

NEWS FROM UKRAINE

From: Marina

Hello Leigh

It's quite difficult, but we try to manage. Two weeks ago we had some schedule of getting electricity: 4 hours with electricity and 2 without. But after the last attack we get it only few hours a day. We also don't have water and heating in our house during this switching off. At coldest days, we sleep in one room and spent time in kitchen. It's +2 outdoors now. It's quite uncomfortable conditions for living, but we try to find positive things, and we realize that soldiers are in much worse conditions. So we try to keep calm and trust God.

From: Anastasia

Hello Friends, Today is a very calm and seems peaceful day and I am very happy for that. There was too much panic in my heart this month as there were many sirens which meant many rockets were sent from Russia to Ukraine. After the so called 'Crimean' bridge was ruined it seemed they didn't stop sending those rockets. Many young men from our Oblast died in this month in this horrible war. Many are left without legs or hands and they are now in our city hospitals. These things, and especially the sirens at night (when I need to decide what to do with my children), all reflect on our village ministry. In our village churches and Bible Discovery Clubs people can't stop praying and crying to God for protection.

At church the preaching that strengthened my heart reminded me of Jesus' words: "Don't worry about tomorrow". Also if you remember Andriy B, last Sunday he shared his testimony in the church about serving in the army now. He asked the church, "Do you know why we are not afraid to die?" The answer was, "because we know that it is not the end".

One of our village ministry leaders moved to the USA at the beginning of the war and she married there. Not long ago she wrote to me that she is learning to live. And I realised that here in Ukraine we are learning to die. Maybe somehow it makes us crazy and fearless, but it is true that when the sirens sound we think about death, and those sound are very often.

Pray God will stop this war as we all want to have a peaceful sky. We need your prayers, please pray that we could continue our village ministry in these conditions. Now we are lacking electricity, too. Sorry to be writing about this, but this month was really difficult because of all the attacks on Ukraine. This is what I feel.

Today is a day without sirens, and it is a miracle.

Anastasiia Vovk, head of Village Ministry

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From: Misha

Last Monday we had a test of our faith and a test of our preparation for winter in time of war. Early Monday morning there was a routine air alarm and suddenly the electricity was turned off and half an hour later the water was turned off too. Internet also went down. All

stopped. Stores and shops closed. Most of the petrol stations closed. Schools and kindergartens didn't even open. Life stopped. Praise God, we had gas in the kitchen. We put the kettle on and had some morning coffee and a quiet breakfast. It's good we have an outside toilet. Cruise missiles have been launched towards Ukraine by Russia. They aimed at power stations and in our case hydroelectric stations on the Dnipro river. Though we knew about the plans of the enemy we were still not ready. Praise God it all came back on. Electricity in the afternoon and water in the evening. But people have got panicked. When shops and some petrol stations opened again, because they had generators, there were long queues and all was sold out. The shops were selling only for cash because terminals were not working. Prices were also affected. So we had a good lesson how to be prepared. Authorities had warned people and gave recommendations how to make reserves of food and water for a week and have telephones and power banks charged, and have torches and lights with batteries and so on. But people were careless. Now they will think and prepare. We hope. The electricity is turned off in different areas for a couple of hours by turns. In Ruska Polyana they turn it off for two hours and turn on also for two hours and that's all day long. We don't have electricity off in the area of Alpha House yet, thank God.

Misha Vishermirskiy, Hope Now Ukraine Director