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A Lovely Week with the Ukraine Team

1 message

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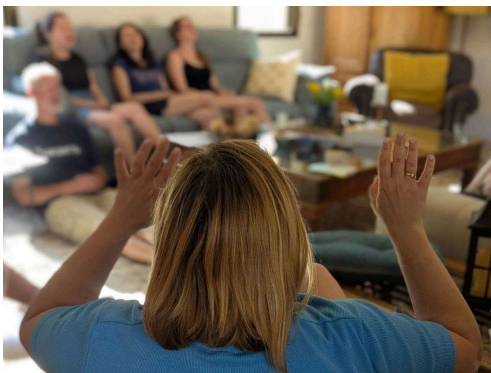
Wed, Jul 16, 2025 at 11:29 AM

When we were drowning, you were God's hand to us"

These were the words of 7 beautiful Ukrainian women as they presented this original, commissioned painting to our SentWell team and reflected on our engagement with them over the last 3+ years of conflict in their country. I wish you could sit in the living room at La Morada and soak in the beauty and power of this painting. Even more, I wish there was a way to communicate to you the privilege of participating in a week of training and care for these women.



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Candy and I enjoyed meals, taught modules, facilitated team building and led worship during the week. We also got to be the face or SentWell at La Morada inviting women who have grown accustomed to air raid sirens, daily news of tragedy, and the ever present specter of war, to breath...and rest...to enjoy beauty and (even temporarily) peace.

One of my favorite moments from the week is captured in the picture above. The Ukrainian leader is walking on a tight rope supported by the rest of her team. This picture is how I imagined this team building exercise to culminate. In my notes, I would acknowledge the challenging call she has responded to (establishing a trauma support center for displaced people in a war zone as an expression of the gospel) and invite her to embody the difficulty of the task by walking the tight rope. She would try a few times and fail and then I would invite the team to brainstorm a way she might more effectively navigate the tight rope.

I set the exercise up exactly as I had imagined and invited the leader to walk the tight rope, but then my plan fell apart. She moved with amazing confidence toward the rope and at the same time confessed that there was no way she had the ability to walk that line. Then, as if scripted and rehearsed, with no prompt from me or from the leader, the other 6 women came around her and lifted her onto the rope. Not a word was spoken. It was a ballet. Her arms received the groups support and she gracefully "floated" onto the line and stood secure. My eyes get misty as I recall the story.

This is what they have to do every day. I was inviting them to an exercise that reflects their reality. The giving and receiving of support was no game for these women, but an essential part of the ministry to which God has called them.

Each woman took her turn on the line and spoke to the ways they needed the team support. It was beautiful.

So far in 2025, our team has served 172 workers living in 46 different countries. I'm not a huge numbers guy, but these numbers reflect workers who have chosen to carry the light into 46 different contexts and cultures. The number also speaks to the cost (spiritual, relational, emotional and physical) that many of them embrace. And (I hope) this number reflects global workers who are receiving the care they need during a time of increased stress. These numbers warm my heart!



Needing Some Help...

Our financial support has been strong and steady for the last 5 years. But, as is common in missions, there are times when people need to adjust their giving priorities. That is just life. Over the last several months several of our long time partners have needed to stop their monthly support. One is a church and 5 are individual supporters. The net loss for us is \$1100/month and that leaves us with

a considerable shortfall. We wonder if any of you are in a position to consider joining our team or (if you are already a financial partner) increasing your contribution.

We will include a contribution link below. If you have any specific questions about our financial short fall, please send us an email. Thank you for considering this. Even if you can't offer direct financial help, would you pray that God would raise up folks who are able.

Campbell Financial Link



Thank you for being on this journey with us. We are never quite sure how to communicate our sincere gratitude to you. We receive your long and faithful support of us and your more recent engagement with the purchase and development of La Morada as investments in the kingdom expanding around the world and into the lives of healthier more resilient global workers.

Love to you all!



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