

Helping Ukraine

Czech United Methodist Church

Prague Dec. 31, 2022

Blankets for Methodist congregations in Kamenice and Uzhhorod

In mid-December, Jiří Bassano (who lives in eastern Slovakia) contacted UMC headquarters in Prague with a request for blankets, pillows, and bedding needed by our congregations in Transcarpathian Ukraine to care for refugees from the east of the country. He wrote:

Dear friends,

We have just returned from Ukraine, we took to Kamenica some groceries, drugstore, winter clothes and shoes and some little things (sweets, toys) for children for Christmas. The situation there is really crazy, the electricity goes off unexpectedly, sometimes (like today) for 6 hours. Then the water, the gas, the internet is not available either. Kamenica UMC has 80 members, Uzhhorod UMC 50. The number of active members has been affected by the war: many are abroad, men at the front. During the services, about 50 people meet in Kamenica, 30 in Uzhhorod. The parish manages 4 houses with refugees from the front areas. The church house in Kamenica accommodates 21 persons. In addition, the congregation helps homeless, war invalids, widows and other people from the area. I am writing because I have a request to the Czech Diakonia. Currently they would be in need of blankets and pillows, bedding sets and quilts. I cannot get them here in eastern Slovakia (cheaply). We will arrive by car in Prague on Dec 9th, we are going to the church on Sunday, we plan to leave on Thursday, Dec 15th. If you approve my request and have time to buy what is needed, I would take it east. My wife and I wish you a blessed Advent.

Jiří Bassano



We announced the request in Prague 2 UMC; the response was great and immediate. Within a few days people brought blankets or money; more funds were added to the Helping Ukraine account. The committee that manages the transparent bank account quickly released 10,000 CZK (USD 450) and Jiří bought what he could fit in his car; he had to turn down other willing donors. Now the stuff is in place, see the pictures.

The war has been going on for a long time, and we are quite far from it. Those who are helping up close are grateful for our acts of solidarity. The quick response has been encouraging for them.

Jana Křížová

Ambulance Servatius

Cooperation on three sides enabled the purchase of medical supplies and ambulance for

Kharkiv Orthopaedic Institute.

Three moments were important:

- The solidarity and generosity of Methodists in the U.S. and Europe.
 - The organizational and administrative contribution of the Czech ECM (through the mission coordinator Jana Křížová, the director of diakonia Karel Nyerges, the office of the headquarters of the Czech UMC and also the bishop's office in Zurich).
- The dedication and courage of two men, Vít Samek and Jaroslav Špaček. Thank you all.



The Czech UMC purchased a transport ambulance for the Kharkiv Orthopaedic Institute. This hospital serves the local population, but currently mainly soldiers wounded in combat. The Servatius ambulance, loaded to the roof with medical supplies, departed with our prayers and blessings from the courtyard of the headquarters in Prague for Ukraine on December 6, 2022, <https://youtu.be/SOmqVHwsWjk> (video with English subtitles). It happily reached the destination four days later.



Jaroslav Špaček is known mainly in the Maranatha UMC, Plzeň.

Vít Samek is a well-known Czech paramedic and publicist. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, he has been involved in a number of projects there. With great commitment, he raises funds, organizes and personally implements aid to Ukraine in many ways. The Czech UMC has so far helped finance two shipments of tactical first aid kits (worth USD 10,310) within the framework of a project including support for the hospital. Now, the third and largest shipment (ambulance and medical supplies) worth USD 23,500 was successfully accomplished.

Perhaps some people have become somewhat accustomed to the war in Ukraine and have become somewhat numb to the suffering and brutality that is taking place there. But those who remain without water and electricity in the winter, people on the front line and in adjacent areas, civilians and soldiers in the fighting struggling to survive, need our help. Let us persevere; please persevere in helping. Thank you.

Ivana Procházková

Remark:

We are able to carry out aid projects up to thousands of USD from the money of Czech donors. The fact that we can help on a larger scale, tens of thousands of USD, is due to foreign Methodists, in this case especially from the USA. We are glad that our connection is manifested in this practical way.