

March 6/22
Hi everyone.

As we write this email, our hearts, along with yours, are heavy with what is happening in Ukraine. It is so tragic to see a people and a country being blown apart by a despotic ruler. We continue to pray for wisdom for President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian army to know what to do and when to do what needs to be done. We continue to pray for confusion and frustration to take part within the Russian army and for their eyes and hearts to open up to see exactly what they are doing and to ask 'why?'

We are thankful that our friends in Ukraine are all safe at this time and that we are able to stay in touch via phone and Zoom. I think of my conversations with Walter and he says that suspense is everywhere. He knows that things may change as the Russian army moves North from the Zaporozia area. When we talk on Tuesdays and Fridays, Walter shares about what is happening and then he wants to turn to the Scriptures to see what God is saying. Walter has been such a blessing in my life and his hunger for God's Word is growing despite the impending danger. Walter thinks that I am teaching him so much and he is largely unaware of how much he is impacting my life.

We were also able to have our Zoom class today and three ladies out of the five were able to join us. The sirens are going off constantly and were going off while we were meeting. Svetlana came out of a shelter to be a part of our class today. Amazing commitment to want to know God's Word better and how it applies to their lives in extremely difficult circumstances. One of the ladies was on the road this morning and possibly heading out of the country. Iryna sent us a message while we were meeting saying that she and her two children are out of the country and that she hopes to join us next Sunday. Iryna, Amina and Andrii are safe and for that we are thankful! Our tutor, Ulzana, made it to Poland with her young son, Timur, and they have a place to sleep and food to eat.

As we met this morning, hearts are being deeply challenged as some contemplate leaving for safety and yet that would mean leaving a husband and sons. Please be praying so that they have the wisdom to know what to do. We cannot imagine being in their shoes and how life can be so dramatically flipped upside down in less than two weeks.

Leana mentioned this morning that when we began our Bible study in Dnipro in October 2019, that she thought it would go for a little while and then disband, but here we are, almost 2.5 years later and all of us are stronger together. We were studying Philippians 4 today and so many verses were relevant to their situation. **Philippians 4.7** talks about "the peace of God which transcends all understanding" and **verse 9** challenges us to put into practice...to apply to our lives what we have learned... "And the God of peace will be with you." It is not just God's peace that sustains and strengthens us, but that "**the God of PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU!**" They are experiencing God's presence and peace and they are teaching us so much about how we can get caught up in frivolous arguments that in reality are foolish and yet we think they are so important at the time. They are teaching us what is most important and it's that Jesus **MUST** be central to all that we do and think, **without exception!**

Leana also pointed out verses **12-13** as being filled with impact right now - "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do **EVERYTHING** through Him who gives me **STRENGTH**." As we spent time together this morning and prayed together as we finished, our hearts are so deeply touched. All we can do is spend one hour and fifteen minutes with them once a week and they are so thankful for us taking the time and it seems like it is not enough. Svetlana finishes our time by saying how much they love us and our hearts break for each of them, whom we have come to love. There were tears flowing.

If you want to see what is happening in the village where we lived while in Ukraine, you can follow Garry and Teresa's blog by going to this site - <https://moo-oosings.blogspot.com/>
Please be in prayer for Garry and Teresa as they are in Canada and yet their hearts long to be with those whom they love and have poured their lives into for a number of years.

Thanks so much for your prayers for Ukraine at this time!

With love and blessings,
Scott & Shannon