



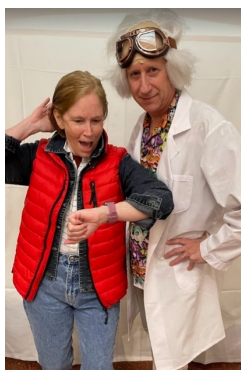
Constant Threat ... Continual Compassion



The people of Ukraine did not seem much different from our last visit. They continue to be among the strongest people we have ever met ... brave, compassionate, faithful and faith-filled. It was actually our small team of four who seemed to have the heightened sense of awareness, alert, risk. We were there to make new connections and to bring encouragement and aid. And yet isn't it just like God to both use us to encourage them, and the people of Ukraine to encourage us! Humbling.

There are no cities (large or small) that aren't under constant threat of missiles or drones now. The mobile apps we downloaded, which alert the people of Ukraine of pending attacks, told us as much. Sometimes multiple times a day, an alert would first warn of pending danger and then later give the all-clear signal when the threat had passed. Every business closes during these threat periods ... disrupting so many areas of life. A key meeting over coffee ended this way for us in Kyiv. But we responded as the Ukrainians do ... alert and aware, but continuing on with meetings, deliveries, and life, under an amplified feeling of concern and doing God's work.

We took a week to travel 1800 miles to Lviv, Tarashcha, Kyiv and back. We wanted to bring both tangible aid and encouragement to families and pastors caring for others in-country. We brought ½ ton of aid with us and left it with partners in Lviv. Then, after a 2 hour morning air-raid delay in Lviv, we took the empty van and re-filled it at Metro (think European Costco) before making the trip to Tarashcha. Every bag of rice, box of tea, blanket, hug, prayer, and word of encouragement was received with grateful hearts. One new (and dear) friend that Gary made earlier this year greeted him by saying "Thank you ... you haven't forgotten Ukraine". This is our prayer. That we, and all who are partnering with us, would be faithful in praying for an end to the war and for the safety and needs of the Ukrainian people ... faithful in continuing to give and to help in every way God leads us!



Refilled with Rhythms

Every fall, FMI Europe holds a gathering to train and encourage our workers here in Europe. We had the privilege of helping plan and facilitate this meeting that focused on global worker care – a passion of ours. The teaching focused on healthy rhythms – both building and developing. Something every global worker needs to stay healthy! We even had some celebrities - Doc Brown and Marty McFly - show up at the welcome dinner to encourage all of us in the work we are doing. Thank you for every way that you encourage and support us ... in our everyday work of pastoring, caring, serving, and pouring out love and compassion, and in opportunities to be re-filled ourselves!

Gary, Joy

Gary & Joy Peiss

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