabbat, and it is not just some kind of Jewish tradition.



There is much more to share; this is just a brief summary of what's going on and what we did.

We are continuing to prepare volunteers who want to serve and are praying about what's coming next.

If anyone is interested in how they can help or support or wants to participate in ministry work like this, you can contact Mike at (704) 668-1629.



Prayer needs:

- For God to provide us an office/gathering place instead of having to hold them at coffee shops
- Salvation of all those attending Bible studies
- Spiritual and physical strength of all the ladies working/dedicated full time
- The Lord's will to be done with plans for future ministry as we move forward

“ADONAI is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him. He will hear their cry and save them.”

—Psalm 145:18–19