



Hannu Haukka and Yuri Babinets on top of a Russian tank that was destroyed by Ukrainian forces defending their country.

Rescue Mission To Frontline Villages Mariupol, Zaporizhzhia And Bucha

We have returned safely from East Ukraine. The purpose of the trip was three-fold.

Firstly, to transport 17 tons of humanitarian aid to frontline villages including food, clothing, medical supplies for makeshift hospitals and wounded Ukrainian soldiers, ultrasound equipment, wheel-chairs, generators, and solar panels.

Secondly, evacuating refugees from villages between Mariupol and Zaporizhzhia in East Ukraine. We sent in buses for picking up evacuees bound for Finland. Together with our local team from Mariupol we were able to successfully evacuate over 100 villagers from the village of Orekhova, located between Zaporizhzhia and Mariupol while Russian forces shelled the same village from a distance of a few kilometres.

Thirdly, we distributed food to villagers still trapped in the villages of Gulyay Polye and Orekhova. Upon arrival, the village seemed deserted with no one in sight. However once they heard Chaplain Gennady's vehicle honk signalling our arrival, people began to appear from underground basements and cellars and make their way toward the vehicles. Every one had an empty bag.

We made stops along the way in the towns of Bucha and Irpen, where over 500 people were mercilessly tortured and slaughtered.

We are so very grateful for your prayer support and your financial support of GCMM in Ukraine.

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Distributing food in the village of Gulyay Polye. People suddenly appeared seemingly from out of nowhere from basements and cellars, upon hearing the honk from one of our vehicles.



This little boy received a "treat" in the village of Gulyay Polye. The Russian forces were shelling the village as well. Evacuation was not possible from this village. We were however able to distribute a week's worth of food to about 50 families.



In the village of Bucha, we saw dozens of destroyed Russian tanks. The atrocities committed by Russian soldiers will go down in history as a reminder to the world, of the incomprehensible brutality of the attacks against the citizens of Ukraine.



One of the purposes of the trip was to deliver 17 tons of humanitarian aid, received as a gift, to villages on the frontlines. Successful evacuations for over 100 people from the village of Orekhova took place amidst intense shelling by Russian forces. We were able to distribute food to villages caught in the shelling as Russia sought to take more territory.

We had military escorts accompanying us as we travelled to Bucha and Irpen. According to the military, there still are some Russian soldiers roaming the forests in the area north of Kyiv. Security was a priority.



Amidst unceasing artillery fire by Russian forces over and around the village of Orekhova, the evacuation of 100 villagers is in motion. Orekhova is about 35 km from the mega city of Zaporizhzhia toward the Mariupol area.



This photo was provided to us by our team members with refugees in Ukraine. The photo has been released to major news networks also.



On this little girl's back, on line one we see the child's name Vera Malova. On the second line is her date of birth. Lines three and four are two phone numbers in the event of the death of both parents. She is one of many who have an inscription written in this manner.



A few weeks before the Russian invasion: Military Chaplains Gennedy Mohnenko and Albert Homyak at a Ukrainian army bunker in the Donetsk region. Evening devotions and prayers were held for the soldiers.



Military Chaplain Albert directed the whole evacuation effort in the villages that we visited. We had been told by the military to leave the village without delay as Russian military activity had significantly increased.



We evacuated more than 100 people from the village of Orekhova under active Russian artillery fire. We were able to distribute food to those 'trapped' in the villages of Gulyay Polye and Orekhova.



The village of Orekhova. There were many young children among the evacuees. This child was able to board one of the evacuation vehicles.



On Good Friday we visited the Cathedral in the city of Lviv. Soldiers came to spend a time of reflection.



Soldiers were on their knees for an extended period of time praying in total silence.



A Kievan musician playing music in front of a building that was shelled by Russian forces.

We are set to print 300,000 copies of our ministry book for refugees. It speaks to a nation traumatized by war. The powerful personal stories in the book are a source of faith, hope and persevering power in life's most devastating storms of which the war is certainly one of the biggest Ukrainians will ever face.

If you would like to donate to this cause, call our office: 1-877-674-5630 or donate through our secure online donation page at: gcomm.ca/donate/. You can also send your cheque in our pre-addressed return envelope.

Hannu Haukka and GCOMM ministry team