

Plain Compassion Crisis Response

Q1 - 2025 | a helping hand in time of need



bringing
Hope
into
disaster

from the director's desk

In the season of Easter, I'm reminded of God's love that has brought about the redemption of mankind—the kind of love that transcends time and circumstance. Easter is a time of remembering and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. It is also a testament to God's redeeming love for humanity.

John writes in his gospel, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." This scripture is a message of hope in the midst of all the brokenness and uncertainty around us.

Just as Jesus offered hope and demonstrated His love to us through serving and sacrifice, we are also called to offer the hope of Christ by serving those in need, and to sacrifice our lives and

comforts so that others may live and be comforted.

May this Easter season remind us that even in the darkest moments, it is Christ's love that will prevail. As you remember and celebrate Easter, may you be reminded of God's redeeming love for mankind and demonstrate His love to those around you.

All of us here at Plain Compassion wish you a blessed Easter filled with joy and the warmth of God's love.

With gratitude,

Merv King,
Director

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - John 16:33

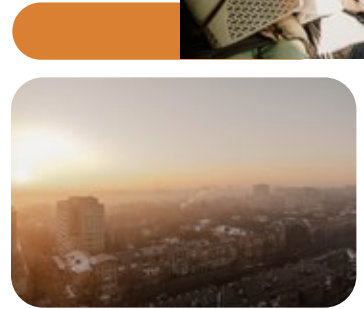
Table of Contents

- Ukraine - Pg. 2
- Lebanon - Pg. 4
- Myanmar - Pg. 5
- Thailand - Pg. 5
- South Sudan - Pg. 7
- Staff Introduction - Pg. 8





evacuations



Ukraine

UPDATE FROM THE GROUND

Requests for evacuations have steadily continued, keeping us busy near the front lines. Since the beginning of this year, our team has evacuated 302 people - with our busiest week totaling 56 people. The situations that some people are living in are unimaginable until you are here and seeing it first-hand. Constant shelling and drones flying have become part of everyday life to those still living in these front-line areas.

Each time we enter these towns, it seems there are more buildings destroyed and more roads that are impassible. Yet, over and over we have felt God's protection. On many occasions we have gotten holes in our tires from driving over debris near the front lines, but our tires stay miraculously full of air until we get back to safer areas and then they go flat. Plans often change and it seems inconvenient to us, but then we realize that God's timing and perfect plan was guiding us and protecting us all along.

Sometimes you wish that you could make everyone still in these towns come with us, knowing that their house could be the next one hit, but there are so many unknowns as

they leave everything behind. It is difficult to even imagine the thoughts that must go through their minds as they load their few possessions into our vehicle and look at their home for what might be the last time. They are often worried that if we evacuate them, they will be left with no place to go and virtually homeless. We are thankful to be able to offer our shelter as a short-term option for IDP's (internally displaced people) while more permanent homes are found. There they can have hot showers and warm, comfortable beds and rest without the nearby sound of artillery.

In the midst of the destruction and suffering that we often see, there are rewarding moments in our work here:

- When you take people, little children, grandparents- who are so grateful- from under shelling, and at the same time they hear the Good News of what Christ has done for us from Chaplain Leonid.
- When people are rescued from death that was so close and almost took away their lives.
- When you find wonderful, and most importantly, safer places for them to live, or bring them to their relatives who can't hold back their tears from happiness and thank you endlessly. You want to live for such moments and continue to do the work that God has called you to.

Thank you for your continued prayers that we might be able to share even a glimmer of hope and God's love to the people we interact with.

Julia Ososkalo
Volunteer on the ground

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The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in time of trouble.

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

PSALM 9:9-10

Current Needs:

An RFDD (Radio Frequency Disruption Device)

These trips have always been very risky, but with the advancement of technology in warfare, particularly drones, it's much worse than in the beginning stages of the war. Spotting drones are used to lock in on targets and Kamikaze drones either crash on the target and explode or carrier drones drop explosives that can destroy a military tank. The drones are usually equipped with cameras and operated from a distance. Without the right equipment to disrupt the frequencies they operate on, it is almost impossible to escape a drone once discovered by it. Stories of attacks on vehicles and soldiers abound, and anything that moves can quickly become a target.

Currently, we're using a lower-capacity drone jammer that works by disrupting certain frequencies that the drones have been known to use. This carries some risk and comes with its own challenges, since the frequencies often change and it needs to be reprogrammed periodically. It is useless for drones that operate on frequencies it is not programmed for.

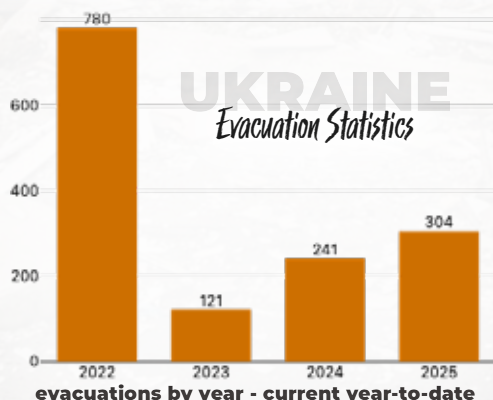
Lately, we found out about a military-recommended unit that covers a much wider range of frequencies and provides as much safety as possible for our volunteers and the people we evacuate from the front lines. We are working to add it to our fleet of vehicles that are used for evacuations.



How You Can Help:

We are looking for financial partners to help meet this need. Your donations will directly fund the purchase of the radio frequency jamming device, and will help keep our volunteers and the people we serve safer from drone threats.

Any funds raised in excess of the amount needed for the device will be allocated toward vehicle repairs, team expenses, and other necessary resources for the ongoing evacuation efforts in Ukraine. Please consider donating today to help us protect lives and continue this vital work. Your support is essential in making a meaningful difference.



how to give

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UPDATE FROM THE GROUND

Lebanon, a land where war and peace, joy and pain, life and death, compassion and greed, live side by side. There is a beauty to it. A raw open honesty and a courage to continue against all obstacles.

Many people have learned to coexist with the continual conflict that surrounds them. They continue living their lives, making every moment count.

Our team originally came to Lebanon hoping to build shelters in Southern Lebanon. It soon became clear that the conflict is still ongoing and shelters built in that area could potentially become the next target. Therefore we thought it wise to focus our attention on the needs in the north.

In northern Lebanon, Alawites, Christians, and other persecuted minorities continue flooding across the border from Syria. The Lebanese government has been actively working on housing these



people as they come, which makes the need for our resources less urgent. We have been working alongside the government and local organizations, looking for ways that we can support them in the work they are doing here. We are hoping to team up with local Christian organizations, equipping them with resources and offering training, with the goal of handing this project over to people who can offer longterm ministry to those affected by the conflict, on a physical level as well as on a spiritual level.

In many ways this project has been quite difficult for those on the ground. Many times it seemed that despite all the effort put in, there were very few results. But through all of it, the Lord has been right there beside us, showing us our next step, and giving us the courage to keep going. His presence has so clearly gone before us on every part of this project, and we are grateful to have been a part of what He is doing here in Lebanon.

~ Leona Troyer
Social Media Manager



Myanmar

7.7 EARTHQUAKE

On March 28, just past noon, a magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck near Mandalay, one of Myanmar's largest cities. The death toll is over 3,500, with thousands more injured.

Much of the infrastructure, which was already limited before the earthquake, is severely damaged, including hospitals, bridges, roads, and the electricity and water supply. Some initial search and rescue efforts were being carried out by locals by hand due to a shortage of heavy equipment. With a disaster of this magnitude, the country has asked for international assistance. Some of the most urgent needs are for things like search and rescue, medical supplies and support, food, fresh water, and temporary shelter.

Our team has been on the ground in Myanmar for the past few days. They are working in a region that has experienced widespread destruction. Throughout the surrounding villages in this region, hundreds of homes have been destroyed, and hundreds more have sustained extensive damage that will require supplies, equipment, and manpower to make them safe to live in again.

One of the urgent, life-sustaining needs in that area is clean water. Damage to the region's infrastructure has affected things like water filtration systems and the electrical power grid that supports those systems. We are currently working to meet the need for water filtration systems in 4 or 5 villages, and solar systems to provide power for the filtration systems in areas where electrical power has been cut off.

Consider partnering with us financially to support the relief efforts in Myanmar. We are grateful for the open door and the opportunity to meet the needs in this way, and with your support, we can provide hope and assistance to the vulnerable and share the love of Jesus.

Pray for protection, guidance, and energy for our team. And pray that the people who lost their homes and loved ones would experience God's love and comfort in the midst of their loss and heartache.



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Myanmar

STEPS TOWARDS GREATER SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

While in Myanmar, our team had the privilege of taking a trip through the jungle to a small village field just outside the jungle. There, we found about 5 acres of cleared land and, to our surprise, a thriving garden filled with approximately 20 different kinds of fruits and vegetables. We were originally told about this field by a contact we met while we were in Myanmar. They were already invested in this community and had recently started the Jungle Discipleship School in the village of Daw Noe Kue with a vision to equip and empower individuals to grow in their faith and become effective disciples of Christ. Earlier, in this same village, PCCR was also able to fund a Rainwater Dam Project to help with the water shortage issues the village was facing.

While visiting this village, we met two Burmese agricultural teachers who had traveled to this village from other parts of Myanmar to teach the local villagers how to properly plant, grow, and harvest the produce. The field was laid out extremely professionally, and the villagers obviously had a great understanding of what they were doing.

Currently, the field feeds approximately 1,000 villagers, and they also donate produce to a local Christian boarding school, as well as a few other local organizations. According to our contact, there are around 50 villagers who come to help take care of the 5-acre field and, in turn, get to take produce back to feed their families.

The problem that the villagers are facing is the dry season in that area. They have enough rainfall to supply water for their plants for a few months, but as November approaches, the rainfall becomes less and less each week. The Rainwater Dam that PCCR funded earlier has significantly helped in providing drinking water for the village, but it is not enough to supply water for the vegetable field as well. This means that pipes are needed to run water from a different water source to the field so that the produce can continue to grow even in the dry season. Approximately 5,000 feet of pipe are needed, and enough sprinklers to adequately water the plants.

It is our desire to partner with this village in supporting the cost of the irrigation project that will allow an adequate water supply to keep their crops irrigated even in the driest seasons. We have committed to providing the funds to complete this project. And we are partnering with local organizations to purchase supplies and provide local labor to complete the project. This is an excellent opportunity for to directly impact the lives of Burmese people within Myanmar who have a need for quality and healthy food. It is exciting to empower communities to take steps towards greater self-sustainability.

We are looking for financial partners willing to support this Irrigation Project in Myanmar. The estimated cost of this project is \$6,100 USD. Any funds raised above the cost of this project will go toward supporting our current project in Thailand.

More about the school...

The Jungle Discipleship School has been praying and asking God for a donor to show up for the Irrigation Project. We are grateful for the ways God has allowed us to be a part of this answered prayer.

The Jungle Discipleship School (JDS) is a 10 month Bible-based school in the jungle war zone of Myanmar. They challenge students to 'give God 10 months' and see how He shows up, He always does. JDS is dedicated to equipping individuals to grow in their faith and become effective disciples of Christ. Our immersive program and experienced instructors ensure a transformative experience for every student.



the Irrigation Project

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Thailand

FUNDS NEEDED FOR BUILDING ADDITION

We are looking forward to the next school semester in Thailand, which begins in May. We are excited that the Burmese children, which were originally being sent to the government school, are now able to be enrolled in the private school at the home this year. But with this opportunity there is some added responsibility.

While we currently have the school supplies, teacher's salaries, and equipment funding organized, the classrooms that we had planned to use for the Burmese students are no longer available because the home is, for the first time, providing high school classes in-house, instead of sending the high school students to a secular public school to finish their education. A high school diploma is important to get a good job, but sadly, many of the students that transfer to the public school end up losing their way amid the peer pressure and negative influences that thrive in these schools.

While we are excited that the high school students are staying at the home, it creates a need to repurpose another classroom

space for the Burmese students. Since the Burmese children do not currently know the Thai language, the goal for this semester and classroom space is to teach them Thai and help prepare them to better integrate into the same classes as the rest of the children at the home next semester.

This renovation project includes the demolition of the existing walls, leveling and repairing the concrete floors, and building out the new classrooms including new ceiling, windows, and doors. **The proposed cost of this Classroom Renovation Project is \$22,000 USD.** We are looking for individuals, churches or businesses who would be willing to partner with us to fund this project.

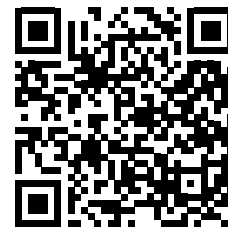
Any funds that come in above the needed amount will go towards food and other costs associated with keeping the Burmese children at the private school.

Building Fund

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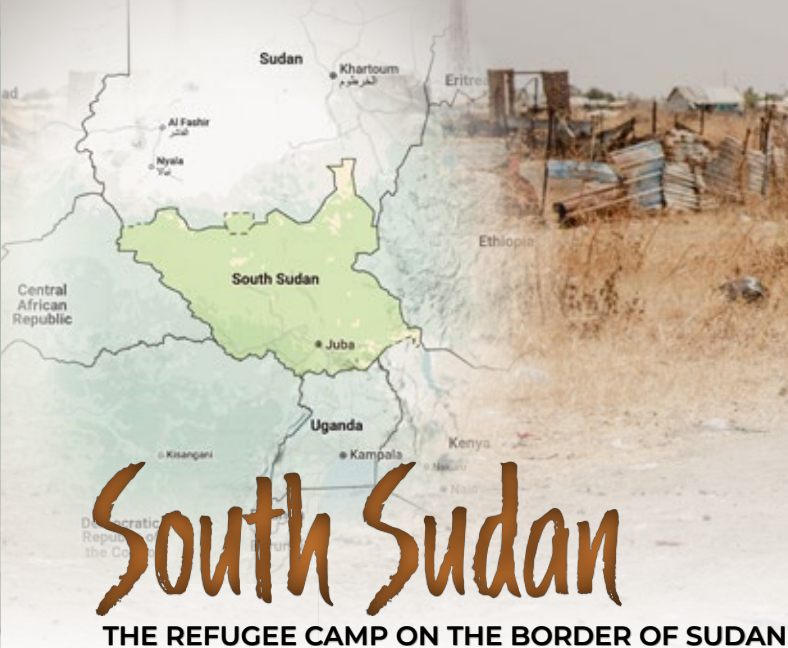
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Thank you!





Being in South Sudan reminded me of the convenient luxurious lifestyle I live and how easy it is to take it for granted. I have water flowing straight from my tap into my cup, a shower with running water, electricity 24/7, food at my fingertips, clothes that are intact, and the list goes on. While walking the streets of South Sudan poverty was seen almost everywhere I looked. Things appeared far from convenient. People were seen fetching water from the Nile to carry it back to their homes. At the airport, people would grab your luggage and carry it just to try and earn some cash. Houses lacked electricity and kids ran around with dirty tattered clothes and entertained themselves by playing with rubber tires. An individual with a disability was seen using a stick as a cane. Many people waited in the heat of the sun for the food to be distributed to them through PCCR and the list goes on. Yet despite the little they had, many had smiles on their faces, radiating joy.

As I reflect on this, it makes me wonder, what am I grateful for? Do I daily practice gratefulness, or have I become so accustomed to my privileges that I forget to reflect on the blessings God has given me? When we see this poverty, how are we supposed to respond? I believe we don't need to feel guilty for the circumstances God has placed us in, but with the abundance we have been given comes responsibility. The Bible tells us, that to whom much is given much will be required. How can you and I use what God has blessed us with to help those around us in need?
 ~ written by a volunteer

For the remaining distributions, we'll be distributing tools, seeds and other means to help them create a sustainable existence in their current situation. At this point, we're still experiencing a large funding deficit from prior distribution, nevertheless, **your donation will go directly towards the items that we'll be distributing.** Any funds that are over the needed amount will be used for food distributions.

Over the past 6 months, we've been regularly purchasing large quantities of emergency food aid and getting it shipped up the Nile to distribute in our target camp. With it, we've also been able to provide Bibles and run children's activities alongside the food and water distributions. This has made a noticeable impact on the over 7,000 people living there and has helped them get through the dry season. Now that they've better established themselves and harvested their first small crop, we are slowly transitioning away from food distributions and starting to provide other essential supplies. This will help them further establish themselves and prepare for the upcoming rainy season.

Over the next two months, we will purchase and distribute various items including plastic tarps, garden hoes, mosquito nets, soap, and seeds for planting their next crop. We are currently planning the next distribution trip but continue to monitor the civil war that began in the country in mid-March.

Please continue praying that we can make a lasting impact and that the situation will deescalate allowing us to make these final trips.

John Heinzel
 International Response Director



how to give

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Plain Compassion Crisis Response

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Inside this newsletter:

- Ukraine - Pg. 2
- Lebaonon - Pg. 4
- Thailand - Pg. 5
- Myanmar (Burma) - Pg. 5
- South Sudan - Pg. 7
- Staff Introductions - Pg. 8

staff introductions

welcome to the team!

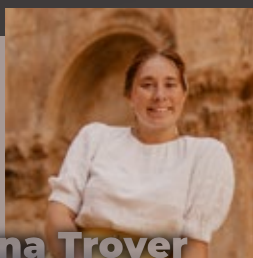
With the growth of PCCR over the past few months and life-changes in some of our staff, we started searching for a CFO and, shortly thereafter, for a Social Media Manager. The search is over!



Darnell Rohrer
Chief Financial Officer

I was born and raised in Central, Pennsylvania and still call it my home. I love spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy reading good books and having meaningful conversations with friends. I was introduced to PCCR through their volunteer training the beginning of 2024, and appreciate their vision for impacting the world. In my own life I have experienced the fiercely tender heart of God in life's most difficult moments, and it has become my hearts desire to help reflect that truth to others. I am excited to partner with PCCR as they continue to grow as an organization and discover more fully God's heart for all people.

Darnell joined our team last year in October and Leona just became part of staff. Both graduated from our training last year and we're looking forward to working together in the future.



Leona Troyer
Social Media Manager

I was born in the rolling hills of southern Kentucky, and moved with my family to the backwoods of Midwest Tennessee when I was ten years old. I was first introduced to humanitarian aid work in 2020, when I volunteered at a refuge camp on the island of Lesbos Greece for three months. That experience had a big impact on my life and I knew I wanted to do more work in that line. Since then my time has been divided between time spent at home in Tennessee and various volunteer projects, both stateside and internationally. I have enjoyed working with PCCR, and am excited to join them in bringing Hope to those whose lives have been shattered by disaster.