

# CANADIAN CONNECTION

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Winter 2024



Dear friends,

**W**e are excited to share this edition of SGA Canada's "Canadian Connection" with you. You are going to learn more about what God is doing through the ministry throughout these pages, however, this is a brief introduction of what we have been witnessing and working on.

Winter has arrived swiftly in Europe, bringing heavy snowfall and urgent needs for warm shelter, food, and reliable electricity. Our response shares the Gospel and offers support. Globally, as people seek truth, we, as Jesus' followers, share the only hope: Jesus as "the way, the truth, and the life."

Our We Care Centers, part of the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary, operate in 17 locations, providing humanitarian aid, counseling, and resettlement support. Millions in Ukraine have moved westward or returned from Europe.

Hebronsoft trains orphans in software technology and life skills, fostering a relationship with Christ. They're encouraged to join local churches and engage with the faith community.

We've supported local church pastors for decades, aiding in various community activities like street ministry, orphanages, schools, and events.

We're grateful for contributions to our Winter Warmth program, as God reaches many through these efforts.

Bill Ball  
Executive Director, SGA Canada

## Family Rescue

God is at work in ways we sometimes do not hear about. Recently, in a restricted access country the local church reached a family of 8 people and provided housing and food. They all repented, turned to Christ and were baptized together. Soon the landlord discovered their faith and removed them from the rental property.

God opened another door where they now live, and we have assisted with this practical expression of God's love. The journey ahead will not be easy, and work is limited to earn a living wage. They are trusting the Lord to meet their needs and come to church as they are able for growth in a new way of life everlasting.

Pictures are not available for security reasons. Please pray!

### What can our readers be praying for?

The provision of necessities during this long war.

Wisdom to respond with so many requests.

For believers to have opportunities in sharing the Gospel.

## Winter In Ukraine

Winter has come fast and furious in many parts of Europe this year, dumping large amounts of snow. Due to many of the things we saw happen in Ukraine last Winter, we have seen energy infrastructure and the overall power grid as very fragile in many regions. The blizzards and negative temperatures could easily power off multiple villages in different parts of the country, as it happened at the beginning of December this year.

This has alerted many to the need for warm shelter, sufficient supplies of food, and steady electricity. We continue providing generators/power stations to the churches that need them most. Two villages near Ivano-Frankivsk recently received funds to acquire generators for their church community and we are continuing to answer the call for assistance where needed. When we are able to provide the resources needed through your partnership, the Gospel is shared and felt, and lives are turned towards Christ.

## Local Churches

We also continue supporting local church pastors as we have done for decades in several countries. Each is unique in their community, and we assist however they see best. It may be street ministry, orphanages, schools, home visits, youth meetings, senior's gatherings, or special seasonal events. Each church community is unique and has various gifts. God uses all means to reach many for the kingdom!

Thank you in advance for giving towards our Winter Warmth program once again.



Warm clothes at WeCare Center in Hostome



Starlink for a brother in Christ that serves in Kharkiv region



Generator for a church in Poberejja, Ivano-Frankish region



Generator for a bigger church in Yezupil, Ivano-Frankivsk region



# WeCare Centers

**W**eCare Centers from Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary are in 17 locations, working with local churches to show Christ's love with humanitarian aid, counseling, and resettlement decisions.

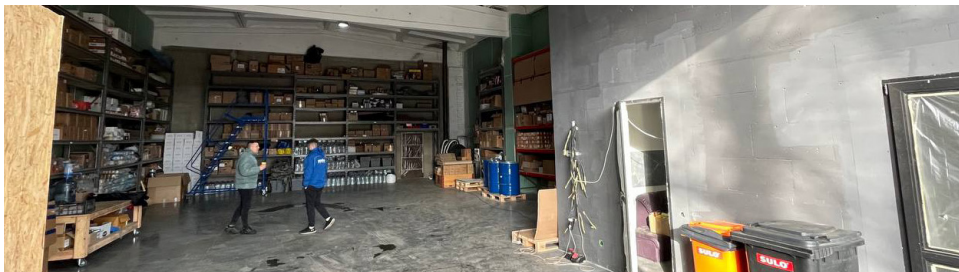


WeCare Center in Hostome

Millions in Ukraine have relocated to the West, and others have returned from European countries, finding it easier back home. Many of the WeCare Centers cover not only peoples' immediate needs but also work on restoring their neighborhoods and planting new church communities.



WeCare Center in Ivano-Frankivsk



WeCare Center in Hostome



WeCare Center in Ivano-Frankivsk

A significant challenge that continues for Ukrainians in this season is finding work. We have also seen the number of new orphans who have lost their parents in the war increase dramatically.



WeCare Center in Ivano-Frankivsk

Some WeCare Centers and other agents care for the orphans, finding support for their immediate needs and ensuring a positive long-term impact on them.

Another project that represents these values is our continued partnership with Hebron Academy. Hebron has successfully taken in graduated orphans to study software technology, learn every facet of life skills, and develop a personal relationship with Christ. Students are encouraged to attend the local church and be involved with other believers. It is truly a life-changing experience for the students in so many ways. It helps ensure that in the future, more Ukrainians will follow Christ and be able to provide for themselves and others in need, impacting the whole society. Our most recent support has gone towards helping Hebron Academy launch a program for girls. Read the story of one of these student, Valentyna, below.



Valentyna

## Valentyna

Valentyna is 23 years old, and she is from Kremenets, Ternopil region.

She is an orphan. Since the age of 5, she has been raised in a foster Christian family.

Valentyna is also a Christian and regularly attends the Pentecostal Church.

The Christian community has provided significant support for Valentyna. Today, she actively participates in various activities at the Christian youth club and plays a vital role in the church's life.

Valentyna is known for being diligent, calm, and responsible.

*"I really appreciate what the Academy is doing. To me, this feels surreal. I am very grateful for the opportunity to study here," she says.*

At Hebron IT Academy, Valentyna is studying Full-Stack development.

# A Letter from Igor Zhurba in South East, Ukraine

## The missionary report of Igor Zhurba for the 4th quarter of 2023

**D**ear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ of the SGA Mission and the Church in Canada! I am again very happy to greet all of you and convey greetings from Mykolaiv and the Mykolaiv region.

I thank my God and our Savior that he protects and cares for all of us. He sends everything necessary for life. Many people in our country are learning to value such things as life, family, food, and housing in a new way. This murderous war shows and teaches people what is an eternal treasure and what is only temporary. This is God's way for Ukrainians and Ukraine. All of Ukraine should kneel down and ask God for forgiveness, salvation and peace.

God blessed Ukraine with a great harvest this year. In September, we celebrated the Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving Day in the villages of Nechayane, Kalynivka and Kalabatine. At the end of each month, we hold gatherings for ministers of local churches in the region. We coordinate and support services for rural churches. We cooperate with a group of medical workers; they provide medical assistance to those who need it, because many villages do not currently have such an opportunity.



We are also building a prayer house in the village of Velika Korenikha (a suburb of Mykolaiv). The walls have already been built. We pray for funds for the windows and a roof. Building in times of war is very difficult, but we pray and God blesses. Therefore, construction does not stand still. Please support us with your prayers. The people (about 25) who want to have a church in their village are a great motivation for us. Brothers and sisters from village churches are engaged in construction. We believe that the Lord will bless us financially and we will be able to have joy.

My son Sergei is a military man and is currently in the hospital. Please pray for his physical and spiritual recovery.

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you all for your support for me, my family and the church. Thank you for being with us. May God's love and mercy always be with you!

We hug everyone.

Special greetings to the SGA Canada team.

Sincerely,

Igor Zhurba







*Canadian Connection* is published to report religious news about ministry work that is being done in Slavic countries and to highlight the efforts of:

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