

09. 2024

Canadian Connection

SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION CANADA

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**Supporting
Ukraine**

Dear friends,

Summer is often a time of renewal and relaxation in our culture. Within the Slavic world this is always a time for spiritual sowing and reaping through camp and family ministry. These are opportunities to bring people away to a different context for reflection on God's purpose of life and His provision of New Life, through Jesus Christ, which lasts for all of eternity.

Read these articles, be inspired, and encouraged to consider God's plan for your life. For each one of us the journey is somewhat different, yet the eternal destiny is the same for all of us to consider. For many in the countries where we assist the local church the Gospel is shared each week, but summer is the time when young people and children have a special focus. The plan is to see **over 77,000** attend some type of a camp experience. Thank you for making this happen as you partner with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Sull". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

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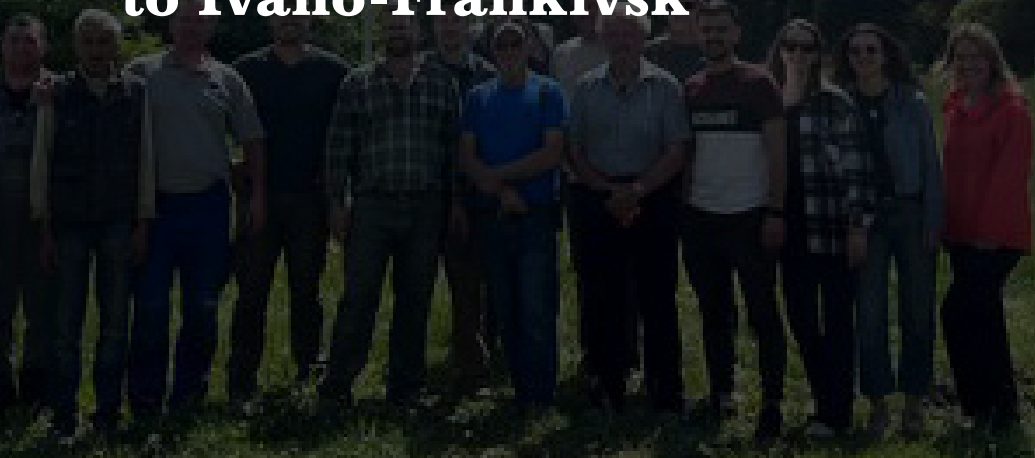
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Building Hope

**A Canadian Team's Mission
to Ivano-Frankivsk**



From May 17 – 31, 2024 a six-member team from Mount Forest & Cambridge, Ontario traveled to Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine to erect a two-story building. This group consisted of men ranging in ages 18 – 86. These guys were welcomed with open arms and ready to work.

While the war rages on in the east many have been displaced to the west. This property in the Carpathian Mountain range is a camp that provides refuge and relief to children and adults. Summer programs fill this facility to capacity. There are countless opportunities to share the Gospel.

We have had the privilege to support this region for a long time and appreciate the commitment of each local church led by faithful pastors. Projects like this further the deep relationships and more are planning to return, bringing others to assist. If you are interested in joining a team please contact our office for further information.



06 / Prayers

We need your prayers

As supporters and friends of SGA Canada, your prayers are a cornerstone of our ministry that nurture the soil in which our initiatives grow and flourish. In a world filled with challenges and needs, your intercession is a powerful force that propels our mission forward, allowing us to reach the forgotten, share the Gospel across Slavic countries, and demonstrate Christ's love in tangible ways.

As you come before the Lord, we humbly ask for your prayers on these key areas. Through God's grace and your faithful support, we can make a profound difference in the lives of many.



CONFLICT ZONES

Pray for lasting peace, the safety of displaced families, and the strength for all working to bring relief and hope in the midst of conflict.

GUIDANCE FOR LEADERS

Pray for wisdom and discernment for SGA's leaders as they steer ministry efforts and outreach initiatives.

MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS

Ask for God's favour on SGA's diverse ministries, that they may profoundly impact lives and spread hope where it's needed most.

CONTINUED SUPPORT

Pray for the ongoing generosity of donors, ensuring that SGA's mission can grow and make a lasting difference.

Rev. Nazarkin Update from Volgograd region Russia

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! We're excited to resume our construction project and build the house façade, and we deeply value your prayers. Our Alfa course has concluded with a countryside visit that helped us forge stronger connections with new members. A new home Bible study group has begun, welcoming newcomers weekly as we explore Scripture together, hopeful for their spiritual growth.

Our coaching ministry is thriving, with all ages participating in the study of Samuel and Kings. We're gearing up for a retreat to plan the next study phase and enhance our learning experience. Sunday School is expanding with a new group starting soon, and our young people are actively engaging with the elderly, offering support and planning summer camps. Our media ministry is also growing, providing online services for those unable to attend in person. We're working on improving our video and sound quality, and a mixer would greatly help. Please keep our son Mark in your prayers, that his heart may open to the Lord. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

— Rev. Nazarkin

Mikhail Bychko

Update from Minsk region Russia

Dear brothers and sisters, peace be with you! I always thank God for you and wish you His blessings in all you do. Summer is busy with chores and vacations, and we're currently improving the area around the church. We're preparing the sidewalk for new tiles, with all the work being done by our own hands.

Our church services continue as usual, and in August, we plan to hold a baptism at the Neman River. In June, we blessed Paul and Vera as they began their new life together, and Emma and Leo are set to marry in August. We hope to use this occasion to witness to unbelieving friends and family.

I visit elderly individuals over 90 years old each month, both believers and non-believers. Please pray for the successful completion of our church improvements, the new family of Paul and Vera, Emma and Leo's upcoming marriage, and for the people I evangelize. May God's blessings be with you all in your work.

Blessings,
— Mikhael Bychko



Anatoliy Ponomarev

Missionary report

Dear brothers and sisters!

Thank you so much for your support, prayers and generosity! May God richly bless you!

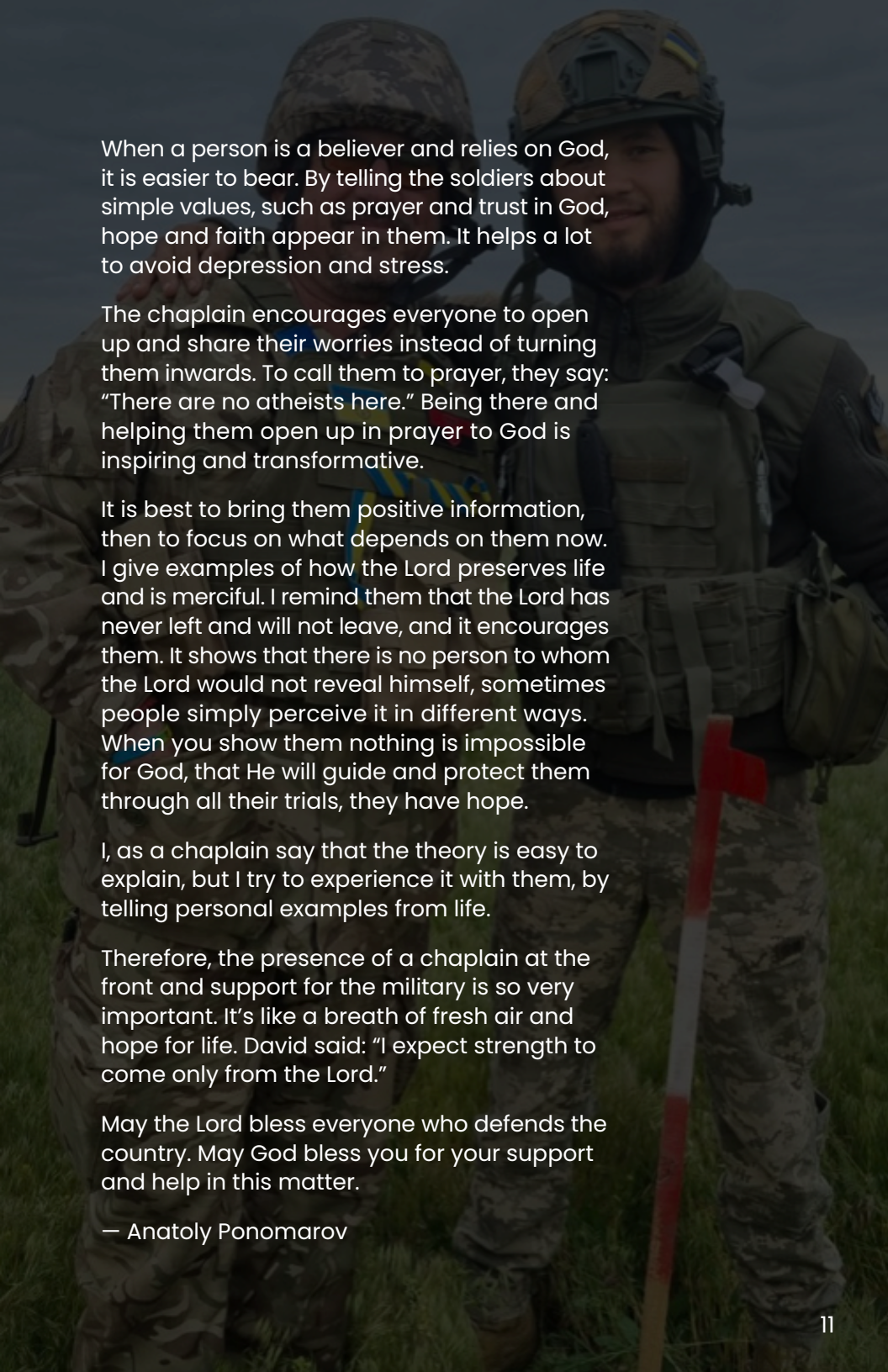
War is a great and terrible test for both civilians and soldiers. For those who defend our country, it is much more difficult, because every soldier feels fear, anxiety, worry, despair, panic, anger, irritation, and guilt. These feelings may not show from the outside, but they eat away at a person from the inside. It is exhausting. When a soldier sees the death of a comrade, the tension rises and thoughts arise that his life may also end in this way.



There is little joy in war and most of the soldiers close in on themselves, trying to overcome internal tension. When the earth loses stability and you realize that you are powerless to change anything, every minute could be your last, and you cling to any hope.

When a military chaplain arrives, our defenders see hope, God's presence, and a guarantee of safety. Being a person of faith, we know where to draw strength from, but still, worries and fear do not leave us.



A photograph of two soldiers in camouflage uniforms and helmets, standing in a field. The soldier on the right is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green grass and a hazy sky.

When a person is a believer and relies on God, it is easier to bear. By telling the soldiers about simple values, such as prayer and trust in God, hope and faith appear in them. It helps a lot to avoid depression and stress.

The chaplain encourages everyone to open up and share their worries instead of turning them inwards. To call them to prayer, they say: "There are no atheists here." Being there and helping them open up in prayer to God is inspiring and transformative.

It is best to bring them positive information, then to focus on what depends on them now. I give examples of how the Lord preserves life and is merciful. I remind them that the Lord has never left and will not leave, and it encourages them. It shows that there is no person to whom the Lord would not reveal himself, sometimes people simply perceive it in different ways. When you show them nothing is impossible for God, that He will guide and protect them through all their trials, they have hope.

I, as a chaplain say that the theory is easy to explain, but I try to experience it with them, by telling personal examples from life.

Therefore, the presence of a chaplain at the front and support for the military is so very important. It's like a breath of fresh air and hope for life. David said: "I expect strength to come only from the Lord."

May the Lord bless everyone who defends the country. May God bless you for your support and help in this matter.

— Anatoly Ponomarov



Canadian Connection is published to report religious news about ministry work that is being done in Slavic countries and to highlight the efforts of Slavic Gospel Association Canada.

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