



THE MASTER'S FOUNDATION

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Dear Ministry Partner,

Greetings in Jesus Name!

Greetings dear friend! We trust you've had an enjoyable Christmas season and we are praying that this new year is filled with blessings.

In late October, Walt and I visited our ministry partner in Ukraine, meeting them at their places of service and ministry. Once again, we marveled at the legacy of Master's Foundation in Ukraine – the people, the accomplishments over the years and the current projects which were evident and so appreciated by the people.

As you recall, our latest project "Children of Victory", was in progress when we arrived. How absolutely heartwarming to watch the children try on new outer winter garments! And yet as we interacted with them, our hearts broke at the stories that were shared by their mothers. A heartbroken mother told us how her husband had spent two weeks with the family as he was on leave after a very long time of serving in the war. The children were ecstatic! He returned to the front lines and within a week they received news that he had lost his life in the battle!

Although many families, coping with their trauma and loss, didn't want to be photographed, we have received many messages of gratitude. Here is one of the messages we received that touched us deeply.

My name is V. I'm six years old and my mother says I'm already big. Yesterday I was with my mother in a nice store where they gave me a lot of nice clothes. I'll be warm this winter. Most of all, I liked the green gloves and the green tracksuit of the same color that my dad had when he came to visit with us from the war. They said he is "gone", but I remember what clothes he was wearing. I now have clothes like my dad's.

(Mother and her son live in a village 20 kilometers outside of the city of T.)

Once again, we can't express how much we appreciate your support of Masters Foundation's ministry to Ukraine. We've seen the kind hand of the Lord guide us as we have continued to develop ministry partners.

Gene Clarke – President



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WINTER 2023/2024

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BRINGING HOPE, LIFE & SALVATION

SEVERE WINTER IN UKRAINE

Cold temperatures in Ukraine have added to the distressing circumstances in a country under attack and fighting to defend itself for the past two years. At the front lines soldiers in dugouts are not just defending the country but are fighting severe temperatures and frostbite. Warm sleeping bags are a valuable commodity.



Internally displaced persons and refugees within the country number millions and while food programs are in place, many, especially the elderly, continue to struggle. During the month of December, with the support of Masters Foundation, 1,000 people in a western city received hot meals twice a week. In the northern region where attacks are a daily occurrence, hundreds



receive food bags and bread weekly. We are also funding the production of another 250 sleeping bags for the front line.

Another of our ministry partners who sends aid to Avdiivka writes to thank us for the funds just received. They were able to purchase medication, flashlights, warm insoles for shoes, socks, axes and saws so that people could get wood for heating. *"There are no shops there and volunteers can no longer get aid in. People evacuate in small groups whenever possible. No one knows how long it will be possible to stay here however, once a week pastor P comes to hold a service"* commented our partner.



CHILDREN OF VICTORY PROJECT

The selection of children or families who qualify for this assistance is based on the parent being severely injured and unable to support his family, is missing or has died while serving in the war. The children are carefully selected by local councils. Their qualifications, ages and sizes are forwarded to our ministry partner who then prepares for those children. Upon arrival they are made to feel special as they “shop” for their own winter coat, hat, and mitts. The guardian or mother is offered a time of fellowship, prayer and encouragement. The director, who endeavors to bring a message of hope, admits that often he has to fight his own tears as it is heartbreaking to hear the stories of tragic loss.

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to all those who contributed specifically to the Children of Victory Project. Your donations enabled us to offer a glimmer of hope to families struggling with tragedy. Here are several messages of thanks we have received from town councils.

“We are so grateful for your cooperation, understanding and giving of humanitarian aid to the children of killed or missing soldiers. We thank you for your endeavours, support and your sincere and responsive hearts.”

“We wish to express our sincere thanks for your selfless service. Your tireless efforts in this social sphere are a light of hope to those who are living through great difficulty.”

“A big thank you for the assistance you offered during such a difficult time. You encouraged our children and granted them positive feelings and emotions. If only the world had more such good people!”



Mom chooses for her daughters



The warehouse is filled with different sizes and color for the children to pick and choose



Gene and Walt share a happy moment with this bereaved mother of two



This family of four children ranging from 6-16 years old, were outfitted with winter clothing. Their mother had died and their father was killed serving at the front. They are being brought up by their grandma.

It was imperative for Masters Foundation to address the challenging needs of Ukrainian families and especially to supply and support families having difficulty providing warm clothing for their children. However important these are, our ministry partner took time and personal interest in each family, listening to their history, their pain, their hopes and their concerns.



A highlight for the children is to be treated to a McD meal



Village councils arrange for a bus to transport the families to the Project Center

CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS AND OTHER UPDATES



During the Christmas season we provided little gifts to over 1,000 village children. Despite the difficult circumstances of life everyone is currently experiencing, our ministry partner visited seven villages where eager children and delighted parents greatly enjoyed the programs presented.

In a northern area of Ukraine another ministry partner described the situation this way: *"Now is a very difficult time. With the escalation of shelling at the border, and the arrival of winter, we truly would like to give small treats to the many children. I believe the Lord will guide us through this despite the difficulties... may the Lord bless you! Thank you very much for your support and prayers!"*



In this area of Ukraine where attacks occur almost daily, traumatized children, are thrilled to attend this art therapy class (sponsored by MF) and to show off their creations.

Your donations have enabled us to send a total of **\$332,000** worth of aid in 2023. **THANK YOU!**



Christmas visit to an orphanage



This fall MF established three scholarships offered at Lviv Theological Seminary. A \$1,000 scholarship in honor of Stan Watrich, a \$500 scholarship in honor of Dr. Garry Milley and a \$500 scholarship in honor of Henry Watrich were granted to three students. They were selected by the president of LTS who stated, *"Not only did they have need of funding, but they show great promise!"*