

ACTIVITY REPORT APRIL 2023

# **Christians for UKRAINE** International Initiative

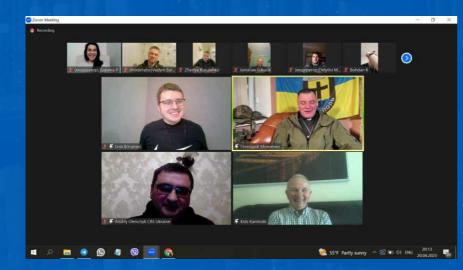
To Help Ukrainians Defend Their Lives and Values

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## **ABOUT** THE INITIATIVE

With the beginning of a full-scale war, the Eastern European Reformation Ministry founded the Christians for Ukraine International Initiative in close cooperation with the God's Light Church in Lublin, Poland. It is a platform for various charitable initiatives to organize humanitarian aid and other relief activities for Ukrainians in Ukraine and Poland.

The Initiative tries to answer the challenges caused by the Russian war in Ukraine, and we plan to support the post-war rebuilding of Ukraine. We want to create a network of individual donors and organizations sharing the same vision. The vision is to help Ukraine survive Russian aggression and be transformed by the action of Christian values into a country with a firm Biblical foundation.





# THE CHRISTIAN OPEN ACADEMY

This year, we dedicated the sixth month of our common program to studying the Ukrainian nation and state-building. We discussed various crucial topics such as the importance of language and culture in these times and the inadmissibility of corruption. Also, we talked about the phenomena of volunteer work in the country – something that became extremely important since the beginning of the last year.

Students of the Foundations of Counseling and Family Ministry network delve into ways to work with young people – separate lectures concerned children, teenagers, and youth. On Community Development and Social Projects, we learned how to form visions and strategies, build teams, and manage finances. Those who chose to learn about Society & Culture saw how to implement numerous educational projects for the good of Ukraine.

Moreover, we continue our cooperation with *Trinity International University* on their academic program for Ukrainian scholars.

## COA STUDENTS' MEETING

On April 29, a meeting of students of *the Christian Open Academy* took place in Rivne, who came from different parts of Ukraine to spend time together. In addition to the students, the meeting was attended by the director of the COA Jaroslaw Lukasik, lecturer Svitlana Fylypchuk (*Ostroh Academy*), minister Bruce Anderson and teachers of *the Worldview* school in Rivne.





## CELEBRATING EASTER

In April the whole world celebrated the most important holiday of all time – Easter. The death and resurrection of our Saviour changed the whole world forever. In Lublin, Poland, we held multiple celebrations. Naturally, we invited non-believer friends and families to the Sunday service. A week after, we organized a special Easter-themed event for children and parents. Apart from talking about important Christian topics, and playing games, we made trench candles for Ukrainian soldiers.



## INTERDENOMINATIONAL **PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE**

On April 28, 2023, the Second Interdenominational Prayer for Ukraine took place in Kyiv. The joint prayer was attended by Protestants of various denominations, such as Pentecostals, Baptists, members of charismatic churches, Messianic Jews, as well as Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, and Orthodox believers.

In a video message, the British evangelist, the initiator of the National Day of Prayer for Ukraine, David Hathaway, encouraged those present to pray for the full and speedy victory of Ukraine. He was echoed by the prayer of the pastor of *the Evangelical Presbyterian Church* Bruce Anderson: "Prepare us for new things! In the desert of suffering, You break the plans of the enemy, and in victory you open new opportunities for a country without authoritarianism, corruption, and despair.»

It is worth nothing, that this month one more interdenominational prayer organized by *the Initiative* took place in Dnipro.





## EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

During the last few months, the educational project became a lot more than just out-of-school lessons for a dozen kids in Lublin. Thanks to *the Church of Living God* in Vyshhorod, it started in Ukraine too. And at our *Initiative* now we are working hard to spread it throughout the whole country. Education is particularly important today and is an exceptional investment for the future.

Of course, the daycare and the project itself continue in Poland. In April, a Day of Spring was celebrated by preschool children who attend the daycare and their parents. It was a good means of evangelization. People from the Church talked to the parents about what concerned the latter. Also, as always, we wrote letters to those who defend us on the frontline.

## SUPPORT MEETINGS

For quite some time in Lublin, we hold psychological support meetings for moms twice a week, and also for teenagers, most of whom are refugees. This month, a special larger meeting took place. We talked about codependent relationships, and how to care for others and ourselves. The meetings with a Christian psychologist are a blessing for Ukrainian refugees because dealing with trauma can be hard, and the sense of brotherhood and compassion along with real steps to improvement are very important.









## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE

The president of the Eastern European Reformation ministry, Jaroslaw Lukasik, spent a significant part of April in Ukraine meeting with many leaders, attending conferences and prayers, and preaching in churches in the whole of Ukraine from East to West. In Dnipro, a meeting with a Spiritual Council of the city took place with Bruce Anderson, where the organization's future and plans were discussed. In Kharkiv, a seminar for pastors from the Pentecostal union was held. And in Lutsk Jaroslaw and Bruce talked to Serhii Sharayevskyi about the ongoing production of the documentary that we financed a few months ago about the prosecution of Christians in the Soviet Union.

#### Християни для України 6 d · O

Росія вчергове обстріляла житлові будинки напередодні контрнаступу... See more



# chistians4ukr :

Україна святкує Воскресіння Христове (продовження нижче) О О У ..... 30 likes

#### Розумна Віра

Нове анімаційне відео на дуже актуальне та болюче питання! Дуже змістовна відповідь!

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= aF5PJcIn0xo

#### YouTube

Страждання та зло: імовірнісна версія Продовження аналізу проблеми страждань та зла — однієї з найважчих проблем, яку можна поставити перед християнином. Філософи-атеїсти, які були змушені визнати, що логічна проблема зла зазнає невдачі, висунули іншу версію цієї проблеми,...



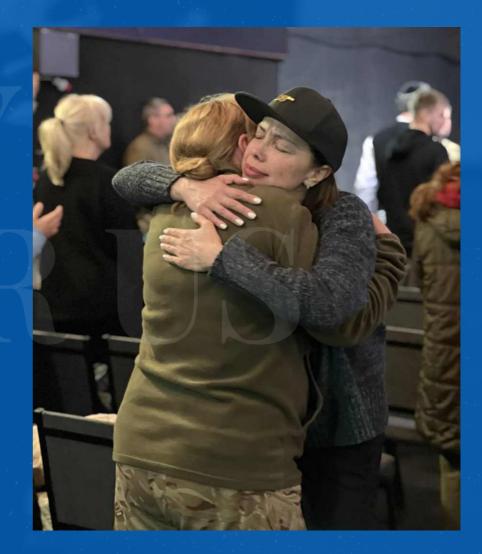
## **MEDIA** ACTIVITIES

In April, Christians for Ukraine media team published a series of various materials dedicated to the celebration of Easter, chaplain service, as well as cooperation between Christians in difficult wartime. This month, our readers could familiarize themselves with the analysis of current processes of Ukrainian Orthodoxy, in particular, we wrote about conflicts and discussions surrounding the problem of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Traditionally, *Christians for Ukraine* has published news and analytics on current events related to the course of hostilities, their consequences for civilians and international support for Ukraine. We also continued to highlight current threats to the institution of the family in Ukraine, in particular, scandalous legislative initiatives and the reaction of society and the authorities to them.

## HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR US

Thank you for your prayers that helped Ukrainians survive the winter months filled with the enemy shelling of energy infrastructure. Please pray for the successful counteroffensive of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to liberate the people of Ukraine who live under the occupation. Pray for peace and victory, for the stability of the energy supply, for the means of production in the de-occupied territories, for our soldiers, especially in the places where the most violent battles are fought, for the students of the COA, so that everyone gets inspiration and strength for service.



# THE CHRISTIANS FOR UKRAINE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE

WITH YOUR DONATIONS





tax-deductible donations for US residents



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(EUR, USD, GBP, and PLN)



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If you have any questions, please email us: help@c4u.org.ua