

the Gazette



PHOTOS

Easter Paska Bread
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New Beginnings

A WORD FROM THE CEO

Greetings My Friends,

Most of us started 2021 with the expectation of new beginnings. We assumed the COVID pandemic would be over and thought herd immunity would be understood by all. We hoped to see meetings and gatherings in our churches and communities return to full capacity. We longed to leave our house and return to life with others. Alas, we are still dealing with the battle against the pandemic here in the U.S., as well as in other parts of the world.



Ukraine recently lifted its third formal lockdown in Kyiv. Public transportation started again, and many are returning to their jobs. This freedom was given with the understanding that everyone must continue following the government restrictions to keep the number of infections and deaths down. Thankfully this lockdown was lifted just in time for the Orthodox Easter Celebrations on May 2. The cover photo on this Gazetta is one of our widows receiving a gift of the Easter Paska bread. There are more photos of this on page 11.

Unfortunately, there is another dark cloud hovering over Ukraine. The Russian buildup of armament and soldiers on their southern, eastern, and northern borders signaled a powerful threat to all Ukrainians. As I spoke with our team in Kyiv via Zoom, I had never seen such stress and fear on their faces before. The COVID and military threats were at a level we cannot understand here in the States. Even though the Russian military recently left the borders of Ukraine, they left the armaments, rockets, and missiles in place that can reach any part of the country.

BEGINNINGS

**We live by faith and not fear,
so our MMK team continued to minister
to our many widows and some orphans,
in person and by phone.**

In this Gazette, you will read how we provided an electrolarynx to Ihor which allowed him to communicate with words again. The visit our team made to Donbas, the children's ministry, and the Hospice ward of the hospital to 20 dear souls. These visits showed the resiliency of our team and provided much-needed support to those we serve. These efforts are only possible because of friends and partners like you.

You may also have seen our announcement about our recent move to a new office location in Florida for the first time in 20 years, and you will read some of the unique ways God prepared a place for us, beyond our expectations. The emotional highs and lows of this season are a real part of our lives, and we are grateful nothing surprises God.

Read on and enjoy the pictures and stories of how God is alive and at work in our mission, and remember.....you are part of our family.

Grace and Peace,



Greg

Ihor Receives Electrolarynx

AFTER TEN YEARS OF SILENCE



Irina D. couldn't wait for her trip to Donbas to visit Ihor N., and neither could Ihor. He knew this visit would make his dream come true by receiving a voice-forming device.

Ihor was born on April 9, 1961. He used to live and work in Horlivka. Ihor was married twice, and he has a daughter and a son from the first marriage. After his divorce, his daughter stopped communicating with him. Ihor's second marriage was challenging. It started well, but then his wife became an alcoholic. He divorced her, and it caused his health to deteriorate. In 2006 Ihor was diagnosed with throat cancer and had surgery. During that time, he became silent. Yes, he tries to make some sounds, but people don't understand him. In 2013 Ihor had a stroke, and doctors found a tumor in his head. This tumor is inoperable because of its effects—it caused partial paralysis of his hand and leg.

ELECTROLARYNX

The war started in 2015, and Ihor was forced to move to Oskol and later to Druzhkivka. He was given a room in a dormitory as a refugee. He's still living there today. To put it mildly, the conditions of his room are poor, but Ihor thanks God for a place to stay!

Music Mission Kiev first met Ihor when we invited him as a refugee in need to participate in our Bible lesson. After the lesson, we gave food packages to people. It has been three years since that first meeting. God has touched Ihor's heart, and now he lives with Him. Ihor spends a lot of time in prayer.

Once Ihor told Irina about his dream, he didn't believe that it could come true. He had asked the government to help him purchase a voice-forming device, but it is expensive, and he's not able to buy it himself.

When Irina heard this story, she shared it with Serhiy B. and MMK doctor Vadym S. The story touched their hearts, and we wanted to help him. We all started to pray, including Ihor.

Thankfully, Ihor's dream came true!!! When he saw the Electrolarynx, he cried like a child. He told Irina that he couldn't sleep at all the night before our meeting because he was so excited. Our meeting was at 10:00, and Ihor came to church at 8:00. He still didn't believe that he will speak and people will hear and understand him. We started to test the device, and Ihor was so excited—he couldn't wait to start talking. Sasha and Irina were there and heard his voice. We suggested reading the Bible and Ihor read it! Irina, Sasha, and Ihor all cried and wiped away their tears!!!



Watch Videos
[MUSICMISSIONKIEV.ORG/IHOR](https://musicmissionkiev.org/ihor)

Moving Day

A NEW HOME FOR OUR U.S. OFFICE



April 26 was a special day at Music Mission Kiev... Our U.S. office moved to a new location! It's hard to believe we've been at our old office in Casselberry, FL for over 20 years. However, between some building management changes at our current place and COVID-19 changing when we work in person, we began looking for some other locations to relocate. We looked nearby for alternate office space, but we couldn't seem to find something that would work for us.

God always seems to work in mysterious ways, and this move was no different. Just when we had almost given up hope and were putting the search on hold. That very day, the call came letting us know our new location might be a possibility.

We are now on the property of our local Christian radio station. Their facility is perfect for us and even has some additional meeting space for larger gatherings.

This move gave us the opportunity to do some spring cleaning as well—you better believe that we accumulated quite a bit over the last 20 years. Moving itself was far more physically and mentally challenging than expected, but the new office space is an incredible improvement for our work environment and culture.

We are extremely grateful for God opening this opportunity and excited to be in the new space.

Our new mailing address is:
PO Box 161849
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

We will no longer use our toll-free number, so this number will now be our only number: 407-699-7172. If you give through your bank's online bill paycheck, you will need to notify your bank with our new mailing address.



Hospice and Children's Ministry

DONBAS VISIT

A long time ago, Katia B. asked us to visit a hospice that is part of the local hospital. Half of the whole floor of the hospital is for hospice. Lonely people live out their lives here. Katia asked us to visit hospice because its residents feel a great need for fellowship, care, and God's Word. Sometimes local ministers visit people in hospice, but Katia really wanted us to visit them. Katia talked to the director, and she allowed us to visit. We bought some fruits and yogurts for them.

There were 20 people there who were happy to see us and joyfully took the little treats we brought them. They were like children that impatiently enjoyed their treats. We ended up visiting with two women we already knew, Vera and Mariia. The two of them used to participate in Larysa's Vefezda program. Together we prayed and had fellowship. That visit showed us the importance of gratitude and mercy—our hearts were softened and filled with gratitude! Thank you, God, for such lessons!



Meeting with kids is always a real joy! Although many of them have challenging lives, they still keep a positive outlook on life. We arrived when many children were already out and waiting for lunch. Some were running around and others were playing tennis. The kids always have delicious lunches there because it is cooked with love.

Irina noticed two women were sitting in the corner of the room. Dima explained that those women brought their kids to the church for the last two weeks and stayed for lunch too (probably because they wanted to eat the delicious and good quality food as well). Dima doesn't mind them staying because they also participate in Bible lessons after. By the looks of them, Irina could tell that they are poor, and she was thrilled to hear they were also feeding on the word of God. That's how it goes, not parents bringing their children to the church, but kids. Our God is miraculous!

We are glad that our mission can serve those in need by enjoying delicious meals and Bible lessons at least once a week! Praise God!



Parting Word

FROM CEO GREG KANNON

Ready? Set? Go! No, wait! Ok, Go! No Stop! Ok, Go! This is how life has felt for us here and in Ukraine. As you may know, Ukraine just finished its third formal lockdown of the country. They have lifted the most stringent restrictions but have made clear if they see another rise in COVID cases, they will once again go back into lockdown. The frustration and exhaustion our team is experiencing in Kyiv is palpable. Just this past week, we studied Exodus 5 together, with our staff both here and in Ukraine. The passage reminded us of the discouragement Moses had during the challenging circumstances of his day.

Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

– Exodus 5:22-23 NIV



However, as you have read through the pages of this issue and looked at the great photos, you can see we have not been idle here or there. Our team continues to be courageously persevering and innovating to ensure the widows and orphans are not forgotten or lost in the shuffle. We managed to have a couple of trips to the Donbas eastern region, where the need is overwhelming. Seeing Ihor learning to speak again with his electrolarynx and the stories of the men and women in the hospice ward moved me deeply. I am sure it did for you too.

We just completed our fiscal year on March 31 and began our new year. Even though our spending was down due to the pandemic restrictions, we still finished almost \$85K below our needed funding for 2020. Many of us were affected financially during the pandemic in differing ways, but our ministry and the needs in Ukraine did not slow down.

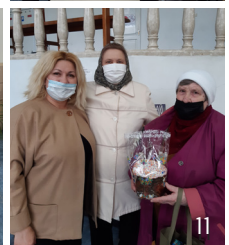
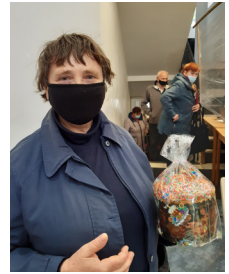
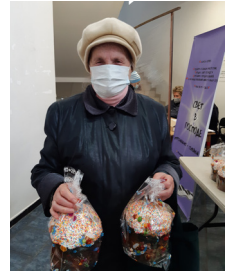
One of the ways you could help our team continue serving is by becoming a recurring monthly donor. It is easy to do. Just go to our webpage at musicmissionkiev.org/give and after inputting how much you would like to give, click on the **Donation Frequency** tab, and the drop-down list will allow you to choose **Monthly**. As a recurring donor, you are part of the large group of generous givers who help sustain Music Mission Kiev. We have not stopped serving, and with your help, we continue to be faithful to the opportunities God gives us in Ukraine to share the Gospel.

I would also ask for your continued prayers for our people in Ukraine and the mission. These health and military threats are real and taking a toll on the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of everyone. Prayer is the power of God's people to call on Him, and He will listen and answer our prayers. Thank you for praying and giving as together, we share the Gospel with the country of Ukraine.

Grace and peace,



Greg





PO Box 161849
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

Website:
www.musicmissionkiev.org

Office Phone:
407-699-7172

E-mail:
info@musicmissionkiev.org

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!**

Music Mission Kiev
is a member of the

