



# Plain Compassion Crisis Response

1 - 2024 | *a helping hand in time of need*



Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to

*dwell together*  
in unity.  
Psalm 113:1

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from the director's desk

### Dear reader,

In this edition you'll get a glimpse into the work and vision of Chaplain Leonid and his ministry we partnered with in Ukraine. Chaplain Leonid has been faithful to God's call on his life to bring the Gospel to his people in Ukraine. Our relationship was brought about by the providence of God and has been a huge reason why we were able to reach the most vulnerable in the front lines. We've been able to help address the initial need on the front lines and now we want to empower Leonid to continue the work of bringing the gospel to his people. Pastor Leonid has a great vision for his people in Ukraine. I hope you read his story of the work that has been

done and how he hopes to help his people far into the future. If you choose to partner with him, please understand that his ministry is separate from PCCR and all money goes directly to him.

In other news, we've been blessed to have Arthur Jones and John "JJ" Heinzl take on the role of International Field Director. The experience they gained from the work in Ukraine and Morocco will be valuable for them when leading out in future projects for us. Pray for them in this new endeavor.

As always, we couldn't do this work without you, our faithful supporters. Thank you so much for your support and may God continue His work in all of us!

*Merv King*





# UKRAINE

## Chaplain Leonid

*One of the most pivotal figures in our work in the Ukraine project is a pastor named Leonid. Working and collaborating with him has been integral to the success of the project. Due to his ranking and military connections we were granted access to areas on the front line that typical humanitarian aid volunteers and organizations would not have been permitted. I also strongly believe God put a special blessing on the project particularly due to the amount of souls that heard the good news of Jesus preached by pastor Leonid during the hundreds of aid distribution and evacuation missions we ran along the full length of the frontline.*

*Rarely have I seen someone more passionate and devoted to bringing the gospel to his people and to provide for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Our team has had the privilege of working very closely with him for almost two years, through thick and thin, sunshine and rains of rocket missiles and mortars. He has been a great inspiration as a man who walks by faith and I believe the eternal impact of his past and future work is so great that it is hard to fully comprehend or at least, describe...*

*He is a man of great vision, and we would like to continue to find ways to support his work for God's kingdom.*

*I asked Leonid to share his story and some of that vision for you, dear readers.*

*~Arthur Jones*

International Response Director



## Chaplain Leonid's Story

"My name is Leonid. I am a pastor, missionary, and chaplain. I live in the city of Dnipro, in Ukraine. In 2006, I first came to church and heard the news about salvation, about the forgiveness of my sins, and what Jesus accomplished for me on the cross. Through the word of God, I received salvation from my sins. This news deeply touched my heart, and I wanted to dedicate my life to ensure that as many people as possible learned about what Christ did for all humanity and how he changed me. Because I saw that there were many people like I used to be, dependent on alcohol, gambling, drugs... So after some time, I entered missionary school with my wife and son. And while studying in school, the Lord blessed us with another child, a daughter. Since then, from 2011, we started traveling to different cities in Ukraine, and even served as missionaries in Belarus, preaching the Gospel and conveying God's love to them. Through our ministry, many people turned to faith and believed in the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. When we were serving in the city of Lviv we started a new church there in 2014, the Lord blessed us with another daughter, and our family grew to five.

In 2021, just before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, we moved to Dnipro, where we began missionary work in this city.

In February 2022, I was invited to Israel for a forum of Christian leaders. There I heard the news that the war had begun on February 24th. Thanks to our brothers and sisters from other cities in Ukraine, the evacuation of my family from the city of Dnipro was organized. A shelter for believers was organized in the west of the country.

While I was still in Israel, various thoughts came to my mind: Where I should be? What should I be doing, how could I be useful in such a difficult time for Ukraine? Praying to the Lord, He gave me a clear understanding that I needed to return to Ukraine, as the Lord wanted to comfort Ukrainians with His word. When I returned, for some time while being in the West of our country, I asked the Lord what I should do, where He wanted to see me. Then He clearly showed me His heart, He said, "I called you to preach the Gospel in Dnipro, why are you here? Go back to the East, that's where you belong." Then the Lord gave me faith that if He calls me, then He has prepared everything necessary for my

ministry. With such faith, I went to Dnipro, and the Lord began to work miraculously. Literally within a few days, the Lord gave me a chance to meet the volunteers from the organization PCCR. We connected immediately and soon our cooperation began.

The Lord sent us to various dangerous places to preach the Gospel and provide humanitarian aid in Eastern Ukraine. Often we had to preach to people not knowing if we would see them tomorrow. When people were evacuated from hot spots, the Lord gave us the opportunity to convey God's love and pray for their safety along the way. Often we drove into very dangerous places under fire. And although it was scary, because munitions were exploding even just tens of meters from our cars, but the Lord gave us His protection and faith that He would surely protect us, because we were bringing the truth of the Gospel to the people.

It's been almost two years since we visited the East almost every day and helped people. Seeing that the needs of the people did not decrease but rather increased, I began to ask the Lord what I should do now. Because besides the fact that there is a great need for people in the East, I saw that in the city of Dnipro there is a very large influx of people who have moved from the combat zone and now need both material and psychological and spiritual support. Therefore, praying to the Lord, with faith in that it is His will, we began to look for a place so that we would have a dedicated space to provide support for those who need it. In my heart, the Lord showed what He wants to accomplish through us for those people who live here.

### *Here is the vision I have for the property:*

- *To have a large hall for worship services, so that many people can hear the news of salvation.*
- *Receive refugees, provide them with humanitarian and spiritual assistance.*
- *Hold biblical seminars/classes and studies.*
- *Start a kid's ministry by organizing children's camps, sharing faith with children, and supporting their psychological state, as many children lost their parents in the war and have gone through much trauma.*
- *Start a ministry to tend to elderly people, many whom have been abandoned by relatives or have no one.*



- Drug and alcohol addict rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation for soldiers. We saw that there is a great need in this area. Many of them received physical, psychological injuries, so it is necessary to help them undergo rehabilitation, and for this, we want to build a rehabilitation center for the military. I recently met with the director of Mechnikov Hospital in Dnipro, where I offered them assistance in transporting disabled veterans who lost limbs and cannot get to the hospital or their home on their own. Therefore, I suggested opening the "Veteran Taxi" project to deliver veterans around the city for their needs. The director was very pleased with this and said that there is a great need for this especially now, as there are more and more injured soldiers.
- To start a seminary to teach and raise up future preachers.

Therefore, with faith that it is the will of God, we began to move forward, and found a premises of 200 square meters, as well as almost an acre of surrounding land. And with God's help, through various sponsors, we have almost bought this place. It cost \$130,000, we have yet to pay \$30,000 over the next 3 months, as we agreed with the owner that when buying we pay half of the amount up front, and the remaining by installments of \$11,000 each month. I saw that the Lord loves when we take a step of faith and He opens the way to complete what He has put on my heart. I also

saw that this place is definitely prepared by the Lord, because it is located near the city centre, easy to access and has very good public transportation links. The foundation that was laid on this property 33 years ago has the capabilities of supporting many floors. So, I have a dream to expand this building to at least four-story's, to enable us to start the church and expand the ministry.

I have seen miracles many times since I received salvation, and during the war, how He saves and opens paths where it seemed impossible to pass. This also applies to my dream, which the Lord placed in my heart. I believe that He will definitely help, and will send those people who will help to implement what the Lord has conceived. Because our Lord is Almighty and He acts miraculously."

~Leonid Nomerchuck



## How you can help:

We're looking for churches and individuals who connect with the vision that Leonid has to help his war-torn and weary country. Pray that God would continue guiding his efforts and give us wisdom as we look for ways to support the work he's doing. If you'd like to help financially, scan the QR code to the right, or visit [plaincompassion.org/ukraine-chaplain-leonid](http://plaincompassion.org/ukraine-chaplain-leonid).

scan to donate ↓



\*Please be aware that his ministry is separate from PCCR and all money goes directly to him via GoFundMe. The link will redirect you to the GoFundMe page. If you'd like to mail a check, please reach out to [arthur@plaincompassion.org](mailto:arthur@plaincompassion.org) for details.



## volunteer opportunities as

# House Parents

We're looking for mature and, ideally, older couples who are interested in serving with us as house parents on our international fields. If you have a passion for missions, enjoy working with young people and are interested in deploying with us for longer periods of time (3+ months at a time), we'd love to hear from you.

Email us at [admin@plaincompassion.org](mailto:admin@plaincompassion.org) for more details.

# International Response

## DIRECTOR TEAM

Ever since Kendall Nolt stepped down from the International Director Position, we've been praying and searching for someone or a team to fill the role. The search is over!

Arthur Jones and John Heinzl have been with us as volunteers for years, both in Ukraine and Morocco. They have lots of experience, know-how and a passion for crisis response. Welcome to the team!



I've lived most of my life in Ireland, but in the past two years I have spent most of my time overseas. About fourteen months of that time was spent volunteering in Ukraine with PCCR and another mission, and then serving in Morocco for three months.

I love the work we do spreading the gospel through helping those in need, and look forward to what lies ahead!

**JJ Heinzl**



I never thought I would end up in the humanitarian crisis response field... or at least for this long. My post-university plans and dreams looked quite different. God has a unique way of showing favour

and can often steer us in a different direction for a season... a journey we could have never imagined and one that changes our lives. My journey in this field began with volunteering at a refugee camp in Greece, where I spent almost eight months leading up to the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. The need to evacuate my grandmother and my desire to help my homeland led me back to Ukraine.

After several weeks of running solo evacuations inside Ukraine, I encountered a setback due to vehicle issues, which brought my operations to a halt. The

organization PCCR (which was in the country then) was brought to my attention by some connections from Greece. I reached out, and the rest is history... It has been a remarkable journey, during which I have been amazed beyond words countless times, witnessing and experiencing God's hand at work so clearly and vividly during my time in the field. These experiences have profoundly changed my life, strengthened my faith, and, for every moment, I am grateful. God leads us through unexpected journeys and into unimaginable places to use us for His kingdom, to help, impact, and change other people's lives and, in the process, change our own lives too. When an opportunity arises in your life and you can discern it's from God, it's something that you couldn't have conjured up yourself. Talk to God, say yes, put your first step forward, and go in faith. God's with you

I look forward to seeing the incredible things God will continue to do in many different parts of the world through this organization. I'm excited to be a part of it.

Onwards and Upwards.

**Arthur Jones**





# OHIO

## Tornado Response

An EF-3 tornado touched down in Logan County, March 14th killing at least three people, and leaving many more injured.

The town lay on the edge of a lake and the tornado came barreling in from the west and tore along the beach, taking out several residential sections before smashing into an island and then continuing across the lake to wreak havoc on the other side.

Pray for the people of Indian Lake, who now face the daunting task of rebuilding their lives from the ruins of their shattered homes and communities.

In the week that PCCR was deployed in Ohio, we had 51 volunteers help us complete 13 jobs. The amount of progress that was made in the first week was significant, and I decided to conclude our response on Monday due to the large volume of volunteers in the area and the dwindling need for immediate help.

Making connections with, and getting work from homeowners didn't seem to be as straight forward this time as it has been on previous deployments,

however the people we had the privilege to work for were very appreciative for what we did. I was told multiple times by different people that the presence of volunteers and people wanting to help gave a lot of hope to those who were affected by the tornado.

*~Trevor Kilmer*

U.S. Response Director





As I was searching for job assignments for our work crews, I came across a couple parked near what appeared to be their damaged house. I approached them to offer help, but the man assured me they were fine. Curiosity led me to ask if they were home during the tornado.

The man confirmed they were in the bathroom, huddled on the floor. He recounted how he shielded his wife as the tornado tore off most of the roof. Remarkably, they escaped unharmed, with no debris hitting them. However, the tornado's force seemed to try to pull them away.

After the ordeal, the man discovered a hand print on his back. It was just the two of them in the house, and he believed it was by the grace of God that they survived. It was indeed an incredible story of survival and he attributed everything to the protection of God.

~Ron H.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



## be a part of our US Responses

Whether it's by donating or volunteering, your help truly makes all the difference in our responses. On the ground, we get to see the difference that it makes for the people and their heart-felt gratitude for the help that we've been able to give them and we'd like to pass that on to you. We wouldn't be able to do this without your support. Thank you for helping us help them!

### Ways to donate

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

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

Scan to donate



### Get notified with volunteer opportunities

Email us at [info@plaincompassion.org](mailto:info@plaincompassion.org) or visit [plaincompassion.org/first-response](http://plaincompassion.org/first-response).







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

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# Level One First Response TRAINING

We're excited to announce that the training for this fall has been scheduled. You can sign up via the link below:

[plaincompassion.org/training-program/](https://plaincompassion.org/training-program/)

For any questions, please feel free to visit our website or call us.

Scan to sign up



FALL TRAINING DATES:  
**Oct. 27 - Nov. 7**