



## East and Easter

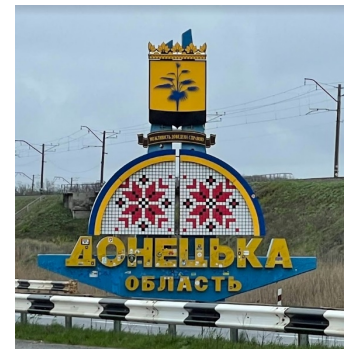
The original plan for April's trip to Ukraine was much the same as February's – aid deliveries to Lviv, Tarashcha, and Tal'ne, and encouragement for pastors and other partners all along the way. There were a few invitations and additions – Nastiia would share at a youth gathering in Tarashcha, and we would spend a Sunday in Lviv on



the way back where we would all attend Sunday service (and Gary would preach) at Spring of Life church in Lviv. What we didn't see coming was the cancellation of the youth meeting in Tarashcha, and the nearly simultaneous invitation to accompany Vova and Adrej – our partners in Tal'ne – to near the front lines in Donetsk. After long and focused group conversations and prayer over WhatsApp, we felt that the Lord was giving us a green light to go. From Thursday night to Friday night we made a 26-hour journey from Tal'ne to Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Lyman – and then back. We delivered food aid and medicine to residents who refuse to leave their forever

homes – even when they and their homes are in the path of war or in occupied territories. And the key reason our team and van were needed – to deliver a spare vehicle (stocked with medicine) to Andrej's nephew and his fellow Ukrainian soldiers who are there defending their country. It was such an honor and privilege for our team.

While it was our longest trip yet (over 4,500 km / 2,800 miles over 7 days), the Lord sustained our team of four throughout. Bringing encouragement and aid to pastors and partners in multiple locations, and tangible compassion and the gospel of hope to those who are literally face to face with this tragic war. What a joy, though, to see the strength and faith of the Ukrainian people in every city and village. Working and serving each other in any way they could. Helping in every aspect of life. Staying strong for each other and for their country. It was a journey of intense physical, spiritual, and emotional contrasts. From Bratislava and the celebration of Easter and a full house with a shared meal at CCI the previous Sunday, to the brutal realities of war in the east of Ukraine, to Sunday in Lviv where we celebrated Easter a second time. The risen Savior is being made known – both in a nation under the blessing of peace, and a nation under the horrific weight of war!



## Sunday in the USA

We will be at several churches during our time in the United States. We'd love to see you there! May 21 – CV Church (Glendale, CA), June 4 – The Bridge (RSM, CA), June 11 – Eastpointe Church, (Buckley, WA), June 18 – Grays Harbor Foursquare Church (Aberdeen, WA).

*Gary*, *Joy*

**Gary & Joy Peiss**

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