



UPF

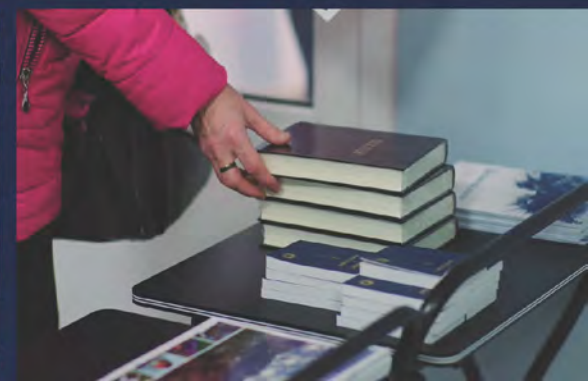
Ukraine Partnership
Foundation

2023 MISSION IMPACT REPORT



OUR VISION

Ukraine becomes a transformed nation where millions of Christ followers love, lead, and serve with godly integrity.



This 2023 Mission Impact Report shows how your prayers and financial gifts have been invested in Ukraine – bringing essential help and eternal hope to war-weary people. Thank you for your generosity and continuing support. Please continue to pray for a miracle in Ukraine.

On February 24, 2022, our decade-long support of the **Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary (UBTS)** took on a new and urgent dimension.

With the onset of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, UBTS became a refugee center for anxious and desperate people who were fleeing war zones. Classrooms and offices were temporarily repurposed to house and feed more than 10,000 people – mainly women, children, and seniors – who needed shelter, clothing, medical care, and transportation to Poland and other European countries. UBTS staff, students, and alumni stepped up to meet this need – sharing God’s love by being the hands and feet of Jesus to their neighbors.

In September 2022, UBTS resumed its academic mission to raise qualified and passionate leaders for local churches – a calling that is more important now than ever. The war has destroyed churches, disrupted communities, and created a severe leadership gap in churches that must be filled.

With continuing support from **Ukraine Partnership Foundation (UPF)** benefactors, the services to refugees evolved into distributing humanitarian aid through churches where UBTS students and alumni served. This then grew to a nation-wide network of 17 **WeCare Centers**. These hubs of help and hope provide humanitarian aid, spiritual and trauma counseling, education and child care, legal aid, and other essential services to tens of thousands of internally displaced Ukrainians.

The **Institute for Leadership & Coaching (ILC)**, a skilled-based program that had been launched to augment UBTS’s theological training for Christian leaders, now also provides critical, specialized training to WeCare Center teams – infusing Biblical, Missional, and Accountable values into community leaders and WeCare operations.

These three ministries – **UBTS, ILC, and WeCare** – now comprise **Ukraine Partnership Missions (UPM)**, a Ukraine-based initiative led with excellence and humility by **Dr. Slavik Pyzh**. His vision, energy, and faithfulness inspire the UPF Board of Directors; the team of staff, students, and alumni who have put his vision into action; and our UPF supporters.

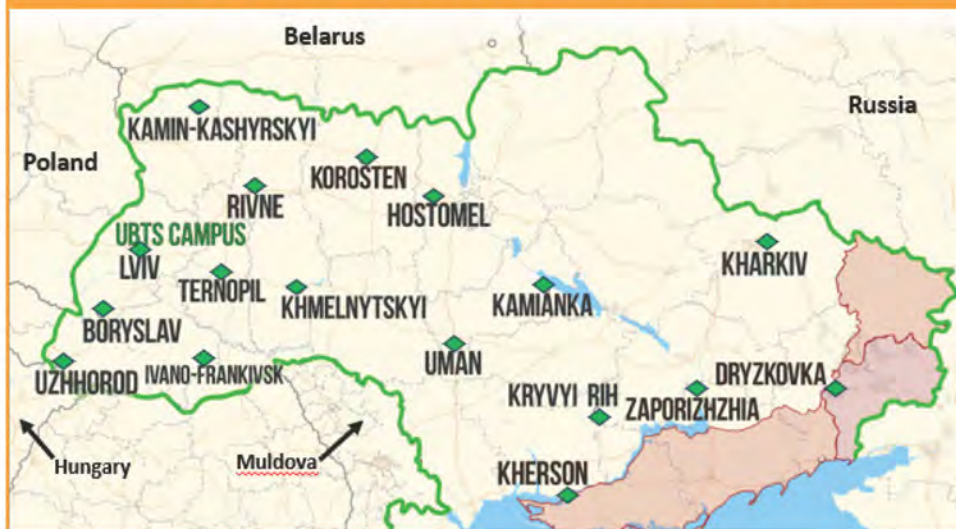
Together – with God’s ever-present help – we boldly envision a Ukraine transformed by the love and truth of the gospel expressed through the ministries of UPM.

WeCare Centers:

relieving suffering and restoring hope

WeCare Centers alleviate the physical deprivation and emotional pain for hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians displaced from their homes by the war (IDPs). These centers of help and hope grew from 8 sites in January 2023 to 17 sites by December. They meet the most pressing needs in their own communities today and will be trusted partners for rebuilding post-war Ukraine with Christian values.

WeCare Center Locations



WeCare Centers IMPACT

- 17 WeCare Centers located throughout Ukraine
- Currently serving 22,000+ people each month
- 163,000+ people served in 2023 (May-December)
- More than 300 ministry partners (local churches, civic organizations, and businesses; national and international NGOs; local governments)
- 500+ Ukrainian volunteers – many are IDPs

“Once you come here, you start doing something and stay busy. It makes you forget about the bad things. This place works as a sort of mental balm. There is religious guidance here too and the people and the treatment here are really great. Simply talking to people has a very positive psychological effect – like you have found your peace again. As if your heart is finally settling down after the occupation.”

– Ukrainian women served at Hostomel WeCare Center



“When we were leaving our home, we took as much as could fit into a small car. The things we brought were all we had. The people here helped us with everything. We used to sleep on the floor and our backs were hurting terribly. We were barely able to get up in the morning. The most important thing is that they got us a bed.”

– Natalya, IDP from Vovchansk served at Kharkiv WeCare Center

“The Sharing Bread project became the starting point in my ministry in God's field. The products we baked with children and adults were shared with the military in hospitals and sent to the guys at the front. Such moments teach us to care about our neighbors, to believe in the future and to do our best for those around us who are waiting for our support and love.”

– Olena, IDP and volunteer at Rivne WeCare Center



When you are facing a crisis and you are a Christian, you are the answer for other people. Leadership is a part of my Christianity, but the other part of Christianity, which is a foundation for me as a person, is practical Christianity. I don't believe in theoretical stuff when people talk about love or about care, but they don't do that. I was driven by my practical Christianity, my world view was a huge driver for me to start this whole thing and keep going as I'm doing right now."

– Tymophiy Slobodnychenko, Director of Ternopil WeCare Center



The goal we set for the day center is a place where children can feel safe."

– Olena Bondar, team member at Kharkiv WeCare Center



We have a bakery. It was our business and in the first months of the war, we reorganized it into a social project. We worked in three shifts with anyone who wanted to volunteer. We baked from six to seven thousand loaves so that people could have bread – so that they could somehow have a quieter state inside because they had bread and water. And many people said, 'the Baptists gave us bread and water.' In such a way we told them about Christ."

– Galita Khomchenko, Director of Druzhkivka WeCare Center

When we go to villages where there is limited access to medicine, there are elderly ladies crying, so happy that we have come to see them – that someone has finally examined them. This is what gives us strength to move forward."

– Anna Nedzelska, Director of Korosten WeCare Center

Institute for Leadership & Coaching:

developing leaders with a Biblical world view



ILC IMPACT

- 2,000+ students
- Programs taught to church, non-profit and business teams, and volunteers
- All WE CARE CENTER leaders received ILC training to help them manage their local WeCare ministries with excellence and integrity.
- Taught by UBTS faculty and partners (New Thing, Send Relief, etc.)
- L'viv campus and 3 branches in Ukraine (Bilivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Gostomel)
- 6 branches abroad (Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw, Cologne, Lisbon, Lublin)
- 1,448 additional people reached through Consulting Services for teams of organizations, churches, and businesses

The Institute for Leadership & Coaching (ILC) develops Ukrainians who want to lead in their families, workplaces, and circles of influence with a Biblical world view. The ILC's 21 programs teach students how to apply their training and skills to mentoring and coaching, media communications, team development, and organizational leadership to build a stronger civil society.



ILC Impact story: *Nastya*

Nastya leads a region-wide ministry to women through her church in Lutsk, located in northwestern Ukraine. An avid learner, she has gained expertise and confidence by attending the Institute for Leadership & Coaching for two years.

The professionalism of the ILC faculty and the quality and “reality” of the information Nastya learned have helped her lead an 18-person team in a multi-faceted ministry for women of all ages. The outreach includes teaching, pastoral care, special interest mentoring and prayer groups, Bible studies, retreats, and conferences. Women who have been blessed by the ministry say that it “opens a door through which we can get to know the church of Christ and Christ personally.”

Reflecting on how her ILC studies strengthened her leadership, Nastya notes that students analyzed their own ministries and implemented what they had learned under the guidance of their teachers. *“Real-life examples reinforced what was said. Every discipline was permeated with the commands to love God and love people. During the years of study, these commandments were closely intertwined with various information and were imprinted in my heart for life. My favorite phrase that still guides me: ‘Every service has a name and a surname!’ After each project, I ask myself and my team one question: ‘Who exactly has become my ministry today?’ My desire in life is to leave a trace of God’s love in the hearts of the people I come in contact with.”*



Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary: raising qualified and passionate leaders for local churches

Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary (UBTS) educates and equips servant leaders for the church in Ukraine.



UBTS IMPACT

- Multiple degree programs at the Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral levels
- Partnerships with 3 U.S. seminaries for master and doctoral programs
- Certificate and diploma programs in various disciplines
- 1,250+ students in 2023



UBTS Impact story: *Evelina*

Evelina lives in the small town of Izmail, in the south Odesa region. Prior to enrolling at UBTS, Evelina and her husband joined a team to plant a new church with her husband serving as the church administrator and she leading the women's ministry. Evelina admits that she had many questions about her role, the team, and evangelism.

The team enrolled at UBTS, where Evelina completed a Bachelor's degree program focused on mentoring and effective ministry for women. She recalls, *"From the very first session, my consciousness began to transform. Although I was raised in a Christian family from birth, I did not know so much about God, His immense love, and my personal mission. After each session, I came back inspired, wanting to know God more, motivated to serve people, and with a greater understanding of my personal gifts and team building."*

When the war started, many displaced Ukrainians came to the area. Evelina and her husband became responsible for overseeing a shelter camp, started by their church, to accommodate nearly 200 people. After coordinating the resettlement needs, Evelina focused on the women's needs for mental health and spiritual care.

"I am glad that I can be an instrument in God's hands and believe that this has some impact and contribution to God's kingdom. I am really grateful to my UBTS supervisor for helping me become more courageous and determined in my ministry, to my incredible group at UBTS for inspiring me by their personal example of service in their local churches, and to the seminary teachers for expanding my understanding of God!"





UBTS Campus Addition Update

In 2023, the final phase of construction to complete the UBTS Master Plan was started. This stage includes building a dormitory to provide safe, affordable housing for cohort groups of 250-300 students who rotate in and out of L'viv to attend classes throughout the year.

When completed, UBTS will have a modern, self-contained campus that includes classrooms and offices, a chapel, student housing, communal gathering spaces, dining services, and parking.

Current construction will create:

- 75 dorm rooms to accommodate up to 300 students per session
- Three classrooms and two student common rooms/ lounges for informal gathering and fellowship
- Inner courtyard and rooftop terrace as additional gathering spaces

Lives Touched in



1,250 Seminary Students UBTS	2,000+ Students ILC
22,000+ per month Internally Displaced People WeCare Centers	
1,448 Leaders of churches and nonprofits coached ILC	400+ Churches served by UBTS graduates

UPF Financial Report 2023



Figures are preliminary



Ukraine Partnership Foundation
PO Box 671
Chesterfield, MO 63006-0671