

*And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

*Esther 4:14*

**ITMI**  
*Monthly*

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# Heroes

**FOR SUCH A  
TIME AS THIS**

**"Our donors are heroes!"**  
ITMI's Mark Burritt  
enthusiastically  
commented.

It was a Thursday. ITMI's Financial Officer, Mark, along with our Administrative Assistant, **Julie Hines**, had spent the week processing the outpouring of generosity of ITMI donors, who responded compassionately and immediately to the needs of our partners in Eastern Europe and the Ukrainians they are helping.

The rest of the staff added our agreement. We've been humbled and inspired by the initial response from our supporters, who have reached deep into their pockets and given generously over and above their normal giving. We're also moved and inspired by the way our partners are pouring out their lives, time and resources to help those who now find themselves in need as a result of the invasion.

## ROMANIA

**The Bans work tirelessly, strategically, leveraging their network to serve.**

Because of their years of ministry in Romania - something they



Adi (right) and another believer, ready to take supplies to refugee centers in Ukraine.

couldn't have done without the help of their supporters - ITMI's **Adi and Ema Ban** are well connected with believers, both in Romania and Ukraine. The Lord has even miraculously provided connections with people in high-up positions in businesses and other arenas who have been eager to help.

They are using these connections to mobilize believers in Romania and Ukraine to be on the front lines showing God's love to the needy. Their efforts have even drawn some who don't yet have Jesus as their Lord into partnership to aid Ukrainians, and they, too are experiencing how Christians love



Adi encourages a young girl at the refugee center in Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

and serve without conditions. The Lord provided Adi the opportunity to share with some of these partners why he has worked tirelessly to supply believers in Ukraine with resources. He told them it was because of his faith in Jesus and because the Lord has lavished His goodness on us, His people, Adi wants to share that with others.

Adi has made multiple trips from their city, Oradea, Romania, to Chernivtsi, Ukraine with truckloads of supplies for the Christians operating refugee centers in Chernivtsi and Ternopil.

At times like this when people's

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lives are uprooted and they are forced to seek out help, if they are met with believers who are filled with faith and have the resources to help, God's kingdom benefits. Not everyone offering help is doing so without condition.

It is quite the logistical operation to find trucks, drivers and supplies and get trucks of supplies into Ukraine from Romania, and has required an endless amount of late nights, early mornings and hours of driving from Adi. Adi said on his most recent trip, 14 of the 16 hours of driving were spent on the phone! Getting food and supplies to the believers inside Ukraine is an incredibly time-sensitive mission, because no one knows how long it will be possible.

## UKRAINE

### Faithful to serve under fire

The supplies Adi and his network are sending into Ukraine are being used by believers - people Adi knows well - to minister to refugees inside Ukraine. Many times, these people are passing through, on their way to the borders. They are provided with a place to sleep, food and invited to worship or pray with the believers running the operation while at the refugee center.

The four pastors we've written about [in previous letters](#) have left their homes in the east. All but one took their families to neighboring countries, then headed back to serve Jesus by helping others. The fourth remains in Ukraine with his family, and continues to serve at

one of the refugee centers.

They are taking incredible risks by returning to their home country. The road trips required to deliver supplies to those in need are treacherous, like putting a target on your back. If the capital city of Kyiv falls, the borders will close, and they would be separated from their families. Adi and Ema write, "In moments like these, many put their families and personal needs first. It takes a committed heart and deep trust in the Lord to be able to make these kinds of choices which put the needs of others above your own."

Keep these believers in your prayers as they burn brightly for Jesus in a dark time.

## POLAND

### Getting ready for 1.8 million Ukrainians (and climbing)

At press time, it is estimated that 1.8 million refugees have entered Poland from Ukraine, and every day about 100,000 cross into Poland.

After long journeys to the borders, those fleeing arrive at the neutral zone between countries. They remove what they can carry from their vehicles and walk the 1-2km to get in lines to get across the borders.

Women, children and the elderly must carry what they can for that distance. The icy wind razor sharp around them as they wait in long lines to get across the border.

Once through, they are hungry, cold, exhausted and traumatized. Alone in a foreign country where they don't speak the language, they are easy prey for human traffickers and others who would take advantage of their plight.

Churches and organizations that have buildings are preparing space for refugees to stay. Thanks to ITMI's supporters who have helped with funding for facilities such as Bread of Life's New Life Center and Gniezno Baptist Church, our partners are getting to be the people that greet and care for them.



Location of ITMI partners' cities in Eastern Europe.



Scan the QR code to view this 48 second video from Richard, just after he returned from the Poland-Ukraine border and hear the short story he shares.



Keep in mind that the average Baptist church in Poland has 25-50 members, which isn't a lot when you're providing for all the needs Ukrainian refugees have.

**Richard and Brooke Nungesser - Bread of Life**

With over 2 decades of experience helping those in need in Jesus' name in Eastern Europe, **Bread of Life**, founded by ITMI's **Richard and Brooke Nungesser**, is well-suited to meet the needs of Ukrainian refugees. Bread of Life has been equipping and enabling believers to love the marginalized and forgotten in Jesus' name in Eastern Europe for over 20 years. Because of this, they quickly mobilized when 1.8 million refugees came knocking at Poland's door.

Brooke shares, Bread of Life has been "hosting and placing refugees, distributing mass amounts of humanitarian aid, providing counseling in the proper language, finding refugees homes in neighboring countries (such as Sweden), and so much more!"

**The New Life Center** is a transition home for men struggling with addictions and homelessness, operated by **Bread of Life**. The New Life Center exists through the generosity of ITMI and Bread of Life supporters, who helped Bread of Life purchase and renovate the home as well as cover its ongoing expenses.

Now, it is housing 23 Ukrainian refugees within its blue walls in the rural village of Długa Goslina, and allowing God's people to reach and serve those taking refuge there.

**Tomek Jezyk - Kalisz Baptist Church**

**Kalisz Baptist Church** is the church pastored by ITMI's **Tomek Jezyk**. Years ago, this church had 4 members and no pastor. Tomek took over as a interim volunteer pastor, and the church now has 40 members who are growing in Christ. At last report, this small



Above: Tomek (left) helps a family of Ukrainian refugees.



ITMI's Piotr Zaremba (center back) with a family of Ukrainian refugees after they visited his church's Sunday service.



Ukrainian orphans, now refugees, that are being hosted by a family in Piotr's church.

church was preparing to care for 50 refugees.

As the Director of Bread of Life's branch in his city, Kalisz, Tomek has been very busy organizing donations and getting them to where they are needed, and making trips to the border and caring for refugees.

**Janusz Fredyk - Gniezno Baptist Church**

**Gniezno Baptist Church** was planted through the ministry of ITMI's **Piotr Zaremba**. Long-time readers may remember that ITMI

supporters helped purchase and renovate a building that they could meet in as a church. This building has also been well used to extend God's Word to the homeless over the years. ITMI's **Pastor Janusz Fredyk** and a team have been busy getting the church building ready to provide shelter for 15 refugees. The renovations were finishing up at press time.

**Ukrainians are Filling Churches in Poland**

As our partners and their churches are providing safe places to stay, needed goods and food for



refugees, refugees are coming to their churches on Sundays.

### Piotr and Krystyna Zaremba - K5N Church

Piotr tells us a story that was sent to him by a sister church. This church had dwindled to 10 people. But 20 Ukrainian families now join this church for their Sunday service! The Ukrainians blessed their hosts with an impromptu choir performance, praising the Lord amid difficult circumstances.

Piotr and his wife, Krystyna, are also working with refugees who need help processing the trauma they experienced, and working to equip believers to do the same. One family from Piotr's church is hosting 11 orphans and their 2 guardians from Ukraine in their home until they can make permanent arrangements.

Piotr's church has been visited by many Ukrainian refugees, and had the opportunity to encourage, love and serve them.

### Leszek and Anna Wakula - Lodz Baptist Church

In the city of Lodz, the church of ITMI's [Leszek Wakula](#) has space for 30 refugees.

"As a church for the last two weeks, we were able to help more than 150 people," Leszek writes. One Sunday, 70 refugees joined his church for their service. Forty-five of those were children!

Leszek estimates the cost of feeding the refugees their church has taken in is about \$33/day per person, or around \$990 USD per day. Though Leszek's church is one of the 5 biggest Baptist churches in Poland, this is still a huge responsibility for a church this size.

The church has split up into 5 action groups to do the hard work of helping this many refugees. They have a group for:

housing, transportation, grocery shopping and cooking. The 5th group works on sending supplies into Ukraine. This group sent relief to two sister churches in Ukraine and was preparing a third shipment at press time. Leszek asks us to pray for renewed vigor and strength for those serving in these demanding roles.

Mid-March, Leszek was at the church when 2 vans full of goods for the refugees pulled up. The donors were simply led by God to come to church and drop these items off!

When I spoke with Leszek just before Ukraine was invaded, he said, "...we know in times of unrest, people turn to God. We pray He will use this time for His glory and people will seek peace in Him, not political solutions."

The first Sunday after the refugees arrived, the church got the opportunity to encourage 45 refugee children who attended their Sunday School and strengthen them to trust in Jesus.

### Andrew and Anna Gorski - Evangelical Poland

ITMI's [Andrew and Anna Gorski](#) have led their church to open up their homes. They've also opened their own home for refugees. One family already passed through, headed for another country.

Recognizing that the refugee situation is ripe for human traffickers to pick off the vulnerable, Andrew is working to set up a small call center that will be manned by Ukrainians who will serve callers by answering questions, directing them to resources and pointing them to Jesus by praying for them and directing them to local churches.

Andrew is working with officials - who say there are 6,000 refugees staying at a convention



Leszek's church welcomed the opportunity to minister to 45 Ukrainian refugee children on a Sunday morning!



Piotr and Krystyna minister to the orphans and their guardians.



Officials say there are 6,000 refugees in a convention center in Warsaw.



76 of the 168 Ukrainian refugees ITMI supporters helped Andrew Gorski transport from the convention center to the open arms of churches in Switzerland.



Scan here to help Ukrainian refugees alongside ITMI partners



# From the Director



**DEAR TEAM: We can't help them all, but we can surely make a big difference!**

Many of you will remember this heartwarming story.

A somewhat cynical person observes a young boy as he frantically rescues as many of the thousands and thousands of starfish that were stranded on the wet sandy beach as the morning tide escaped.

Seeing the starfish beached and drying out in the morning sun, the little boy tried his best to carry as many of the starfish back into the lapping water as was possible. The observer's lone comment to the harried boy was that he wasn't making much of a difference because the starfish were so numerous. The story continues as the little boy looked down at the starfish in his hands and remarked that what he was doing was going to make a big difference to at least this one.

As of the middle of March, BBC in London reported that 3.2 million people now are labeled refugees from Ukraine. Many of them are the elderly, women, and children. There are an estimated 1.85 million internally displaced people inside Ukraine.

The immediate needs to help this many people are almost incalculable. This need is only exceeded by the amount of heartbreak and fear that has also moved slowly, clandestinely, hovering over these precious souls that just want to be safe and free from the impending chaos and abuse.

We clearly are not able to help all of them. But together, we can sure make a big difference in the lives of the ones that God brings into our lives.

Many of our dear supporters will never be on the frontlines as are our Polish and Romanian partners are, but none-the-less are an equal part of making a big difference to many, many wounded and emotionally broken people that God has specifically directed to our partners and their teams who will show and speak the love and hope of our Heavenly Father.

A Polish pastor who listens to our partner Piotr Zaremba's Sunday messages online, and who's church swelled three times larger to 30 people due to the influx of the Ukrainian refugees, said that he believed that God had sent the "Ukrainian missionaries" to come and minister to the Polish." God knows that over 95% of the Poles profess to be Catholic, yet struggle deeply with their spiritual journey and themselves live in a mind numbing hopelessness. Imagine seeing Ukrainians in your country, who have lost everything, and yet who know and trust the Lord and His sovereignty over their lives and journeys, singing praise to the Lord for His provision. It has to deeply impact the hopeless of their host country's lost yet seemingly comfortable souls.

Please understand that this devastation we're experiencing is not what we would call a sprint, it most assuredly will be more of a marathon, before any form of normalcy is experienced by not only the refugees, but by all of us who have been blessed and called to help those in need, especially those called widows and orphans. May we, as Paul wrote to the Galatians, "not become weary in doing good." May we not let our human, earthly eyes guide the extent of our efforts to help offer God's love. May we see and understand as God sees and understands what He is doing in allowing these people to be thrown into such need and stripped of any personal capabilities to care for themselves. May we prayerfully seek to be even more obedient in being God's hands and feet. May we rest in our Father's ability to supply all our needs, according to His riches in glory.

Thank you for rolling up your sleeves and making a big, big difference in the ones we have touched and the ones that we will touch as God leads us.

In His Service,



**Ukrainian refugees waiting to enter Romania.** (Photo by Adi Ban)



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center in Warsaw - to get these refugees into the hands of God's people in Europe. With help from ITMI supporters, Andrew was able to pay for 168 of those refugees to take 3 buses to Switzerland, where he's worked with sister churches full of believers eager to host Ukrainian refugees and share the love of Jesus.

Getting refugees out of the conference center and into homes and churches where believers can care for them would be Kingdom advancing, not to mention a

welcome relief for these exhausted and traumatized families.

"Our hearts are full and yours should be as well, because not only they will find a safe place, but also some of them will experience God's Church at its very best, and will hopefully come to know Jesus personally!" writes Andrew.

At press time, Andrew planned to help another 200 refugees reach churches in Sweden. "If we had more funds, we could send more," he said.

Thank you for your support of ITMI and our partners in Eastern Europe. "Our donors have been so generous," ITMI Director, [Steve Evers](#), commented, "We're going to be able to make a big impact!"

For that, you're heroes. Heroes that are rising up at "such a time as this" to shine brightly for Jesus, slicing through and chasing away the darkness that threatens to close in on many as they flee Ukraine.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

# UKRAINE NEWS

YOUR IMPACT. ALL IN ONE PLACE.



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[intouchmission.org/ukrainenews](https://intouchmission.org/ukrainenews)

Updated almost daily, this is where you can find the latest developments on the impact ITMI supporters are making in Eastern Europe!

## FOR PRAISE

1. Eastern Europe - ITMI partners ready and able to serve Jesus during the crisis in Ukraine and the provision of resources for their efforts.
2. India - Paul and Molly - Continued opportunities to share truth with their community through Project Joseph.
3. Pakistan - Steve Evers - Abid continuing to minister as ITMI seeks to help him on a full time basis.

## FOR PRAYER

1. Pakistan - Steve Evers - Abid holding discipleship sessions and teaching SALT material.
2. Ukraine - Protection and wisdom for believers in eastern Ukraine amid rising political and military tension.
3. Zambia - Spring of Love/ECA - Provision for onsite teacher's housing.
4. Romania - Casa Dorca Children's Home - Provision for remodeling needs before upcoming inspections.
5. South Africa - Justice for Thuto, a boy from Stone Hill who was wrongfully arrested.
6. USA - Wisdom and provision as ITMI seeks to be faithful and sensitive during these difficult times.



PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 968-4100 (888) 918-4100  
[intouchmission@intouchmission.org](mailto:intouchmission@intouchmission.org) | [fb.com/intouchmission](https://fb.com/intouchmission)  
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