



THE MASTER'S FOUNDATION

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Spring 2023

Dear Ministry Partner,

Greetings in Jesus Name!

We are privileged to send along to you our Spring 2023 newsletter. As you are aware, the war in Ukraine has not abated and there seems to be no certain and discernable end of the conflict at this present time. I read an email just this morning from a pastor friend and leader in Ukraine, and it is deeply moving to sense the weariness and worry that grips him as he cares for the many refugees who have found their way to his city and institution. He commented to me about the war and a recent battle in which the Ukrainian troops gained an advantage but with significant loss of life. One can sense the raw emotion these leaders feel as they live out what the invasion of their country has produced.

Recently released statistics tell us that approximately 5 million people have been displaced within the country because of the war. The care of these people who have lost most or all their possessions is an enormous challenge. Ministry leaders will tell you that the most pressing need at this point is still humanitarian aid, and this is where MF is heavily focused. In this spring edition of our newsletter, we have placed a special spotlight on the children of Ukraine. One pastor leader who lives in the city of Sumy (A), near the Russian border, has felt the need of help heal children who have witnessed the ravages of war in their region. A. has created a team of creative, talented workers who developed a program to help heal the emotional scars of children in towns near his area. It is a privilege for MF to work alongside such a compassionate, insightful, and gifted leader and team who, in a true sense, are like Jesus who "took the children in His arms and blessed them".

In this newsletter we have announced the resignation of our ministry founder and president, Stan Watrich. He has had many health challenges in recent months and felt the need to turn the ministry over to new leadership. Please keep Stan and his family in your prayers. There is not enough space in this cover letter to tell you how much I admire and love about Stan as a person, a follower of Christ, and a lover of the people of Ukraine. Master's Foundation has been his 'baby' so to speak and he has built and provided for tens of thousands of people in Ukraine over the years. I have witnessed that he is a 'spiritual father' to many he has connected with in Ukraine. He is very loved. In the next newsletter, we will seek to give perspective on the many accomplishments of MF under Stan's guidance.

Thank you so very much for your giving which allows us the privilege to team up with A and other likeminded leaders in the country.

Gene Clarke – President



THE MASTER'S FOUNDATION

BRINGING HOPE, LIFE AND SALVATION

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

SPRING 2023

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Receive our news in your inbox!
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Orphans receive Easter gifts



The statistics and information quoted by many world leaders are grim indeed. The World Health Organization states the war in Ukraine has "led to the largest movement of people in the European Region since the Second World War." More than one year after the war began, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has estimated that roughly 8 million Ukrainians have fled the country and a further 5 million have been displaced. In February, Ukraine's Minister of Health Viktor Liashko told the country's state news agency Ukrinform that 1,218 medical facilities had been destroyed, including 540 healthcare facilities and hospitals. He estimated that \$1 Billion dollars would be needed to repair the country's medical facilities to their pre-war levels of service.

Throughout the years, one of the areas of ministry that has been dear to Master's Foundation's heart has been the ministry to children - especially those in orphanages or rehab centers. We have supported summer camps, printed 1.5 million Bibles and other literature, supported programs for parents of children with disabilities and sponsored Christmas programs.

According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, more than five million Ukrainian children have had their studies disrupted! Thousands of schools, preschools and other educational facilities have been destroyed or severely damaged and not just in smaller towns but in large, populated areas. Parents fear for the safety of their children and are reluctant to send them to school. In any school or facility where children do gather to learn, there is a bomb shelter where children flee when the air raid sirens sound.



THE DAILY LIVES OF CHILDREN IN UKRAINE

A group of seminary students visits 5 different orphanages. Master's Foundation assisted them in purchasing tiles to install a floor in an otherwise very musty cellar where the children take shelter. LED lamps and solar water heater were also purchased.



Nine year old K and his 11 year old sister were evacuated from Bahmut along with other children last April. Their grandmother and mother left later by train. The strain of the journey and the stress of the upheaval in their lives has left them very affected, very impulsive in character but as the year passes their behavior has improved as they engage in various activities at the teen center.



In another city we are supporting a kindergarten/teen center. Families who have no home to return to because of destruction or occupation, are grateful for this place of refuge.

D, a four-month-old, arrived from Mariupol with his young parents. Mariupol was one of the first cities in southern Ukraine to be shelled (literally destroyed) last Feb 24, 2022. Our contact in western Ukraine advised the parents to take a taxi to the railway station but when they arrived with their infant son, the trains were clogged with humanity and no one else was allowed to board. It was a miracle that our contact was able to talk to and convince the conductor to allow this young family

to board the train. Mother and the baby crowded in, while the father sat on the floor in the vestibule along with many other men and women. By God's mercy they arrived in the western city on the 25th of February and a week later were housed in an apartment that Master's Foundation helps support. Little D is almost a year and a half now. He is loving the kindergarten we support.

In one of the Northeastern regions where there is constant shelling, Master's Foundation has enabled Pastor A, to create an **Art Therapy Center**. This center provides an opportunity for the children to be rehabilitated. The stress, the despair and fear that these children have faced has affected them greatly. Children (ages 4 - 14) from the combat zones, those who were living in areas that were occupied by the enemy and those from low-income families can attend this center. From Monday to Friday, they engage in 3-hour sessions of Bible study, drawing, playing with plasticine, games, activities and sand painting. The older children, who meet at a different time, engage in competitions, quizzes on Bible topics and creative expression. Paints, coloured pencils, chalk, pastels, clay and wood help these children to deal with their psychological trauma, their emotional state, their doubts, and fears.

Children are much happier after these art therapy sessions. Their sleep improves. They have lived under shelling and fear but now they begin to feel less homesick as they engage with and make new friends.

This therapy makes it easier for the children to open up and express themselves. Through creative expression they share the depths of their hearts. With their drawings and creations, they express what lies deep in their souls. They become joyful instead of being frightened and upset. Some children testify that they have found a true friend in Jesus Christ.

Depending on the individual situations of each child, after a month or two of art therapy sessions, they are invited to attend church and continue their communication. Parents are partly involved with their children but in addition, this time provides an opportunity for them to process their payments for migrants and resolve some of their personal issues. The parents are very grateful for this project.





A loaf of bread is precious

leave the premises, they are very cheerful and identify with the hand indicated on the door. Our contact made one other observation, "We were very surprised at just what an appetite the children had. Yesterday all they spoke of was the food that they had eaten. Obviously, these children are not eating enough. We will be purchasing and preparing more food for them."



Drawings are of a patriotic theme as these drawings are sent to the military on the front lines. They are a motivational gift to the military and the children view these creations as their contribution to the anticipated victory.



When children enter the therapy room, they indicate their feelings by aligning their hands with the emotions displayed on the 'hands'. Our contact told us that when the children arrive many express their sadness but when it comes time to



Shopping for an orphanage

All photos in this newsletter are supplied by Master's Foundations contacts in Ukraine.

UPDATES

The Master's Foundation came into being 40 years ago when Stan and Henry Watrich acted on the call that God had placed on their hearts for the land of their ancestors. How does one even begin to enumerate the accomplishments of this organization under their leadership? It is impossible to do so!



However, one thing is for certain - **The Master's Foundation is what it is because of the goodness & mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord moved in the hearts of many people and they honored the steps of faith that were taken by Stan and Henry to accomplish what seemed impossible.** Orphanages, seminaries, literature, the Children's Bible, pastors' retreats, youth and children's summer camps, radio broadcasts, containers of humanitarian aid - all of these are areas of ministry that Master's held close to its heart. The scope and the far-reaching influence will only be realized in eternity!

Stan will attest to the difficulties, the seemingly impossible situations and the lack of resources. Yet each project was bathed in prayer, each difficulty approached resolutely and each need brought to the attention of its dedicated donors. All glory be to God! In the past half year, Stan's health has required greater medical attention.. Although always connected in spirit, thought and prayer, he has had to lay aside the role of president. Stan continues in the role of President Emeritus and Gene Clarke, a board member, has taken on the title of President.

We ask for your prayers for Stan, for his wife who has stood beside him every step of the way, and for his family. *"It has been a great journey, bless you all for carrying the torch and the mandate! I appreciate each and every one of you!"* was one of Stan's recent messages!



At a recent Board Meeting Master's Foundation voted to have Walter Semeniuk of Waterloo, Ontario, join the Board of Directors. Walter has an undeniable passion for the people of Ukraine and has worked to that end for many years. Last October he travelled to Ukraine with Gene Clarke and saw firsthand the many areas where Masters served and is currently serving Ukraine. Welcome Walter!

The last metal stove and remaining sleeping bags were sent to eastern destinations. Spring has arrived, the war continues, the needs are great and Masters will be considering various new projects in Ukraine. We will keep you informed.



Humanitarian aid continues to be our priority. For example, one of our contacts is asking for a more stable vehicle to transport this aid and traverse the extremely damaged roads and bridges as he continues to reach outlying towns and villages with basic food products, clothing, batteries, medication, etc.



People line up for a bowl of soup

If you wish to receive our newsletter electronically instead of by Canada Post, please email your request to info@mastersfoundation.org.

Messages from our contacts.

"Thank God that during the duration of this war, you have stood alongside us!"

"We just delivered the plastic film for the people to cover their windows!"

"Thank you Master's Foundation for the therapy class which is so important to us! The Children are unbelievably grateful, for truly this is a gift from God!"