



# Plain Compassion Crisis Response

bringing hope into disaster



But You have seen,  
for You observe trouble and grief,  
To repay it by Your hand.  
The helpless commits himself to You;  
You are the **helper** of  
the **fatherless**.

Psalm 10:14



June 2022

# Newsletter

## a message from the CEO

by Merv King

Greetings to all of you in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. The name that is above all other names. The name at which every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Many things have taken place at Plain Compassion since the last newsletter went out. The training program that launched last summer has been a huge success in bringing volunteers together as a team and having them work together to do more than any individual could by themselves. Our first training was held in August 2021 with seven trainees.

A few months later, two volunteers out of that team led a response team in Sumas, WA to help with flood recovery efforts. Before that mission was completed, the deadliest late-season tornado on record tore through the Southern states and parts of the Ohio Valley, affecting Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri, and Illinois. We were able to respond within 24 hours and set up base in Murray, Kentucky. People came from far and wide to serve others they didn't know, out of a compassion that we all understand. So many volunteers responded that it forced us to scale up quickly to organize the effort. Many times, we made mistakes, but in the end the mission was accomplished. Volunteers were gracious as we went through the learning curve and many valuable lessons were learned, which we hope to implement in future responses.

On the morning of February 24th, we found out that Russia had invaded Ukraine. After a lengthy meeting and ensuring the relief efforts in Kentucky were running smoothly, we felt clear

Ukraine Pg. 2

Kentucky Pg. 3

Continued on next page



to respond immediately. By that evening, three of our trainees were on a flight to Budapest, Hungary. From there, they worked their way to the Ukrainian border and started assessing needs and making contacts. The way that people came together to form the team that is currently serving there is nothing short of God's provision.

The project in Ukraine has consisted of evacuating refugees fleeing their homes, as well as those injured and needing medical attention. Humanitarian aid such as food and medical supplies have been a huge part of the relief efforts as well. The team is providing the logistics to get the supplies from the borders to where it is most needed across the country. Please pray for the team as God brings it to mind. They are resilient, but not without challenges. They've experienced things that most of us will never see in our lifetimes. On the other hand,

they've also seen God provide a way when there was no other way. Individuals "showing up" and giving directions as they navigate checkpoints, and providing vehicles to get our vans unstuck while we were providing evacuations behind enemy lines...

The amount of prayer and financial support that you all have shown is so amazing! A heartfelt thank you to all for your support, we couldn't have done it without you all! I leave you all with a few verses out of Numbers 6.

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn His face towards you  
and give you peace.

~Merv King, Director



# Ukraine

Evacuation and Humanitarian Aid

One of the most important things we do in Ukraine is take loads of food and other humanitarian supplies to organizations reaching the individual citizens. Our average load is two thousand pounds.

We have partnered with and are supplying twenty-five different groups. These groups are churches, Ukrainian individuals, emergency services, nursing

homes, military units, IDP shelters, and hospitals.

Most of these groups are the ones that do the final distribution of the products, but some are the actual end consumer. To date, we have moved 680,000 pounds of food and supplies and evacuated 638 people.

During this last month, we have been focusing on



moving supplies to the churches and villages in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine. The Donbas region, out of all the contested areas in Ukraine, is where the Russian military is pushing the hardest.

Many of the churches we supply with food and hygiene supplies are feeding hundreds of displaced people or taking the product out to the towns and villages closer to where the fighting is.

Many of the people still living in these places don't have anywhere else to go. The people lost their jobs

because of the war, and all the stores closed, so they are dependent on their little farms, gardens, and people who come alongside and assist them.

We also take pastors along to these places, and we see people committing their lives to Jesus Christ, and lives being impacted. In many of these places, we receive an extra warm welcome. They live lonely lives with bombs falling around them, and it's healing to have people show up with love, encouragement, and a gospel message of hope.

**by Daniel Beiler**

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## From a Team Member

It's difficult to describe the experience that I had in Ukraine. How do I accurately convey the sense of desperation and hopelessness that I see in the eyes of the people as we pass food and meds out to them? The fact that the suffering will continue without an end in sight is more than I can imagine. At least I get to go back. The base is safe... comparatively, yes. Most of these people stay.

I'll never forget the things I saw and heard. The first time in a bunker. Stepping down into the stale basement air, heavy with depression and despair, to discover that there are people who live their life down in the dimly-lit spaces. At home, I wouldn't put an animal into a space like this, much less people. Yet they live here, the older generation that didn't (or couldn't) leave. Many of their friends and family are dead, most of them are gone, fleeing the war and left them behind. They are so grateful and I can easily tell our coming means a lot.

And how do I explain the surreal fearlessness that I experienced? There were missiles being shot back and forth over our heads. Boom! 15... 20... 30 seconds later the sickening sound of the explosion. Somewhere else, probably not more than a mile or two away. Having guns casually leveled at us during a military check. I suppose that was just in case they discover Russian spies. Some of the teams experienced much worse than that. Am I stupid for putting myself here? I remember thinking it's odd that I'm not scared. But the sense of God's protection was stronger.

Every time that I was on a trip to another isolated village, I was acutely aware that there are people praying for us and the people we encounter. Your prayers are felt and they mean so much at times like that. Keep praying.

I had to ask myself: Why am I here? The answer is God. He wants to reach His children here. He hears their cries for help. He put the desire into my heart to go and wouldn't let it rest until I was there.



We all had to move from different occupied areas in Zaporizhzhya oblast. We had had medical issues and no money for food, living expenses and medication. We also didn't have anyone we could depend on. Thanks to your organization we got some basic medication for blood pressure and diabetes. May God keep you well.

-Anonymous

I hope I was an encouragement to these folks, and that the supplies we brought in meant more than simply food and meds to ease their existence. I hope that through this, they can see the Father's love for them and connect to His heart. Do we always see the impact of what we bring? No... sometimes, we don't. Then, we trust that God will work where we can't see it. Someday we'll know.



## You can help us help **Ukraine**

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have moved over 680,000 lbs of food from warehouses to front line areas and shelters, as well as evacuating 638 people from difficult situations.

Now, we need your help to be able to respond to the pleas for help coming from isolated Ukrainian villages.



### Food

- \$28** = food for **5 people**
- \$140** = food for **25 people**
- \$550** = food for **100 people**

These amounts enable us to provide that many people with food and medicine for a week or more.

#### Ways to donate:

**Card:** Visit our website:  
[www.plaincompassion.org](http://www.plaincompassion.org)  
OR: scan the QR code to the left.

**Check:** Make the check payable to:  
**Plain Compassion Crisis Response**  
Write Ukraine on the memo and mail to:  
PO Box 356 - Honeybrook, PA 19344



Scan to donate



### Evacuations

**\$23** will allow us to evacuate one person to a safe place.



# Kentucky

*Organizing a storm cleanup effort*

**by Liz Lapp**

December 10, 2021, lives in Mayfield, Kentucky, and surrounding areas were changed forever. Devastating tornados wreaked havoc across a 165 mile track, claiming the lives of dozens of people and injuring 100s of others. Within thirty-six hours, we had teams on the ground, looking how best to help. Within days, we were managing hundreds of volunteers who came to help cleanup. We worked quickly to develop systems to track and manage all of the volunteers and resources we were blessed with.

Our volunteers spent long days cleaning up trees and debris and serving many communities. We also sent volunteers with Blessings of Hope to manage the flood of donations that poured into the Mayfield fairgrounds. Truckloads of water, clothing, tools, food, and household goods sent with love from all over the US.

Around the third week of January, our cleanup commitments were complete, but we have continued sending volunteers to the fairgrounds. Every day we are at the fairgrounds working with the local community to sort through all the donations and get them into the hands of the people who need it the most.

We have been so blessed to be here, assisting in whatever ways God leads, coming alongside local leaders, empowering them to serve their communities. Thank you to every single person who volunteered, those who prayed, those who donated finances, and those who supported us in whatever way they could. We would not have been able to reach so many people without your support.





*Ukraine: On the road to the next distribution*

# Plain Compassion Crisis Response

PO Box 356

Honey Brook, PA 19344



# Fall Awareness Event

September  
**23-24**



More info at:  
[www.plaincompassion.org/events](http://www.plaincompassion.org/events)  
Location:  
215 South Shirk Road, New Holland, PA 17557



*Food & fun for the whole family!*