

## **SGA Canada**

### **The missionary report of Oleg Stretovich for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022**

**June 23, 2022**

Greetings in the Lord!

Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters! We cordially greet you with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and wish you God's blessings! By the grace of God, we are alive and protected by Him, and despite the difficult situation, life goes on and we can do our service for God and our neighbors. Today, when Russian missiles and aircraft fly over us to bomb peaceful cities and villages of Ukraine, we are filled with grief and sadness, seeing all this tragedy of our people, when the lives of thousands of people are cut short and the blood of our compatriots is shed. At present, the words written by Moses, "Lord! You are our refuge in generation and generation. Before the mountains were born, and You formed the earth and the universe, and from everlasting to everlasting You are God." Psalm 89:2-3.

At present, Putin's Russia continues its aggressive war against Ukraine, and despite its failures, miscalculations and defeats, nevertheless does not stop. Russia throughout its history has always waged aggressive wars against surrounding states. With God's help and with the support of the international community, Ukraine was able to stop the advance of the rashists and liberated part of the territories from occupation. What remains after their stay causes horror not only among the civilians who survived the occupation, but also among all those who were able to visit these places of international leaders. We pray together with the church all over the world, and we hope that God will help us and the long-awaited peace will come to Ukraine.

Our Kherson region is now under occupation; we are cut off from the territory controlled by Ukraine. The Rashists turned this territory into a large concentration camp. No one is released and no one is given the opportunity to bring in humanitarian supplies. Who tries to drive very dangerously, Russian militants fire at civilians. Big battles are now taking place in the Kherson region, which is the regional center. Many settlements are practically wiped off the face of the earth, many people try to leave the war zone to escape, sometimes stand for weeks near Russian checkpoints, drive along mined roads and under shelling; not everyone manages to pass safely, many die on the road. Fascist Russia is trying in any way to annex the Kherson region, which is strategically connected to the Crimea, especially because of the water. But the Ukrainian people, who know what the "Russian world" means, will never accept the Russian government, and therefore oppose the occupiers by all means. Russian terrorists behave very aggressively, and they arrest all the people they don't like, where

they put them through terrible tortures, or they shoot them. They try to take everything they want out of the occupied territories, especially grain, which is rich in the south of Ukraine, including the Kherson region. Grain is taken away from farmers for next to nothing, and those who do not agree are simply taken away. (Photo 1)

We, in Novotroitsk and in our territorial community, do not have big battles now, but with the approach of the front line, everything can be, our only hope is for the help and protection of God. On our roads, in forest plantations and in the fields, burned and lined military equipment continues to remain. (Photo 2) And civilian vehicles as well, (Photo 3). Destroyed objects are not restored, but remain in this state. There were long queues at gas stations to fill up my car, which is needed for trips to the service, I had to stand in line for almost two days. (Photo 4). Food and essential goods are in limited quantities, prices have increased by about three times for everything, there is a big problem with medicines. There is almost no power, local authorities, not wanting to cooperate with the occupiers, withdraw themselves. In order to maintain the rule of law, voluntary people's squads are organized, in our region, Ukrainian symbols are everywhere. (Photo 5). Almost nothing works, there is no work, people survive with great difficulty. I can write a lot more about what is happening in Ukraine, but only those who have experienced such a tragedy will be able to understand this.

Despite all the events that are taking place, we are the church of God, we try to serve for the believers and the people around us in this difficult time. In the past period and at the present time, with God's help, we continue to hold services in our local churches. Some of the believers from our churches, fleeing the war, were forced to leave and became refugees in their own country or in other countries, mostly families with small children. But our Houses of Prayer are filled with other people who come to services. In order to support people in some way, we distributed humanitarian aid in churches and tried to serve with what we could. (Photos 6, 7, 8).

With God's help, we spent the Easter holiday in our local churches, including in the villages Markeevo, (Photo 9, 10), and Novopokrovka, (Photo 11). We were visited by guests from a neighboring church; we are grateful to God that He gives the ladies the joy of fellowship in this difficult time, as well as hope for a better future. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ gives hope to the whole world that the time will come and the eternal Kingdom of God will come. We know that the war will not always continue, but a time of peace will come, which we will appreciate more and will try to serve our neighbors more.

As far as possible, we try to make repairs in the House of Prayer in Markeevo, which we started before the war. We are doing the most necessary to complete the work, (Photo 12). In the fall of 2022, there will be 25 years of the church, when regular evangelistic services began to be held here. We are grateful to God for the lamp that burns in this village, and we pray that God will bless the further ministry of the church.

Dear brothers and sisters, we sincerely thank you for your service. Your prayers, financial and other comprehensive assistance are a great blessing for us, we really appreciate it; may God reward you with His blessings. Pray with us for peace in Ukraine. We call on all believers and churches around the world to strive in this ministry. We call on the entire civilized world, all countries, to be more resolute in opposing the Russian evil that it brings to the whole world. May God keep His church in Ukraine and everywhere. With a prayer for you!

Missionary Oleg Stretovich.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

