



Plain Compassion Crisis Response

bringing hope into disaster

3rd quarterly Newsletter



And the

peace of God

which transcends all understanding,
will **guard your hearts**
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

summer in review

We've had a busy summer, with two outreaches in the US and the ongoing work in Ukraine. The work in southeastern Kentucky ended after seven weeks of helping the people affected by the flooding. We had a team on the ground when Hurricane Ian hit the western shores of Florida. Miraculously, the hurricane didn't cause nearly as much harm as expected. There was extensive damage in several oceanfront communities and we partnered with Cajun Navy to help organize the volunteer efforts. The team in Ukraine has been doing an amazing job with delivering food and supplies to the communities that have recently been liberated and other areas that need help. Keep

praying for their safety as they carry out the work on the frontlines. Your prayers and support make a huge difference.

Thank you to all who have supported us financially, by volunteering or praying. We are honored to partner with you to bring hope, resources and leadership into desperate situations.

*from the
PCCR Staff*

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Why are we in Ukraine

by Daniel Beiler

Our mission is to train and equip teams to bring hope, resources, and leadership to humanitarian disasters around the world.

~PCCR Mission Statement

The world around us is broken. Currently, there is military conflict in 27 countries across the globe. In many war zones, the Christians leave, and the military moves in. Then, the military tries to settle the issues with bombs, bullets, and violence, which never seems to solve the problem.

Has the church been functioning in her calling? Is the bride of Christ operating in godly authority, as a son of God, a daughter of the King? Are we secure in our identity in Him, filled with love, joy, purpose, passion, and life?

It is from this position that we can deal with the problems of this world as outlined in Ephesians 6:12: ***“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”***

Together, through prayer, worship, intercession, and spiritual warfare we would take out these principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness. It is these beings that are causing the craziness in the world around us.

We believe that as the body of Christ, some of us are called to go into these areas of chaos, disaster, and war. As a couple, my wife and I have decided that we are going into these places and bring the presence of God with us. We decided to trust God to protect us. In the last number of years we have lived in two countries that were at war and have worked in three.

We believe we have an assignment to get in the middle of the chaos, danger, and craziness to bring God’s order and peace. We had the opportunity to minister on military bases in Iraq, where the commanders and soldiers were Muslims, ministered to soldiers fighting on the front lines of battle, and preached to people living in underground bomb shelters as the bombs exploded around us. We have seen people accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives. The light and presence of Jesus in a dark, desperate and violent place is a sight to behold.

In Ukraine, it is our desire to support and empower the local churches to help the Ukrainian people.



Eighty percent of the work we do is sending aid and support directly to Ukrainian churches and organizations. The remaining twenty percent of the work is the actual distribution to the people and holding church services with a Ukrainian chaplain who works with us. We evacuate people from areas of military conflict and provide food, hygiene supplies, blankets, medicine, Bibles, gospel messages, prayer, and love to the people in eastern Ukraine. With the team, we moved 1,400,000 pounds of food in Ukraine since March of this year, all of which has been generously provided by Christian Aid Ministries, Samaritans Purse, and Master's International Ministries - MIM.

God has been faithful and we are grateful for the outpouring of prayer, finances, and support of the project in Ukraine. Thank you!



...I was hungry and you fed me...
in as much as you did it to one of the least of these
my brethren, **you did it to me.**

Matthew 25:35, 40

What we are doing:

To date, we have moved over 1,400,000 lbs of food from warehouses to front line areas and shelters, as well as evacuating 737 people from difficult situations. This would have been impossible without the generous support of the people who have donated to the work in Ukraine and various organizations that we partner with. With winter approaching, we are also focused on helping the most needy regions with heating options and blankets.



Food

- \$21** = food for **5 people**
- \$103** = food for **25 people**
- \$410** = food for **100 people**

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

Evacuations

\$15 will allow us to **evacuate one person** to a safe place.



How can I help?

Ways to donate:

Card: Visit our website:
www.plaincompassion.org
OR: scan the QR code to the right.

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





SE Kentucky

flood cleanup in the mountains

by **Mervin Beiler**

On the evening of July 27th and into July 28th, south-eastern KY experienced record flooding. The area experienced between 7-14 inches of rain, and smaller backyard creeks and streams rose 10-15 feet overnight while people were sleeping. We heard many stories of narrow escapes from people fleeing the flood waters.

One couple woke up to find water in their bedroom. By the time they were aware of it, they could no longer escape. They had to stand on objects in their home as the water rose higher and higher. The water came within 18 inches of the ceiling and then stopped rising. They were standing in water up to their necks, not knowing if any second would be their last moment on earth.

Southeastern KY is a rugged, mountainous region; consisting of mountains and hollers, as the locals call them. A holler is a valley in the mountains that has a creek, a road leading in, houses and is enclosed with mountains on each side. It is a very rural, low income, poverty-stricken area, and a large majority of these homeowners do not have flood insurance.

The flood impacted 14 counties with 6 counties being

hit the hardest. FEMA received over 14,000 requests for assistance. This means that there were over 14,000 homes damaged or destroyed. We saw people living in waterlogged homes for up to two weeks after the flooding occurred. Other families were living in tents next to their damaged or destroyed homes until they figured out what to do next.

We had a team on the ground to help with the flood cleanup for almost seven weeks. A number of volunteers came and helped the homeowners clean out their houses. In some cases, the mud was 6-12 inches deep in the basement. A few homes also had several inches of mud on the main floor. In addition, we cleaned out culverts, creeks, driveways and yards. The force of the water washed debris and mud everywhere in its path, bent trailer frames around trees, and washed homes down the creek. The homeowners deeply appreciated what we were able to do for them.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this response by prayer, financial support, or volunteering.



joint food distribution by partner organization *Blessings of Hope*



Hurricane Ian

rescue operations and leadership support

by Mervin Beiler

Hurricane Ian made landfall on September 28th as a category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of approximately 150 mph. It did a lot of damage in Fort Meyers and some of the surrounding ocean front communities.

After touching land, the storm lost a lot of strength, so most of the damage was right on the ocean front and only a few miles inland. The majority of the damage was from either the high winds or the storm surge that came

in. Overall, the storm damage was a lot more localized than original forecast predictions were showing.

Our first response team spent the first few days helping another organization called the Cajun Navy with rescue missions. The rescue missions included helping people get out of houses that still had some standing water, but our main job was making sure that people were ok, and that they had food and water. A lot of people lost their cars and so had no way of getting anywhere to get any supplies.

After the initial response, we transitioned

into providing leadership support for the same organization at a distribution site, which provided meals, food, water, and hygiene products. We operated the distribution site for approximately 10 days and handed out much needed food and supplies for thousands of people affected by the storm.

The last few days on the ground were spent handing off the leadership responsibilities we carried to others that will continue to lead.

Thank you all for your prayer support and for contributing in any way you did! The people affected by the storm were very grateful for the vital supplies and support they received, and the Cajun Navy ground force really appreciated the leadership support we were able to provide.



One of the Safe Camps set up for distribution



Colombia

closing comments

by **Daniel Beiler**

In 2019, we started working with the Venezuelan refugees in Colombia. Since then we have been assisting these Venezuelans and the most needy Colombians by providing food, water, medicine, Gospel literature, discipleship, children's programs, and hope. We were blessed to witness numerous people accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Over time we felt there was a shift from people needing aid to needing discipleship. We gradually closed the aid part of the work and focused more on discipleship. Since then, the decision has been made to close the project while some of the long term staff continues to develop relationships with some of the key church leaders in the

area. They will do this from the U.S. with occasional trips to Colombia.

We thank the staff and volunteers that poured their hearts and time into this work. We also thank the donors and prayer supporters for their contributions and for making this project possible.



Fall Awareness Event



Photos

Thank you to all who came out, volunteered or otherwise supported the Fall Awareness Event! It turned out to be a fun time of bringing community and missions together, with activities, great food and fellowship. We had fine weather and an amazing turnout of people showing up.

Thanks to all the generous donations, we're able to fully equip the trailer with the necessary tools for deployment! We're hoping to see you again and are working to improve and grow the event for the next year.





Office News

introducing new staff members

by Thea Gorber

Due to the growth we experienced this year, we added several staff members to help us with key responsibilities. Mervin Beiler is taking the lead on all US projects and developing the US Response project. He brings experience, leadership skills and passion for the project. Kendall Nolt is the International Response Director, taking charge of monitoring and responding to disasters outside of our borders. Dorcas Kauffman has been our photographer in Ukraine since April and now handles our social media presence. We're excited to have her and the skill and expertise she brings! Emma Yoder stepped in to help with data entry. She's been a blessing, freeing the rest of the staff up to do other things.



Kendall Nolt ~ International Response Director

Hi! I'm from Charles City, Iowa, I grew up on a dairy farm with 7 sisters and one brother. I'm a firefighter/EMT and love serving my community on two fire departments. The reason why I am serving with Plain Compassion is simple: I see it as an opportunity to do the things I'm passionate about at a global level instead of just within the local community. To serve God, to reach out to these people in their worst moments and to put my skills to use here, it's the best! I am excited for whatever is next and can't wait to see where God wants to take me!



Mervin Beiler ~ U.S. Response Director

Lydia Ann and I have been married since 2012 and we have 5 amazing children. We live in Shanks WV area since 2017. We also serve with Light of Hope Ministries. We are passionate about training people to thrive in the Kingdom of God! I had a dream ever since I was a young boy to serve in the middle of a disaster or crisis and to bring order to the chaos which tends to follow a crisis situation. And PCCR is a platform that empowers us to fulfill this dream we have as a couple.



Dorcas Kauffman ~ Social Media Manager

I was born in western Maryland. When I was six, my family moved to a farm in Michigan where Dad worked at a boy's home as counselor. After five years, we returned to Maryland and started a family business raising Golden Retrievers and Golden Doodles. I currently live in West Virginia, where I started a photography business with my sister. I love traveling the world and serving the Lord where ever he leads me. Photography is a passion of mine and was thrilled to use it on the frontlines lines of Ukraine war!



Emma Yoder ~ Data Entry Assistant

I was born in New York and moved to Pennsylvania with my family when I was 10. When I turned 18, I spent a year in West Virginia at Haven of Hope. During that time, I developed a real relationship with God, made friends for life and got a vision for moving forward. I am passionate about helping people to get to know God in a deeper way and living in their calling!



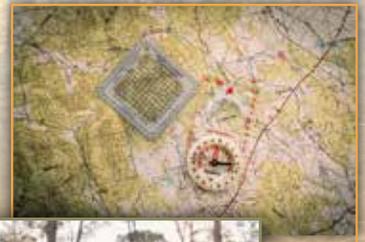
Ukraine: Smoke from missile hit

Plain Compassion Crisis Response
PO Box 356
Honey Brook, PA 19344

September/October

First Response Training

Twelve trainees went through the September/October training and graduated on October 6th. Four of them will deploy to Ukraine within the next few weeks. We're excited to be adding the new leaders to our team and look forward to working alongside them on the field. The next training will be in the beginning of next year, the exact dates have not been set yet. If you are interested, scan the code below to receive an email when sign-up opens. We'd be excited to have you there!



Scan the code
to be notified
of the next
training!

