

IMPACT!



Bob & Carol Marsh
Mission Minutes

*"We're asking God for a gospel movement
among all least-reached people in the
Europe/Mediterranean Region."*



Update and Prayer Requests

Hello Dear Friends!

This morning at 4:45, Bob received a WhatsApp message from Europe. A young family that we met in Rivne Ukraine last year had made their way through Poland and into Germany, along with two other couples and their children. (In the photo on the next page, Artem and Tanya are having their youngest daughter, Alelina, dedicated to the Lord.) They had just been informed that the school where they had been staying was no longer going to be available. Could I help them find accommodations for 6 adults and 5 children? With God's help they were able to find new accommodations with in a few hours. Sadly, video calls and text messages like this have become common place.

While our day to day life is nowhere near as stressful as those families, and millions like them, these past few weeks have been very busy and taxing emotionally and spiritually. Because we

serve as the Converge point person for ministry in Ukraine, we're overseeing the administration of the distribution of funds given to the World Relief effort referenced above. Daily receiving requests for aid, tracking donations and determining how to best share them takes many hours. But it's been wonderful to see the impact that your donations can make in individual lives and in the ministry of the churches in Ukraine.



We were able to give funds to the Evangelical Free Church of Sweden to provide transportation for 200 displaced people - mostly women and children. They are being brought from Poland to Stockholm where they will be connected with local churches and families who will provide housing, food, and support for them physically, emotionally and spiritually.



We sent funds to the Rivne, Ukraine church to help them with housing dozens of families in their worship center every night, providing beds, clothing, showers, meals and supplies for the women and children who are making their way West. Our support of the churches in the Ternopil area has allowed them to purchase generators, fuel, and an old army-surplus field kitchen with which they are setting up a refugee center in a campground to serve refugees - hundreds every night. The men from that church are also making daily trips to Kiev and other cities in the embattled East to take in supplies and return with the van filled with people. Additional support has been sent to care centers and churches in Romania, Poland, and the Czech Republic.



We're also working to create a Ukraine Consortium. Consortia are an important emerging component of Converge International Ministries. These are networks of churches and individuals that have been Spirit-led to join with Converge missionaries and global partners to undertake missionary efforts beyond the resources of any one member. The newly formed Ukraine Consortium will be led by Rob Paterson, Senior Pastor of New Hope Community Church in

Loudonville, Ohio. Dr. Dan Peterson, former Converge District Executive Minister is serving as Prayer Coordinator. Bob Marsh, Impact Team Leader for Converge's Europe and Mediterranean Region, will serve as Initiative Leader. While the focus is currently on the immediate needs related to the war, the Consortium will be committed to long-term impact that will continue and enhance the Ukrainian church. Emphasis will be placed on:

- Ukrainian Missions to Central Asia, Moldova, Poland, etc.
- Church Planting: Assist with recruiting, assessing, training, coaching, and multiplication.
- Church Strengthening: Disciple making, Leader development.
- Ministry to the displaced and marginalized population.

While all that has been going on, we're preparing for travel to the Middle East and Europe. We will be meeting with our current team in Israel and preparing the way for three new team members there. We'll also be in Albania, connecting with team members and planning a gathering of all our Europe/Mediterranean workers there in July of 2023. Then we travel to Germany to spend a few days with our workers in Munich. On a side note, we have a new family who are just beginning their journey toward disciple making ministry in Berlin!

Please Pray for Ukraine!

The war in Ukraine is a physical manifestation of a spiritual battle that underlies it. The Ukrainian evangelical church is perhaps the strongest in Europe, and is doing the most for disciple making and sending workers abroad. Converge is committed to assisting them in that continued effort. Current prayer points include:

- Displaced people: estimates are that 10 million Ukrainians have been forced out of their homes. Millions have made it to other nations in Europe, others are still in western Ukraine. Pray for their physical, spiritual, and emotional health and healing. Pray for many to find hope in Christ!
- Care givers: pray for pastors and congregation across western Ukraine who are serving the displaced. They are supplying transportation, food, hygiene, and a place to rest. They also minister to the souls of the wounded and traumatized. Many of these care-givers are themselves overwhelmed, and in many cases under threat of attack.
- Peace. Pray that God will bring an end to the war, with lasting peace and freedom for Ukraine

Please Pray for US!

- Pray for us as we travel! For physical energy and safety; for favor at entry points; for smooth connections as we make 8 flights on 4 airlines in 6 countries.
- Pray for Bob's mom and Jojo while we are gone. We have worked to provide care for them in our absence. Pray for their health and safety and for those helpers, too!
- Pray for the effectiveness of our efforts - in oversight of the Relief Fund, in support of existing and new Global Workers, and in support of local ministries across the Europe & Mediterranean Region. (Our friends and ministry partners in Russia are really struggling, too!)

Many of you have asked about sending support to Ukrainian churches and refugees. Our World Relief Fund works with known contacts and has NO OVERHEAD COSTS REMOVED! More than \$150,000 has been sent! <https://www.converge.org/missions/world-relief>