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Update from the Campbell's ministry

1 message

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Team Ukraine as we prepare to leave Malaga for 50+ hours of trains, plains and automobiles to get into Cherkasy.

What to say...

There were so many layers to the Ukraine training trip. It was beautiful and hard, tragic and wonderful. There is something about bearing witness to the struggles and pain of other humans that seems right and good. I suppose that speaks to the very fundamental design that God has build into his image bearers to be as "us" (holding each others joys and sorrows). The work that Refectio (The name of the trauma care team that sponsored the training) is doing is so timely for a country at war. They are creating space to help people walk through very difficult things and holding those stories in the name and power of Jesus. Just beautiful. One very interesting thing about the training was that often we tried to have break out sessions to practice the skills that we were training. There was no way to keep the practice sessions theoretical. Every time the practice got real very quickly as people who were instructed to act like this was the "third session of a grief group" entered into their very real grief.



I so wish I could sit with each of you and tell you the stories of courage and faith that I encountered while in Ukraine. It feels so hard to summarize concisely. Let me just share a few pictures. Please take note of how very cool my name is in Ukrainian!



The trip into Ukraine requires a flight to Warsaw before catching a 14 hour night train into Kyiv. While in Warsaw our team found the memorial for the Warsaw Jewish Ghetto where almost 400,000 Jews were confined. In 1939 more than 80,000 of these died because of the appalling conditions. Many, many more died later, when they were shipped out to camps. This was a sad reminder that the ugliness of Ukraine's current moment is not new.



After our final session in the 5 day training we stood in a circle with our Ukrainian friends and locked arms as we blessed them with wisdom and perseverance in Jesus name! They responded with a gift for us that was a powerful finale to the week.

I'd also like to share a poem I wrote from the moment captured in the video above.

Armed.
Together.
We anthem.
The sum and scrum of our week,
Caught unscripted and uplifted
In songed solidarity.
Damp eyes from full hearts
Fragile hopes lofted,
Lanterns released into sirened skies.

Solid and soaring slavic voices,
Filled and focused faces,
As national pride and eternal longings are mixed.
And while nothing is fixed

We, for a moment, are whole and human
Caught by holy hope in an armed anthem.



I'm writing you from Sydney, Australia, having just arrived this morning for a care visit with a Novo family in a difficult season. Please pray for my presence and energy during my week with this family. May God meet us all deeply and powerfully in our time together.

Candy is involved in 2 separate intensives happening back at La Morada while I am away. Please also be praying for her and for the other team members caring for these global workers. Thank you for your partnering with us. We deeply appreciate your prayers and presence in our lives and ministry.



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