

heartbeat

Humanitarian Aid Response Teams

ref·u·gee, noun,
a person who flees
for refuge or safety,
especially to a foreign
country, as in time of
political upheaval or war



Dear friends, Like many of you, we at HART have been fixated on the events unfolding in Ukraine for months now.

It's been heartbreaking. First, to witness Russia's lightning-swift annexation of Crimea, followed by its subsequent strategy of funding pro-Russian militia rebels to cause havoc and death to so many in Eastern Ukraine.

Sadly, this convulsive turmoil has created a new class of Ukrainians—refugees.

HOW DID THIS ALL COME ABOUT?

After two decades of living in a corrupt and unstable country, Ukrainians had enough, and in February 2014, summarily drove a corrupt president and administration out of power and the country.

This victory spawned a geopolitical game of chess with not only Ukraine's independence and sovereignty at stake, but which also had global ramifications.

Immediately after the 2014 Sochi Olympics concluded, Russian president Putin began his moves. First with Crimea and then in Eastern Ukraine.

Prodded on by the USA, Western Europe's counter moves had them caught between desiring to uphold principles

(freedom and democracy) and the stark reality of being economically dependent on Russian gas and oil.

Putin's objective was clear—to keep Ukraine destabilized and dependent upon Russia. His greatest fear is that a successful revolution in Ukraine could spill over into Russia itself.

IS THERE HOPE FOR UKRAINE? YES!

We believe this, based on the following:

- Ukraine recently concluded the most democratically free, fair and transparent Presidential elections in its history.
- Surveys carried out by International organizations, have consistently shown a low level of support for separatism in Eastern Ukraine, while the vast majority desire a united Ukraine.

- A critically important agreement with the European Union will be signed in the upcoming month.
- The new President and government are resolute in their commitment to rout out corruption. If successful, Ukraine will have a great chance to finally reach its economic potential.

“Please, tell everyone we don't want to be a part of Russia, we pray for a united Ukraine!”

—Letter to HART from orphans in East Ukraine

THE CHURCH'S ROLE

In the midst of turmoil that Ukraine hasn't experienced since World War II, HART and its church partners are demonstrating God's love in ACTION every day.

Whether it's caring for refugee Muslim Tatars fleeing from Crimea or evacuating orphans and families from cities under siege, Christians are mobilizing and helping wherever they are needed.

Please continue to keep Ukraine, the National Churches, and HART's ministry in your prayers!



Who are the refugees?



The pastor of a partner church in Lviv, Ukraine recently sent this note to us...

“Refugees. A rather new and a strange word for Ukrainians...Several families have arrived and will be arriving tomorrow and in the coming days. Pastors and churches are wanting to care for them.”

The United Nations Refugee agency says the tension in Ukraine has displaced an estimated 10,000 civilians and said the number of people affected was continuing to rise weekly.

From our experience the displaced population falls into three main categories:

- Ethnic Tatars from Crimea, escaping religious persecution
- Ethnic Russians and Ukrainians from East Ukraine, who are escaping the ongoing bloodshed
- At least a third of the displaced are children and orphans

What we're doing

Because of **YOUR SUPPORT** and HART'S extensive network throughout Ukraine, God has allowed us to play a pivotal role during this crisis.

Supporting refugees from Crimea & Eastern Ukraine

✓ We've provided funds to our Church partners around Ukraine who are assisting refugees in their cities.

✓ HART is coordinating and facilitating the transfer of displaced families from Ukraine to refugee camps in Poland.

Evacuating and caring for orphans

✓ We've been instrumental in evacuating children from orphanages in war-torn areas of East Ukraine.

✓ We are coordinating and setting up temporary facilities for these orphans in Western Ukraine

Greatest needs for HART'S refugee work:

- Finances for:**
- ✓ Adequate shelter
 - ✓ Food and clothing
 - ✓ Hygiene items
 - ✓ Medical & dental care
 - ✓ Transportation costs
 - ✓ Legal support



Lloyd Cernaiko with Pastor Sasha (left) meeting with a group of Muslim Tatar men to discuss HART's plan of assistance in transferring their families to a refugee camp in Poland.

These Tatar children and their families have been living on a Baptist Church compound in central Ukraine for the past 3 months. Pastor Sasha (previous picture) and his church have reached out in love to these Muslim families, who've been greatly impressed and impacted by the treatment they've received.



How can YOU help?

The Church in Ukraine has asked for our assistance during this crisis. Their desire is to help refugees and demonstrate God's love for them in tangible ways—but don't have the resources to do this on their own.

Thanks to **YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT** HART has accomplished much to date, however the need far exceeds our resources! Please pray about and consider helping National churches as they minister to refugees throughout the country of Ukraine.

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International Relief

CANADA

Suite 200, 317-37 Ave NE, Calgary, AB, T2E 6P6
Tel: 403.230.8263 Toll free: 1.888.788.3880
Web: www.hart.ca Email: office@hart.ca
CRA Registration: 89431-3998-RR0001

USA

7340 E Main St. #200, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Tel: 480.941.2260 *106 Toll free: 1.888.788.3880
Registration: 86-0908190

HART's mandate is to come alongside the indigenous church in Eastern Europe, and empower/equip their ministries to transform lives through Medical-dental aid, Relief Aid and Missions projects in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Belarus, Russia and Central Asia.



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Learn to do right!
Seek justice,
encourage the oppressed.
Defend the cause
of the fatherless,
plead the case
of the widow.