

# PUTIN'S ONGOING WINTER CRUELTY

Dear friend,

On Christmas morning, Putin overshadowed the celebration of Christ's birth by launching massive aerial missile attacks across Ukraine. It was a direct retaliation to Ukraine's decision to celebrate Christmas on the Western calendar date of December 25. The Russian Orthodox Church, which supports the invasion of Ukraine, celebrates Christmas on January 7.

Like last winter, Putin once again begun large-scale targeting of energy infrastructure across Ukraine during the harshest winter months. Millions have been plunged into power outages. Putin's purpose is to cut off heat and electricity to inflict the most harm to civilians during the months when survival is the most critical.

Targeting energy infrastructures is harsh on the children, elderly and people with medical conditions.



Winter in Ukraine is cold. Temperatures can drop well below zero.

Pastor Yuri writes,

*The interruption of the energy supply has put us in a state of emergency. People are left without gas, heating and hot water. With God's help we conducted Christmas programs for children where 140 new families came for the first time and are interested in joining our on-going Christian programs. We need heating in order to keep our ministry going. Autonomous heating is essential for us as our winters are cold. For this we need a 250 kw boiler, and a 40-50 kw generator. We don't want to lose the new families that started coming, as we want to minister Christ to them that they may be born again.*

*We are grateful for any help you can give us!*

Donbas remains the hardest hit areas of the war. More than half of all towns on the frontlines lack food.

Power outages have impacted farmers who have experienced losses in production in Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Nikopol regions. This is driving up the cost of food, creating huge challenges to the already struggling poor families.

Families in frontline cities continue to be displaced. Loved ones have to be buried. Life for many has become unbearable.

## Children are severely affected.

Pastor Alex writes,

*The situation in Donbas is rapidly deteriorating. More and more cities have been destroyed, leaving more refugees who have lost their homes in complete sorrow and despair.*

*Russia has unleashed a terrible war that has killed thousands, leaving many children severely affected.*



*At five years old, Sasha learned what an air raid was, how Russian missiles killed friends he once played with in the yard. He has learned to sit in a dark, cold and damp basement for hours waiting out another missile attack. He had to move a long way from his home. He is withdrawn, silent and his whole body trembles at the sound of air-raid sirens.*

*If this were the story of only one little boy, it would be a tragedy in itself. But this story in different shades, with different details, different endings (sadly, sometimes very tragic) is the story of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian children.*

As power outages spread across Ukraine, children like Sasha are being once again traumatized as they sit in the darkness and the cold.

It is a privilege and joy for you and me to be God's hands and feet, helping these precious children in Ukraine!

## The elderly are terrified of sitting out another winter.



Many live on the frontline, unable to move to safer cities. During power outages they are sitting in the dark, sometimes with no contact with the outside world. They sit in loneliness, praying to make it through another day. Their eyes light up and beam when our workers come to visit, bring them food and encouragement.

***"Thank you God, for answering my prayer!"***

An elderly woman in Kramatorsk says as tears of joy roll down her face.

Our frontline workers deliver food and heating supplies to the elderly and families living in terrible conditions in frontline cities. Our family and children's ministries in Nikopol, Poltava, and Chaplain Ministry to wounded soldiers on the frontlines are in great need of help.

We need your help to deliver winter care packages of warm blankets, wood for heating and fuel for small heating stoves, food, medicines and other winter essentials.

This winter is critical. Without our help, many will die. Will you bring them aid for the next three months?

Your love and compassion will keep many children and elderly alive. **May God bless you for standing with Ukraine!**