

Transformed



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A newsletter of TMS Global



Billy Drum and a young boy build a bunkbed in preparation for the arrival of refugees in Romania.

Meeting the needs of Ukrainian refugees

TMS Global cross-cultural workers are helping to provide food, shelter, and more for people affected by the war in Ukraine.

TMS Global cross-cultural worker Billy Drum stands inside Ukraine, just across the border from Romania. Behind him, two Ukrainian pastors accept vanloads of donations.

“We just unloaded two vans into their vans on the Ukrainian side of the border. The pastors are going to be taking the supplies to their respective towns, and they’re going to distribute food and some over the counter medicines,” Drum says.

Drum and fellow TMS Global cross-cultural worker Ryan Marcum have traveled here from Spain. They are working with colleagues from another organization to help bring aid to those affected by the war in Ukraine. In April, they sponsored the purchase and delivery of goods including food staples, diapers and baby food, medications, and first-aid supplies.

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Helping refugees find healing and wholeness

In addition to meeting immediate needs faced by people who are now refugees, TMS Global cross-cultural witnesses (CCWs) care for the long-term wellbeing of the people they encounter.

When Syrian refugees came to her community, TMS Global CCW Joy Price* didn't know how to help. As a certified trainer through Trauma Free World, she helps global workers and care professionals navigate behavioral and emotional challenges they see in people who have lived through difficult experiences. She notes trauma can rewire a person's brain and cause them to act out of fear, rather than logic. But the brain also has the capacity to heal.

Price helps people learn how trauma affects the brain and body. She also teaches breathing techniques and calming activities. And Price shares how to create safe spaces and nurture groups where people can meet together and heal in community. She also wants workers to understand the importance of self-care.

Price says she and her team want to see people walk in healing and wholeness.

"So we create safe spaces where people encounter the goodness of God, so that they can experience that healing and wholeness," she says.

continued from cover

The donations were handed off to two pastors who remain in Ukraine. The men are considered "fighting-age" and are therefore required to stay in the country. But they are also there to care for the members of their congregations who are staying behind. Marcum says a pastor he spent some time with was surprisingly positive and upbeat, though the pastor's family had fled to Romania.

"One of the things he said that stuck out was just knowing that his wife and his daughter were safe and in Romania made it easier and better for him. He had a purpose, he had stuff he was able to do because he knew they were safe," Marcum says. "He didn't have to worry about them."



Because of help from partners like you, Drum and Marcum were able to deliver more than 6,600 pounds of food and supplies to people in need in Ukraine.

The pastor said his wife and daughter were tired of being away from home and want to go back to Ukraine.

Marcum and Drum say that's a common sentiment they're hearing among refugees from Ukraine. People just want to go back home. While on the border, Marcum and Drum encountered both people who were leaving Ukraine and those who were going back in. The people who were returning had waited until bombing had stopped in their city, and were going back with their families, possessions, and pets, ready to see what remained of home.

At the border crossing, Marcum says, volunteers and workers handed out water, food, and coffee. He says many people are looking to help in whatever way they can.

"On the ferry coming back we met a man from Denmark or the Netherlands," Marcum says. "He had driven in two or three days by himself in a van to get to the border and get across to deliver food and medications for animals, because so many animals are being abandoned."



Ukrainian refugees arrive and depart at a ferry crossing on the border between Ukraine and Romania.

He had a big van and about 10 or 12 crates full of cats that he was driving back. Then he was going to come back and do the same thing in two weeks. Billy and I also met a veterinarian from Colorado who had come just to help animals on the border for a couple of weeks.”

Meanwhile, inside Romania, Marcum and Drum helped prepare housing for refugees. This looked like laying flooring, hanging cabinets, and assembling beds.

Trained in trauma care, Drum was also there to care for the emotional needs of refugees. In Romania the Ukrainian people he was with told him, “Bombs were falling everywhere. Bombs destroyed our city. We had no choice. We had to leave.” Refugees are feeling the stress of being in an in-between stage, Drum says. They want to go home, but don’t know how long the war will last, or how long they will be away from their country.

Drum also seeks to care for refugee workers, noting that the weight of carrying the stories of others can cause burnout.

“It’s vital that they, too, are receiving care, a listening ear, encouragement, and rest,” Drum says.

For now, the refugees who Drum and Marcum met have food, shelter, and community. And interspersed with the pain and grief, there’s even laughter.

TMS Global cross-cultural workers (CCWs) continue to help people affected by the war in Ukraine. You help sustain these efforts. Through your prayers and financial gifts, you are helping train, mobilize, and serve cross-cultural witnesses like Drum who are reaching out to their neighbors with the love of Jesus.

By Jenifer Jones

**Pseudonyms are used for security reasons.*

The in-between stage

We don’t hear about it as much these days, but an estimated six million Ukrainians who are now refugees have fled their home country since February 2022. As you have read here, TMS Global witnesses are caring in a variety of ways for these families who have been forced to leave so much behind. Not only in Ukraine, but in other places in the world too, your TMS Global witnesses minister with the love of Jesus to refugee populations.

The story here is a reminder of the plight of the world’s refugees who exist every day in an in-between stage, waiting and hoping. That in-between stage is not unfamiliar to us. The kingdom of God has already come, although not fully. We all wait for the day when suffering and death shall be no more.

And in the meantime, Jesus is at work. His kingdom is here and evident through the generous love of you and others like you. Thank you for being an image-bearer of God to a world in pain.

What a privilege it is to serve with you in offering the love of Christ to those who weep.



Max Wilkins
President & CEO

TRAIN, MOBILIZE, and SERVE cross-cultural workers around the world!



It is your support that enables our cross-cultural workers to live and serve in communities around the world, sharing the love and message of Jesus with their neighbors.

Please send a gift today to help us TRAIN, MOBILIZE, and SERVE more cross-cultural workers to share the gospel and equip local churches to reach out in mission locally, regionally, and internationally.

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