

ABOUT

EASTERN EUROPEAN REFORMATION

The Eastern European Reformation Ministry was founded in 2008 and since then has been fulfilling its call to support the Church in accomplishing the Great Commission in times of historical transformations. It consists of two organizations – the Eastern European Reformation Foundation, based in Lublin, Poland, and Christian Leadership Development Foundation, based in Oleksandriia, Ukraine. We work in the social, media, educational, and various other spheres.

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, *the Ministry* got involved in humanitarian work and cooperation with chaplains.

During times of war, we try to answer both the basic needs of people by offering food and shelter, and also provide for spiritual and intellectual needs. We believe that spreading and promoting biblical truths about all spheres of life will help to transform the post-war Ukrainian society and country and help them stand on, be rebuilt, and be transformed on the foundations of Christian values.





INTRODUCTION

Since the start of full-scale war in Ukraine in late February 2022, the lives of all Ukrainians have changed dramatically. As the war approaches the two-year mark, almost everyone has lost someone close to them. Millions have been forced to leave their homes for another region or even another country. The financial situation seems worse than ever, with many falling below the poverty line.

On the brighter side, the terrible circumstances have united the nation and countless people not only in Ukraine but around the world have done everything possible to help their fellow men and women, be it evacuation, food, hygiene items, psychological or spiritual support, etc.

The scope of our ministry has shifted to projects and endeavors previously unimaginable. What we have been able to do, thanks to you and other people of good will, you can read in this report.

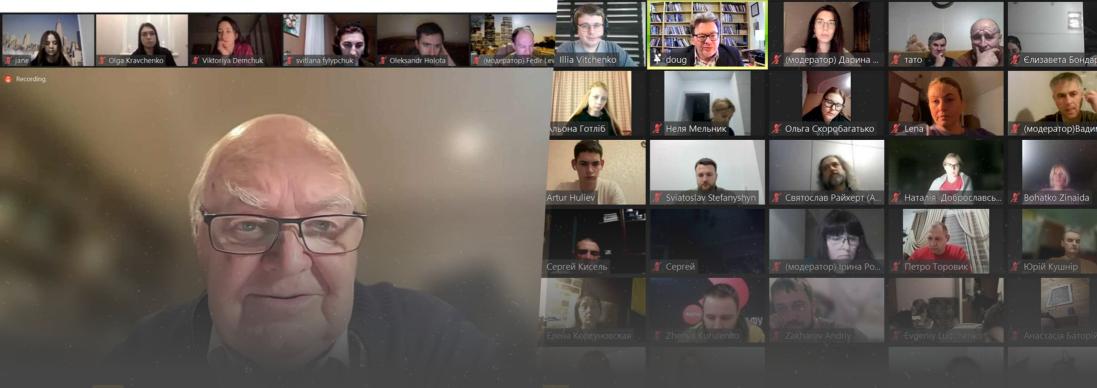


CHRISTIAN OPEN ACADEMY

Christian Open Academy (COA) is a predominantly online educational project aimed at spreading a holistic biblical worldview and forming leaders for the public sphere. An important part of the project is the networking of Christians for the purpose of implementing practical programs that bring biblical values in various aspects of life and contribute to the reconstruction of Ukraine.

Since February 2022, three seasons of *the Christian Open Academy* have been held. Although the learning process was disrupted by the invasion during the first season, the lectures continued. We shifted our focus to topics that had become more relevant to the drastically changing times.





Nevertheless, in November of 2022, we began a new academic year with a program that was relevant to the times and topics that would help various ministers grow in their respective areas of responsibility - chaplains, pastors, counselors, those working in their communities, and others. Instead of just one common program as in previous years, students could choose a special track - *Society & Culture; Community Development & Social Projects*; or *Foundations of Counseling & Family Ministry*.

In 2023, the program concept of *the Christian Open Academy* was updated once again. Now, in addition to the core mandatory Worldview course, we offer five additional courses: *Economy & Business*; *Economy & Community Development*; *Family Policy & Educational Development*; *Pastoral Care*, *Counseling*, *and Modern Evangelism*; and *Society & Culture* (for new COA students). Around 1000 students joined us this year.





The war severely disrupted the educational process in Ukraine. For a time, schools were closed altogether. Millions of people left the country. Even more left their homes and moved to other parts of Ukraine.

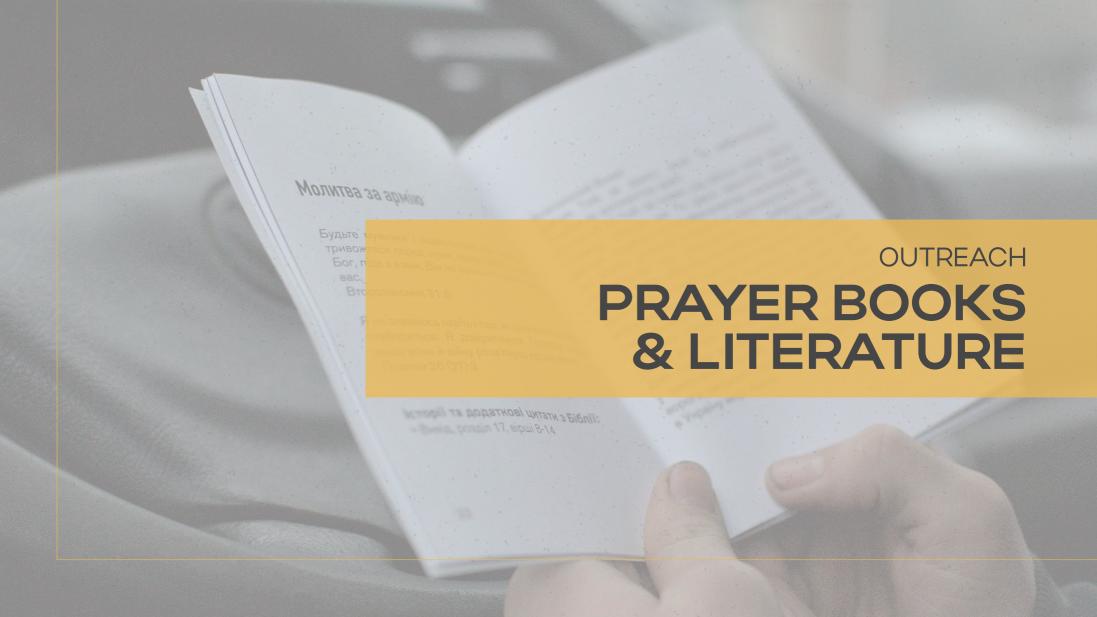
It is necessary to understand that due to the consequences of long-term distance education, students have large gaps in their knowledge. Parents and institutions of the Ministry of Education of Ukraine face the challenge of how and where to organize face-to-face training for development and motivation. These challenges will remain for many years. To improve the situation in the field of education and upbringing of the next generations, active initiatives and investments are needed. Ours began in the summer of 2022 in Lublin, Poland, where we worked with Ukrainian refugees. From there the project spread to 10 regions in Ukraine. The main goals of the project respond to the following challenges: increase children's motivation to learn, provide children with interesting learning opportunities in face-to-face classes, create a welcoming environment that inspires creativity and learning, and provide psychological and emotional support to children and their families. Classes for children are organized, they study mathematics, Ukrainian, history, English, Bible, have sports and music lessons, etc. An important part of the educational project are various family events, camps, and evangelizing celebrations.





Thanks to generous donations since February 2023, we have been able to put up more than 500 billboards with scriptures encouraging Ukrainians to fight their just battles, to have hope in Jesus' name, to pray for their country, and to act according to godly standards. More than 60 of these have been funded by Christians who have joined our initiative. Each billboard has four parts: A slogan, a scripture to go with it, an image, and a QR code that links to a website with prayers for Ukraine.







One of the most significant evangelistic projects of the past year has been the creation and printing of literature - small books to help people pray during the hard times in their lives and in the country. The first prayer book contained 10 short prayers, some Scripture and commentary. We printed a million copies of it only for them to be distributed in no time. After the success of the first prayer book, we started working on the second one. Its goal was to be bigger and more comprehensive, and to help pray for all spheres of Ukrainian life. We divided 37 prayers into 6 chapters, ranging from thanksgiving for Ukraine, to repentance for national shortcomings, to prayers for personal revival that will lead to national revival. 165,000 copies were distributed in Ukraine and Poland during evangelistic meetings, prayers, distribution of humanitarian aid, etc. Later another 40,000 copies were printed.

We also worked on translating, editing, and republishing a small, colorful prayer book for parents. It contains 31 prayers for children, their present and their future. We firmly believe that parents praying for and with their beloved children is a recipe for a strong and blessed family. In 2023, we revised the book to make it more relevant to the modern Ukrainian situation; among the changes, in each prayer we added a part that connects the theme with the time of war.

We printed 10,000 apologetic booklets describing why Christmas is important for everyone today. The booklet says that God created everyone with a purpose, but people rejected Him, then the Lord sent His only Son as a remedy, and now we must accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The distribution started in December. After only 5 days, there were no more booklets left to order! We sent them to 75 churches who used them during their Christmas services and outreach events. That's how important the Christian message is today. 10,000 more booklets are distributed now, and we plan to print another 60,000.

We printed 300,000 copies of 4 prayers: for soldiers, for protection, for courage in battle, and for victory. These credit card-sized materials for the defenders of Ukraine can be taken anywhere without taking up much space. And in special situations or emergencies, they will be helpful to someone who has never prayed to the Lord. We ran out of copies in a few days! After we ran out, we received orders in one day for an additional 150,000 pocket prayers to be printed soon. We pray and believe that this initiative will help thousands of Ukrainian defenders in times of hardship, bravery and sacrifice. We have sent the pocket prayers to more than 80 chaplains and organizations for distribution.



HELPING CHAPLAINS

Since 2014 - the year when the war started in Eastern Ukraine, the institute of chaplaincy has been brought to public attention. But it was 2022 when more and more people became chaplains. Still, there is a great demand for more, because there are thousands of soldiers who need spiritual support and to hear about Jesus. It is our moral obligation to back the chaplains and try to provide them with all they need. Vans, cars, power generators, video and audio equipment, and humanitarian aid are among them. Also, we help organize events for soldiers' families.

We mainly cooperate with two chaplain organizations - the Mariupol Chaplain Battalion, and the Christian Rescue Service.





ГОЛОВНА

молитовник

ПРО ІНІЦІАТИВ

господь чує

НАШІ МОЛИТВИ

ЗА УКРАЇНУ

Господь – сповнений любові Батько та справедливий Суддя. Наші сльози й біль близькі Його серцю.

Якщо ми разом, як народ, звернемося до Нього, то неодмінно відчуємо Його сильну підтримку і побачимо чудовий план, який Бог приготував для нашої країни.

ЯК МОЛИТИСЯ ЗА УКРАЇНУ >

PRAYER MOVEMENT

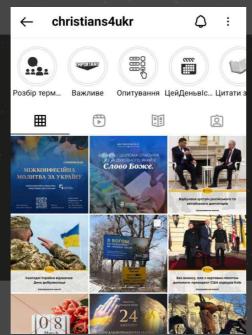
God has given us a profoundly powerful instrument that is prayer. In the face of current events, we believe that we, as Christians must pray in unity despite our differences. We want to be systemic in our prayers and pray according to God's will.

We have organized many *Interdenominational Prayers for Ukraine* around the country where Christians from all major denominations prayed together for the present and future of our country.

Prayer books that we print, our prayer website, and our upcoming prayer app are a part of the movement too.











NEWS & ARTICLES

Christians are extremely underrepresented in the media in Ukraine today. This leads to some serious problems, one of which is the misunderstanding of Christianity and the role of the Church. In 2014, when Ukraine was facing the biggest changes since the fall of the Soviet Union, we started a media ministry called *Christians for Ukraine*. It was called to shed light on recent events and historical anniversaries, as well as to analyze past and current trends affecting Ukraine. Looking at history, modern issues, and various challenges through the Christian conservative lens is of great importance. And now, in times of war, it is more evident than ever.

REASONABLE FAITH IN UKRAINIAN

After the outbreak of full-scale war, the number of questions about the problem of evil, the Christian position on the use of violence, and how we can believe in a good and just God in spite of the circumstances increased. Therefore, our ministry has focused on these issues. We publish articles, notes, podcasts, short and animated videos to help people get good answers to their questions. Our goal is to strengthen the faith of Christians in this difficult time of doubt, as well as to help unbelievers who have not yet found peace in Christ.

CHRISTIANS FORUKRAINE INITIATIVE

Many of the described projects are a part of a large network of our partners and friends called *Christians for Ukraine*. It was established in 2022. Various protestant denominations (such as Baptists, Pentecostals, and charismatic churches), Roman and Greek Catholics, Messianic Jews, and Orthodox Christians are among the creators of the initiative. *Christians for Ukraine* is open to all Christians, religious organizations, and church communities that share common values. It is a space free from any political-economic conditions and confessional interests.

Since its inception, *the Initiative* has led to a number of common projects like *the Interdenominational Prayer for Ukraine*, or our outreach literature programs that you can read about in this report. Moreover, regular leader meetings from various Christian confessions are held to coordinate future cooperation and joint projects to help Ukraine in times of war and sorrow.





The Initiative has also created and published the Declaration on the Restoration of Ukraine. The document is an attempt to describe various aspects of Ukraine's development in the context of war and other internal and external challenges, and is an invitation to a joint and meaningful action of Christians to respond to these challenges.

The Initiative is still developing and we hope to see its fruits in nearest future.







The year 2022 has led us to help our fellow Ukrainians in a whole new way - humanitarian aid. From March to August 2022, our main hub was in Lublin, Poland. During these few very intense and uncertain months, thanks to many people and organizations of good will, 28 shipments of food, medical, clothing and hygiene supplies were sent to the needy around Ukraine. In order to support the Ukrainian economy and to simplify logistics, almost all purchases have been made in Ukraine since August 2022. We were able to provide more than 40,000 people with basic necessities to help them survive these difficult times with dignity. The distributions were accompanied by evangelistic outreaches where Christians prayed, assisted and often distributed spiritual literature to those in need.

In the autumn and winter of 2022-2023, Russians heavily attacked the Ukrainian civil infrastructure. For a few months, thousands of Ukrainians constantly were forced to live in darkness and cold because of blackouts. The only solution was power generators. But during that time there was a huge shortage of them, and they were highly expensive. Thus, we purchased many generators and shipped them to churches in Ukraine.









As the Russian-Ukrainian war approaches its tenth year, more and more buildings are being destroyed across the country. Thousands of people have been left without a roof over their heads. Thanks to our sponsors and Ukrainian partners, we were able to help 12 families living in the deoccupied part of the Kharkiv region. Now these people will be safer and more comfortable.

The reconstruction was accompanied by evangelization of the residents, distribution of spiritual literature and invitations to a church.



The priority of our ministry is to help those in need and those who want to help - spiritually, intellectually, with humanitarian aid, and also financially. Since the beginning of the war, we have partially funded two bakeries, a small dumpling factory, and a soup kitchen organized by a church. All of these things help the Ukrainians during these hard times. We also sent money to our Ukrainian partners so they could buy things to help the needy survive the winter: stoves for people in the Donbas and Dnipro regions, warm blankets, and winter shoes for children. In times of war, education and culture are still important. That is why we want to support initiatives that deal with these issues. We helped finance the *Pravda PRO Studio* project - a documentary about the persecution of Protestants in the USSR. The shooting started in early 2022, but due to the war and lack of funds the project was suspended. Thanks to our donations and others, Ukrainians will be able to see this brilliant documentary and learn about the horrors that Christians suffered not so long ago. The subject is especially important today as Christians are being persecuted.



PRAY FOR US

Thank you for your prayer support during these two cruel years. We have experienced many times how the Lord interrupted hopeless situations and gave His protection. God helps Ukraine in this unjust fight with a larger and stronger enemy. We know for certain He hears our prayers. Please, continue raising your voice for our country.

Please, pray for the victory of Ukraine, for peace, and restoration of what was destroyed. Pray for Ukrainian soldiers and chaplains in their fights. Pray for the Ukrainian Church to respond to the modern challenges in a godly way. Please, pray for our ministry to fulfill the role that God prepared for us. Pray for all humanitarian work, educational projects, and publishing initiatives. Pray for the stability of the energy supply, and for the means of production in the liberated areas.



YOU CAN SUPPORT

EASTERN EUROPEAN REFORMATION MINISTRY

WITH YOUR DONATIONS





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