

# hartbeat

Humanitarian Aid Response Teams



Learn to do right!

**Seek JUSTICE**

encourage the OPPRESSED

**DEFEND the cause**

of the FATHERLESS

**PLEAD the case**

of the WIDOW

## VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

# THE WINDS OF CHANGE

2019 ushered in a new era of hope for Ukraine. Last spring, a Ukrainian TV personality, who played the role of an ‘accidental’ president on a wildly popular television series, entered the political arena with an anti-corruption platform, and was elected to be the ‘actual’ president of Ukraine. It’s interesting to note that the TV program and his political party share the same name: “*Servant of the People.*”

President Volodymyr Zelensky’s election was a victory of the people, and for the people, against all the previous corrupt regimes over the past 29 years. The promise of a fair and open Ukrainian society resonated with the electorate, who gave the new president a majority in parliament – the first time this has happened since independence in 1991.

As President Zelensky tackles corruption under his new administration, the people of Ukraine hope and pray that the winds of change are finally blowing across their country.

Their desire is that he will be successful in transforming Ukraine into a normal European country with opportunities for all its citizens, especially its young people. In the past couple of years, it’s estimated that 2–3 million young people have fled Ukraine for employment in neighboring countries.

From our perspective, here is a positive take on the new President. Prior to recent negotiations with Russia regarding the war in Eastern Ukraine, President Zelensky invited the



President Volodymyr Zelensky

leaders of the Orthodox, Catholic, and Evangelical Churches to a meeting, with the express purpose of imploring them and their churches across Ukraine to provide him with prayer support for the upcoming meetings. He humbly acknowledged he would not be capable of negotiating with Russia’s President Putin, without God’s help.

Despite all the positive changes Zelensky has achieved already, most people are under no illusions that routing out Ukraine’s entrenched, systemic corruption will be easy. It will be a long, arduous process and possibly even a dangerous one for this young President. Please keep him in your prayers, as well as his administration and the people of Ukraine.

## GYPSY CHURCHES SHARING THE BLESSING OF WATER

# WATER WELLS ARE SAVING LIVES

Water scarcity is something Gypsies in Ukraine face every day. Most villages still don’t have their own wells. Several years ago, HART was able to answer the call for help from Gypsy pastor Ruslan, who desperately needed one for his village. They had no finances, but they did have the manpower to do the work. Thanks to YOU, the first one of many was completed. Pastor Ruslan recently shared with us a tragic story which occurred in a village still without a well.

Pastor Ruslan had just finished supper with his family and turned on television to catch up on the local news. The leading news story involved a Gypsy family in a nearby village.

Tragically, it was announced that the parents of seven children had lost their youngest daughter, Nadiya, to poisoning as a result of drinking contaminated water.

Ruslan listened intently to the details of the story. A few days earlier, on an especially hot, dry summer day, Nadiya, who’d been playing outside for hours with other children, came home exhausted and thirsty. She asked her mother for some water, but was told there wasn’t any left.

The family of nine had already used up the water they carried from a neighboring village that morning.

Even though Nadiya was in now in tears, she was sent outside to go back and play with her friends.

Several hours later, when she came home again, her parents realized Nadiya was dizzy and ill.

She soon became nauseous, developed a fever, and started to lose consciousness. Her parents immediately had her taken to a local hospital.

Only later were they able to piece together the events that led to her illness. After being sent outside to play, Nadiya wandered around the village crying and looking for water. Eventually, she came upon a little creek. Desperately thirsty, she didn’t hesitate to start drinking from it.

Unknown to her, this creek was a sewage channel, into which several Gypsy villages were dumping excrement and garbage.



Pastor Ruslan



Gypsy kids playing in a contaminated creek

At the hospital, the doctors fought for her life. However, the severity of the poisoning, combined with Nadiya’s weak immune system, was too much for her to handle, and two days later she passed away.

Pastor Ruslan was troubled by this story and deeply sorry for the family’s loss. He felt strongly that something had to be done about it. The next morning he called Vasyl, a fellow Gypsy pastor, who lived in Nadiya’s village and asked if he could set up a meeting with the parents.

“They were broken and sorrowful,” Ruslan says about their first meeting. “The mother was inebriated. I first thought this was just how she was dealing with her loss, but Vasyl explained that she’d been struggling with alcohol addiction for a long time.”

In his conversation with the parents, Ruslan offered to help dig a water well in the village. With tears of gratitude, they immediately agreed.

The very next day, the Ruslan and Vasyl gathered a group of strong men from their churches, prayed over the project, and started digging the well.

They quickly realized how difficult it was going to be. A rainless season had dried the ground nearly to stone. After about seven meters, the crew became doubtful groundwater



Pastor Ruslan & volunteers praying at the start of the well project

could be found in the area, but Pastor Ruslan insisted on digging deeper. At the 9th meter the exhausted men climbed out of the well, ready to give up.

Suddenly, one of the men stood up and boldly said, “If there is any water here, it is God who will provide it.” As he finished these words, he picked up a metal crowbar and threw it from the top of the hole straight down to its bottom. Immediately upon it hitting the ground, a trickle of clean water started to swell up from the ground, filling the bottom of the well (see below).



News of the miracle quickly spread through the village. Nadiya’s family started attending church and soon became Christians. Her mother quit drinking and is now trying her best to take care of her six remaining children.

“That family is now one of our closest friends,” says Pastor Ruslan. “They were so thankful and touched by this act of compassion.”

Ruslan says the importance of clean water in Gypsy villages can’t be overstated, both physically (as evidenced by this tragic story) and spiritually.



Final stages of completion

Gypsy people truly understand what it’s like to be thirsty, and also know how amazing it feels to have it quenched with clean, cool water. It’s an easy transition for pastors to introduce their people to Jesus’ message to the Samaritan woman, “whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst.”

Gypsy pastors and churches are deeply grateful to **HART and its supporters** for providing funds for well-digging that literally saves lives and opens the door to the Gospel message among the Gypsy people. It’s also an opportunity for them to pay forward the blessing of fresh water given to them.

We are now completing our 10th well in this Gypsy region of Western Ukraine. Please continue to keep this **LIFE-SAVING** water well project in your prayers!

# ways you can get involved



**You're Invited!**  
**HART AUCTIONS**  
**2020**

**EDMONTON**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4

**CALGARY**  
FRIDAY, MAY 1

**Help us send 10,000 children to summer camps this year!**



Purchase tickets on our website:  
[www.hart.ca](http://www.hart.ca)

Please attend a venue closest to you. Invite your family and friends for a fun evening with a PURPOSE. Give thousands of underprivileged children in Ukraine & Moldova the experience of a lifetime this summer!

## The local church is the platform from which all our programs originate



**Humanitarian Aid Response Team**  
International Relief

**CANADA** - 106, 90 Freeport Blvd, NE, Calgary, AB, T3J 5J9  
Tel: 403.230.8263 Toll free: 1.888.788.3880  
Web: [www.hart.ca](http://www.hart.ca) Email: [office@hart.ca](mailto:office@hart.ca)  
Reg: 89431.3998.RR0001

**USA** - 7340 E Main St. #200, Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
Toll free: 1.888.788.3880 Reg: 86.0908190

HART is audited annually by an independent accounting firm and our financial statements are available upon request. Our Board of Directors has established the policy that all contributions designated for specific projects shall be applied to that project, with up to 10 per cent to be used if needed for administering the gifts. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need.

**Life is too short,  
the world is too BIG,  
and GOD'S LOVE is  
too great - to live an  
ORDINARY LIFE**