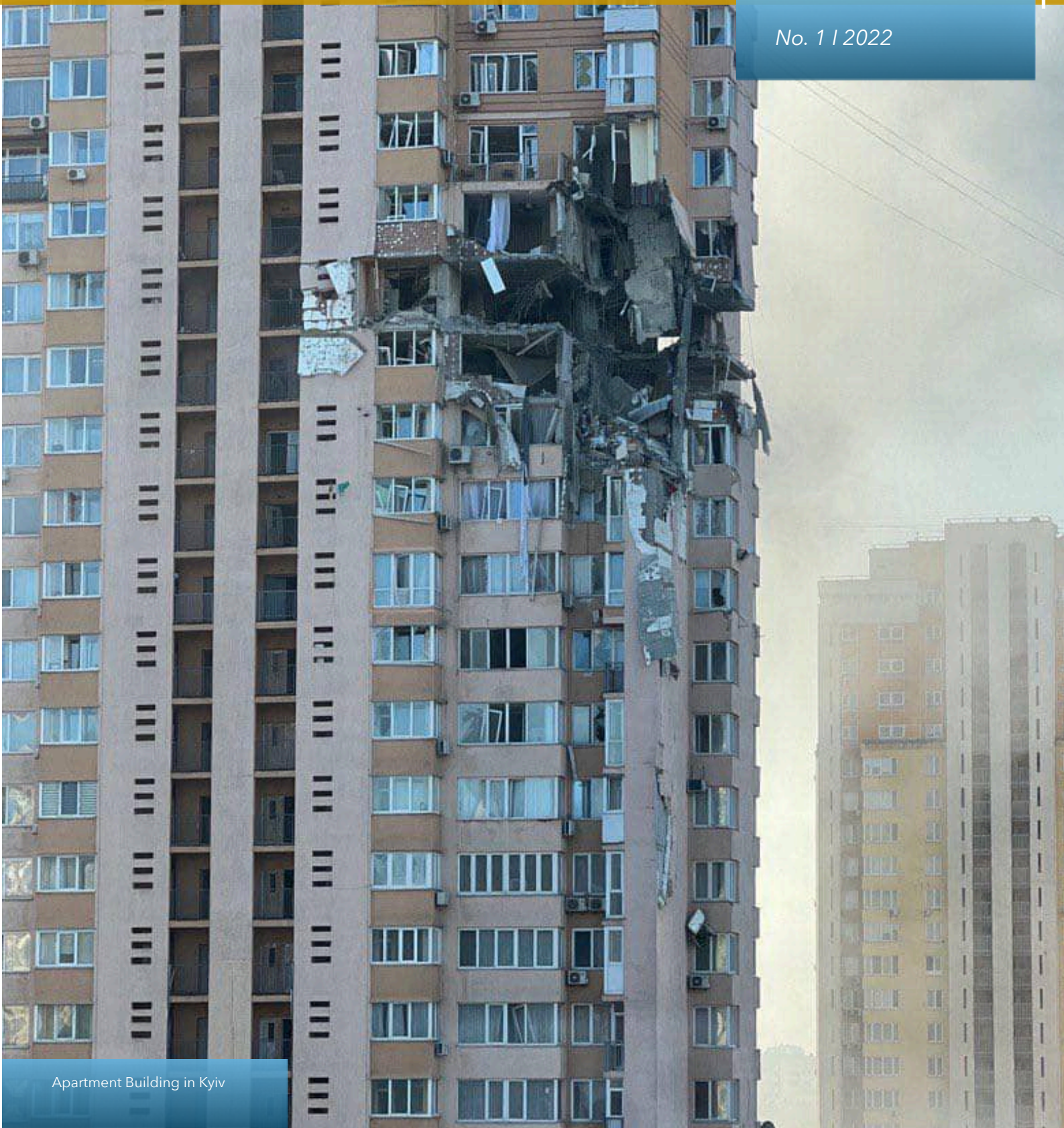


„...and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.” Mt. 10, 41

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine Up date.

No. 1 | 2022



Apartment Building in Kyiv

Up date from the Ukraine

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

Since yesterday: 24th of February, at 4.00 a.m., the world is a different place. What I have heard so often said here in all friendliness: "it won't happen, nobody is that stupid..." has happened. Russia invaded the Ukraine simultaneously in all the places where they wanted to do "only military exercises": from the north, from the Belorussian side, to get Chernobyl under control and to be able to attack Kyiv faster; in the south: Mariupol, Odessa, Snake Island (bordering on Romania), Kherson; in the east: Kharkiv, Dnipro; the west was bombed from the air: Lviv, Luzk, Ivano-Frankivsk.

Many people live in all these cities: in Kyiv alone almost 5 million, Kharkiv: 1.5 million, Dnipro: 1.5 million, Odessa: almost a million. But these are not abstract numbers. In Odessa we have our community and two Waldorf schools. The Act of Consecration of Man is celebrated daily to keep the calm as far as possible. In Kharkiv, next to the large Waldorf School and curative education school, there are many people who are our faithful members. Like the parents of Xenia Medvedeva, who had to spend the night in the catacombs. A founder of the Waldorf kindergarten in Ivano-Frankivsk is also at the Polish border at this very hour with her two small sons: two and four years old. She told me: "I am so terribly embarrassed to flee. I would so much like to stay and defend my country. But what will become of these two?" She has already lost her husband in the war.

But Kyiv is now experiencing the worst. You can see it in the pictures. The battle is for Kyiv, the old capital of Ukraine. There, on the Left Bank, now fighting so hard against the Russian tanks and bombers, stands our newly founded Community. Despite war conditions, people come to pray. Tatyana Nechytaylo, our colleague on the ground, as well as other people, cannot take the metro at the moment, nor can they drive a car (partly to save petrol for the army). They travel by bicycle, or walk for hours.

Ukrainians, as so often in history, are under attack and standing alone. Many

words spoken beforehand remained just words. At the moment, the smallest countries are providing help, countries that themselves know what the Soviet Union means: Latvia and Estonia with weapons, Georgia with soldiers. Ukraine does not have the military capability to stand alone for long. And it is all the more important in these hours and days that the people of Ukraine do not feel left alone. What can we do? Write, support, collect money, take someone in, but above all, please make peace Vigils with prayers, music, speeches; you can light candles for the fallen. But you can also go and demonstrate "Against the war". It often seems that it doesn't have that much effect. But it can achieve a lot! In Cologne yesterday it led to the mayor cancelling the big Rose Monday Carnival parade. Because how absurd is it to celebrate carnival during these dark days?

Everything we do out of our hearts can give people courage. It can give peace. Empathise with the pain of the other, even if it is a lesser brother! That is all I ask. Now is not the time to exchange clever arguments, not to blame, not to exchange formed "anthroposophical wisdoms". That can be done at later time. Not now. For how will we look tomorrow if we do not ask today: What hurts you, my brother?

I am sure that with prayers and meditations we can hold a concentrated shield over the Ukraine. As well as the Archangel Michael above us, the patron saint of Kyiv and the Ukraine. As well as all our contemporaries.

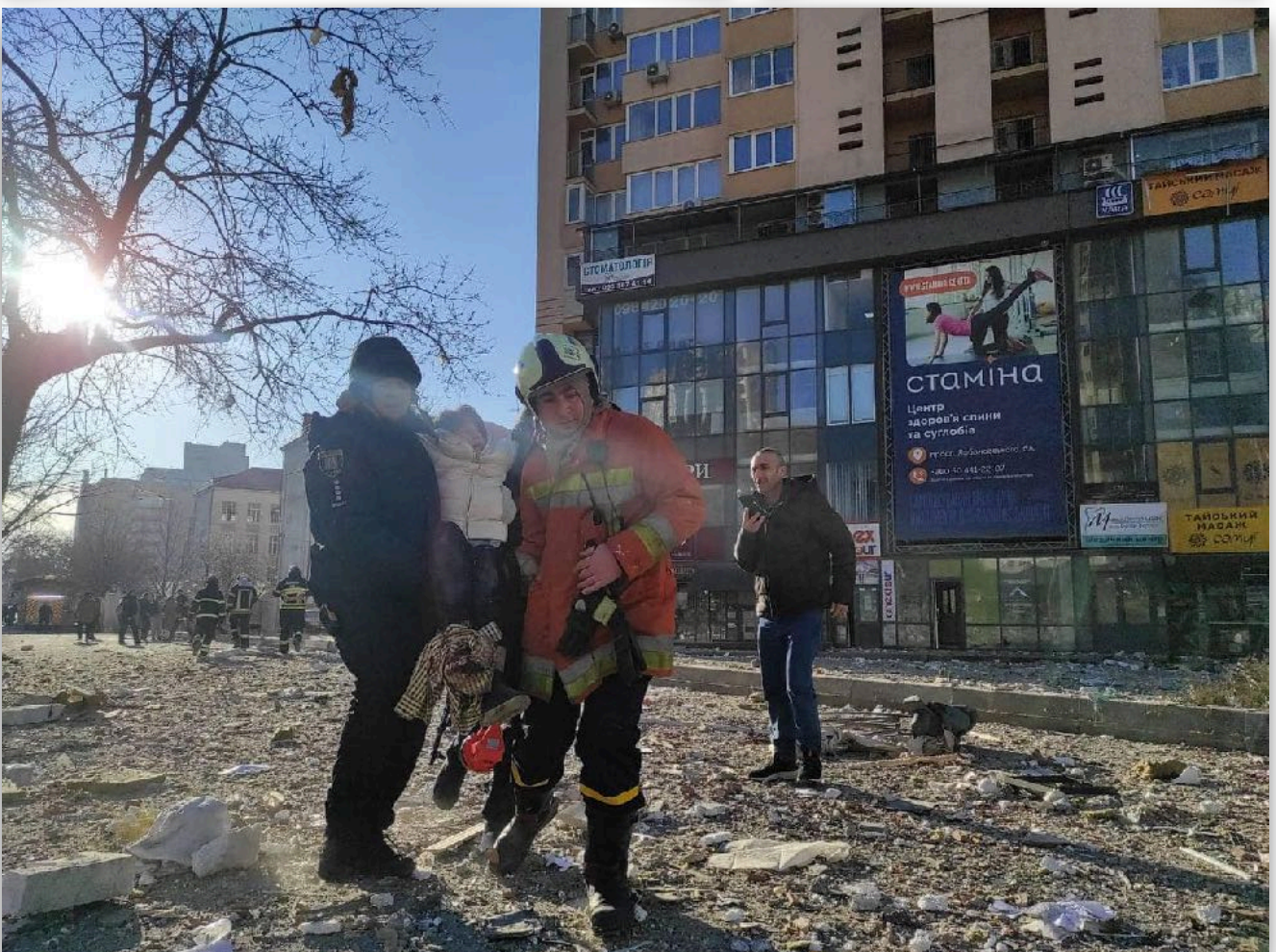
Very warmly and very gratefully for every good thought and prayer,

YAROSLAVA BLACK.

Kyiv in pictures



Firefighting at night in Kyiv on 25th February



Kyiv 26th February



Kharkiv metro station 24-25th of February

Donations to support refugees and humanitarian aid in connection with the war can please be transferred to the account of the West German Region of the Christian Community with a corresponding reference in the purpose of use:

Bank account holder: Die Christengemeinschaft

IBAN: DE96 3702 0500 0008 2597 00; BLZ/BIC: 37020500 / BFSWDE33XXX

Or:

Bank account holder: Die Christengemeinschaft in Deutschland (Foundation)

IBAN: DE16 8502 0500 0003 6204 00; BLZ/BIC: 8502 0500 / BFSW DE33 DRE

Thank you for all your support, good thoughts and prayers!

Black & Black Production