

"And whoever receives a person in whom the being of good lives, for the sake of that good, thereby gains himself a share in the being of good." Mt. 10, 41

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine News

No. 3, February 28, 2022



Rose Monday Peace Demo in Cologne

The Latest from Ukraine

DEAR FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES,

It is the fifth day of the war, February 28, and right now, Kyiv is being bombed very heavily. People have to go back to the bunkers and subway stations. In our parish, there was a service again. Tatyana also made a bird out of paper with the children. While the adults were praying upstairs, the children were painting downstairs. Out of themselves, they drew Mary and Joseph, perhaps on the run, and next to them a burning stove. They themselves did not know for sure. But it could also be, they thought, that Mary and Joseph were baking bread.

In the meantime, children died in the attack on one hospital. In another for children with cancer, there was encouragement in the basement as a boy listed the planes that had been shot down. He seemed to know about them, including the tanks.

The adults also had something to laugh about for a change: the Roma clan stole the Russian tanks in a southern town. The soldiers ran out of gas and went looking for it. When they came back, the tanks were gone. So everyone helped as they could. This good idea spread quickly, and some farmers imitated the Roma comrades-in-arms with their tractors.

In this period are fierce battles for the great beautiful university city of Kharkiv, the city where the Ukrainian Socrates, Hryhorij Skovoroda, lived for a time. He did not allow himself to be "caught" with any honors and posts and was a free itinerant preacher with the Gospel in ancient Greek in his pocket. On his grave, he wanted to have written: "The world has chased after me, yet it could not catch me." He detested dishonest churches and preached freedom: "What is freedom? What good is there in it? Some say that it is made of gold. It is by no means made of gold. Pay attention! Compared to freedom, gold is just a pile of dirt." Today in this city, the young writer Serhiy Zhadan, well known in the West, is ready to fight. Bombs are flying over this city, and everyone hopes that the angels and the good Skovoroda will protect them. Volodja, the good "pacifist" and army conscientious objector, also volunteered. With him, in the Carpathians, we spent a wonderful time with our young people a few years ago. He has four small children. He, like many other

friends: actors, singers, writers go there, but they have no equipment. That's why here in the country, many other friends sit day and night looking for protective vests, helmets, bullet wound bandages and send them directly to those whose lives they want to protect at any cost.

From Odessa, someone sent a picture of the beautiful old opera house by the sea, protected by the hardworking citizens with sandbags and antiarmor steel roadblocks. But also in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk and every other city, people are preparing for defense. On the western borders, there are endless queues of refugees.

In Moscow, there is silence. To shout loudly on the street is forbidden. For the word "Ukraine," or "No war!" one is immediately arrested. Our colleague Anushka goes on "peaceful walks" with some brave people. It is a silent but important protest. Two weeks ago, at a non-silent protest, Anushka's brother was arrested, and he is still sitting in an Isolator (prison for short periods). In Moscow, too, people are praying for peace and doing what else they can in this situation. We send thoughts there because also in Cologne we have a little bit of Moscow: our intern Varia from the seminary in Stuttgart. It is also hard for her to see what is happening. The other day we stood together at the altar, as we often do, and she spoke with the most beautiful Ukrainian pronunciation, the most important words that can be said right now. Then we sang "To the Mountains" in three parts into the concentrated silence of the full church, and it seemed at that moment as if we people were walking through the desert again. And "Where does help come from?" was anything but a rhetorical question.

With kind regards

YOUR YAROSLAVA BLACK



Destruction in Kharkiv on February 28





Kyiv on February 28



Civilians prepare defense in Uzhgorod



Civilians prepare defenses in Ivano-Frankivsk



Civilians prepare defense in front of the opera house in Odessa



Queue to Poland



Fleeing

Tatiana Nechytyaylo makes paper bird and paints with children in Kyiv February

28



Joseph and Mary with the burning stove



Donations to support refugees and humanitarian aid in connection with the war can please be transferred to the account of the West-Germany Region with an appropriate reference in the purpose of use:

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Many thanks for your support, good thoughts, and prayers!

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