

# INFO



**HILFSWERK**  
**Samariter Dienst**  
EIN WERK DER GEMEINDE GOTTES KdÖR

Issue 2023/2024



Relief supplies delivered to Pastor Vitaly L. from Kharkiv.

## Samaritan Ministry – Ongoing Relief

Already this year we have sent **nine large trucks with about 50 tons of food**, clothes, medical supplies, etc. to our humanitarian camps in Chernivtsi and Alexandria, Ukraine.

### What we need further:

- Medical supplies, walking aids and incontinence goods.
- Christmas packages with food
- Warm clothes and shoes
- Sleeping bags, warm blankets, and electric generators

## Please help us with donations!

### Travel Report by Sergiy Demydovych and Thomas Strenkert

During our 12-day trip in April of this year, we were able to conduct several outreaches in Eastern Ukraine. We took our Samaritan Ministries van from Suceava, Romania to the city of Chernivtsi in western Ukraine. A large truck with humanitarian goods that we had previously sent to Chernivtsi was ready for distribution to those in need.

Our trip continued to Poltava and Kharkiv. There we met with the leaders of various NGOs. They briefed us on the current situation and made it clear that

the greatest need is for medical supplies and food.

On our way to Sloviansk on Ukrainian **Good Friday**, April 14, we were surprised by a rocket attack and could not enter the city of Sloviansk until after 6 p.m. We were presented with a picture of devastation. We drove into the neighborhood of houses destroyed by rockets and met an elderly woman who was crying bitterly because she had just lost her little grandson in the rubble (picture below). He could only be recovered dead. We also spoke with Dennis A., a friend of the Church of God in Sloviansk whose apartment had been destroyed in the attack. We comforted him and gave him food and money.

Despite the recent attacks, the planned **Easter Saturday** children's festival took place at the Sloviansk Good News Church of God. About 300 children came with their mothers and enjoyed a joyful celebration. The stress of war has a traumatic effect on the psyche of children. Children from the war zone mostly stay in their homes or in the basement of their apartment buildings. So, the children's festival was a day of happiness.

On **Easter Monday** we handed over food packages to people in need in heavily

devastated villages some 25 km (ca. 15 miles) from the frontline city of Bakhmut. There we visited a military hospital with injured soldiers many of whom we were able to provide with medical supplies. On **Tuesday** morning we went to Alexandria (Kirovograd region) to our children's home "Perlinka". There we discussed the next humanitarian aid projects with its leaders. We decided to start a new program for traumatized children in Ukraine.

As a result, several camps for traumatized children were held in this **summer** throughout Ukraine and abroad. In July and August, five children's camps (pictured below right) were held with approximately 120 children in the Western Carpathians, Alexandria, Zelenyi Ogonek, Kirovograd, and Järve on the Baltic Sea in Estonia. The cost of more than 25,000 Dollars has already been raised by our donors. The joy of the children was great. Some of them lost their fathers in the war and found comfort and new confidence in the warmhearted community.

**We thank you for the many generous donations and ask you to continue to support our project for traumatized children.**



Missile strike on April 14 in Sloviansk



Comfort for the elderly woman



Excursion for traumatized children from the camp

# Pilgrim Staff member from Mariupol Escaped Death!

**Anatoly V.**, a widower for several years, worked for more than twenty years at the **Pilgrim Orphanage** in Mariupol which was evacuated at the end of February 2022 due to the Russian invasion. The orphans are currently in the Black Forest of Germany and hope to return to Western Ukraine soon.

**Anatoly V.** could not leave the city of Mariupol because it was surrounded by the Russian invaders. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Ukrainian Azov Regiment as a humanitarian aid worker. He was now with hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers in the heavily contested Azov Steel Plant and was responsible for the women and children trapped with him in the Azov Steel Plant. For weeks he and the others were holed up in underground bunkers. The situation seemed hopeless. Several times he thought, "Soon it will over for all of us!" Then he was also injured by a mine in his abdomen. A never-ending ordeal began for him and his family. Many helpers from the „Pilgrim Staff“ prayed for Anatoly, hoping that he would somehow survive.

Political efforts led to the release of women, children, and elderly from the Azov Steel Plant at the end of April 2022. Weeks later, on May 20, the fiercely contested Azov Steel Plant in Mariupol was abandoned, and the last Ukrainian soldiers laid down their arms and entered Russian captivity.



In Russian captivity



Anatoly V. back in the Ukraine

Anatoly's ordeal was not over. He had nine months of captivity ahead of him. He told us of cries of despair, pain, daily beatings, and constant hunger. He himself struggled with pain in his abdomen, and due to constant malnutrition, the previously slim Anatoly lost more than 22 kg (ca 50 lb.) in weight.

Anatoly was not heard from for more than six months. They had already given up hope, thinking that the executions announced by the Russian aggressors had already been carried out.

In **March 2023**, during a regular exchange of prisoners between the two countries, Anatoly's life took a joyful turn. Pastor Gennady Mochenko and his humanitarian outreach team greeted his release with many tears of joy and prayer. Shortly thereafter, his wounds were treated in the hospital.

Today, Anatoly is in good health and continues to be actively involved in helping Ukrainians in need as part of the **Humanitarian Outreach Team**.

## Christmas campaign

### Give joy to children!

With your Christmas package for Eastern Europe (focus on Ukraine).

Every year, the popular „Give Joy to Children“ campaign takes place. By putting together, a package, you can help a child in need. You can request brochures for distribution by calling +49 (1520) 940- 0670 or by e-mailing [hsd@samariterdienst.com](mailto:hsd@samariterdienst.com)

### Help us help others!



#### THIS IS HOW YOU CAN PUT TOGETHER YOUR PACKAGE:

##### BASIC FOOD

oil, sugar, flour, margarine, rice, pasta

##### BREAD TOPPINGS

canned sausage, long-life cheese, chocolate spread

##### SWEETS

chocolate, cookies, sweets, lollipops

##### TOILETRIES

toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.

##### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Schoolbag with crayons, ball, etc.

##### 500 GRAMS OF COFFEE

It serves as a medium of exchange (an alternative to cash) in the countries of the East and makes it possible for sick children to see a doctor.

##### NOTE

Due to customs regulations, the food cannot be allowed to expire **until at least the end of March next year**.

##### Deadline:

*Please by mid-December at the latest.*

Fill a cardboard or banana box. Seal it with duct tape and **strong string**. Drop off the box at a collection site. For a list of collection sites, visit: <https://www.samariterdienst.de/Sammelstellen/>

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**CIS Humanitarian Relief**  
- **Project #131-0284**

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