



Ps David Smethurst and his wife Margurita have over 40 years of ministry experience worldwide. Through Smethurst Ministries we support the House of Hope orphanage in Ukraine, providing refuge for children and families who have been displaced or lost family due to the war.

In recent years we have helped evacuate hundreds and thousands of refugees, women and children, to neighbouring countries. The House of Hope has provided a safe haven, shelter, food and water, and a place of peace and hope in a time of war. The work continues on the ground as well as the care and support for those orphans that have been evacuated, and the women and elderly in neighbouring countries.

LifeSource continues to pray and support this vital ministry including the donation of finances for food, clothing, blankets, bibles, firewood and transport.

Testimony

The Odessa region of Ukraine has faced severe challenges due to ongoing war and extreme cold, with 814 air raid alerts recorded in 2024 alone. Families live in constant fear, seeking shelter from the relentless sirens. Amidst this turmoil, aid has been provided, bringing food, blankets, and comfort to those in need.

Alina, a mother, expressed her children's terror, finding solace in shared prayers. Although the war's end is hoped for, healing will take decades, as the emotional scars run deep.

Efforts continue to help rebuild lives, with orphans and homeless children leading many to Jesus. Over 10,000 people were brought to faith during the pandemic, creating hundreds of Fellowships in the Odessa Province.



Prayer Points

- Provision for the House of Hope in Ukraine, food, medicine, protection & firewood.
- Provision for the refugees in Norway that are starting their lives again. For new hope, courage, faith and strength.
- Healing from trauma and support for those suffering from PTSD.
- Peace, truth and God's grace in the region.
- Provision of bibles to those hungry for the word of God.



Prayer Requests

- Protection for those that stay to continue saving, sharing, feeding and helping those that are left.
- Sasha who is leading the work there, introducing many to Jesus
- Christians will stand strong, united and help each other. For hope, courage and strength in difficult times.
- There are so many people who have experienced trauma and grief, lots of healing is needed for christians and the community
- Miraculous supply of clean water in the well - the drones and missiles have poisoned all the lakes

Praise Points

- Sasha & Vera and the team have led many to Jesus
- Leaders at the House of Hope have become pastors and carers and seeing many come to know Jesus
- The well at house of hope is the only clean water source in region

In the quiet, war-torn countryside just outside Odessa, the sound of artillery in the distance has become a grim lullaby. Natalia, a single mother, lives with her baby daughter, Vika, and her older sister, Olga, in a small, dilapidated house at the edge of their settlement. Natalia's husband, Sergey, had been called to fight in Bakhmut a year and a half before, a place that had become synonymous with danger and loss. The day he left, Natalia was in her first month of pregnancy, and the uncertainty of his fate has hung over her like a dark cloud ever since. Over a year has passed without any news, and the cruel silence is a constant reminder of the fragility of their existence. Together, they face each day with a blend of determination and sorrow, tending to their meager garden, scavenging for food, and making do with the scant resources they have. Vika, now nine months old, is a tiny beacon of light in their lives. Her giggles and innocent curiosity offer a brief escape from the harsh reality outside their door.

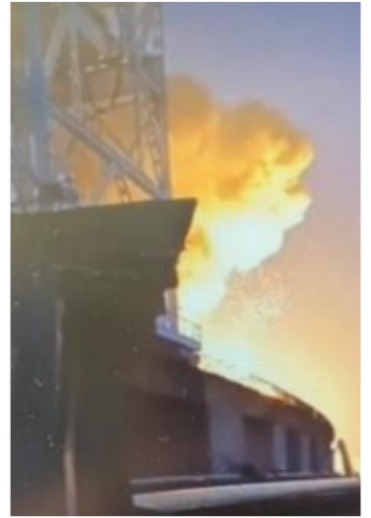


Natalia's health has been deteriorating. The stress and lack of proper nutrition has taken a toll, and she needs medication to manage her condition. One cold evening, as the wind howls through the cracks in their walls, Natalia is sitting by the flickering candlelight, sewing patches onto an old blanket. Her thoughts wander to Sergey. She remembers the way his eyes would light up when he talked about their future, the way he cradled her belly with love and hope before he left. She whispers a prayer for his safety, though she fears the worst. Olga comes over and places a hand on Natalia's shoulder. "We will get through this," she says softly, Natalia nods, her eyes welling up. "For Vika," she whispers. "We must be strong for her." Days turned into weeks, and the struggle continues. But one morning, as the sun rises over the barren landscape, a knock on the door shatters the silence. Natalia opens it to find two people standing there, Avigail and Andre from the House of Hope. They have bags filled with essential supplies: medication, baby clothes, diapers, and food.

Tears stream down Natalia's face as she accepts the gifts. "Thank you," she says, her voice trembling with gratitude. "You have no idea how much this means to us." Avigail smiles warmly. "You are not alone," she says. "There are people who care, people who want to help. We will continue to bring what you need." Andre nods in agreement, adding, "We'll make sure you have everything necessary for Vika and yourself." Hope begins to take root in Natalia's heart for the first time in what feels like an eternity. The road ahead is still fraught with challenges, but knowing that there are others who care, who will support them, gives her the strength to carry on. She hugs Vika tightly, whispering promises of a better future, and for the first time, she allows herself to believe that they might make it through the storm. Please help us to continue helping this family.

Prayer Requests

- Those moving from House of Hope, Ukraine, to safety in Germany and Norway – orphans, homeless kids and single-mother families.
- Safe evacuation of our drivers and helpers. Protection for those that stay to continue rescuing, feeding and helping the poor.
- Pray for protection and provision for those left at House of Hope
- Christians will stand strong, united and help each other. For hope, courage and strength in difficult times.



Russian Missile Attack on Odessa in retaliation

Andre, our main man at the House of Hope, said that there was such a huge explosion in Odessa that they all felt it all the way to Sanzheyka – half-way down the South-West coast towards Moldova.

We are continuing to support the most vulnerable members of the community: poor single-mother families with small children, the sickly, and the elderly, all of whom are profoundly affected by the escalating conflict. The scarcity of food and medicine, coupled with the fear that pervades their daily lives, torments many of them. Many of these fearful locals cannot simply flee due to health concerns, or lack of proper documents. They are bracing themselves for what they describe as "life in hell" as the Russians bombard this region.

We are committed to support and protect these vulnerable people. We'll be conducting major food and medicine distributions, on a daily basis. We'd appreciate your kindness and generosity while we are making some huge, life-preserving decisions.

Ukraine's Missing Children

Moscow still gloats over the 744,000 Ukrainian children it has stolen from Eastern Ukraine into Russia from the "conflict zones".

Their "ruling" we've found, has been that if a child has been without its parents for more than 10 days (such as at a summer camp) then the parents have "abandoned" the child.

Russia's kidnapping of Ukrainian children is not unique – Putin and others have long used children as political pawns.



Praise Points

- House of Hope kids have settled into their homes and schools in Germany and Norway.
- All the 17-18 year-olds passed their Year 12 exams and they have been able to get jobs in Germany and Norway.
- Young people led about 12,500 local people/ children to Jesus in 485 villages in the Odessa province (traveling with our drivers to deliver food, medicine and children's picture Bibles to families).
- Doctors and specialists gave free treatments for children in need out of gratitude for bringing them to Jesus when they were teenagers.
- Protection for the 22,500 people/ children evacuated from Ukraine, the safety of the van drivers, and ongoing protection of the House of Hope.
- David's good health, he is about to turn 80 and celebrates his 58th wedding Anniversary this year.



Our Goals for 2024

- Feeding the poor again in Eastern Ukraine and the Odessa Province – getting together Survival Packs of non-perishable food, hygiene products and basic medicines (together with pictures Bibles in their language) for hundreds of families who are starving and sick. We have led thousands to Jesus as a result of this mercy ministry.
- Continuing to evacuate those who want to leave Ukraine at this time.
- Increasing the Art Therapy Course and the number of compassionate teachers who will bring psychological and spiritual healing to adults and children alike.
- Acquiring one more transporter van (cost \$25,000) for the Refugees in Norway to be taken to find work, attend therapy meetings and get to church services.

Prayer Points for 2024

1. Success of the Art Therapy Course
2. Protection for the House of Hope, so that:
 - a. More needy single-mother families can find refuge there
 - b. People living in the rubbish dumps can find a home there with the option to evacuate if needed
3. Protection of our drivers negotiating mine-infested roads
4. The children and families who have been evacuated to settle into the nations that have taken them in and find healing
the terrors they've experienced
5. More people around the world to pray for the work being done and the safety and salvation of these people
6. Funds to meet these needs before the needs become unbearable

