

UKRAINE

The Issue:

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014. The invasion has caused tens of thousands of deaths on both sides and has instigated Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. About 8 million Ukrainians were displaced within their country by late May 2022, and more than 7.9 million had fled the country by January 2023.

After almost a year of fighting, there is no end in sight for the war in Ukraine. Millions of civilians are unable to return home. Many still in the country are forced to live without access to food, water, health care, and other essential supplies.

There has been catastrophic damage to civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. With Ukraine's cold winter months, families sought shelter in damaged buildings not suited to deal with sudden drops of temperature or heavy snowfall.

It's at times like this that leadership matters most!



The Plan

2022 GLS UKRAINE

Despite many conferences and events in Ukraine being cancelled, the GLN leaders in the Ukraine set about planning ways to support and inspire those around them to lead well despite the incredibly difficult circumstances. With the devoted service of many volunteers the Global Leadership Summit Kyiv and Chernivtsi took place in December 2022 with God's blessing. Our team in Ukraine did everything possible - the Lord did everything impossible.

Participants had the opportunity to learn, enrich their knowledge and be inspired to live well in the midst of their circumstances.

The Summit in Ukraine also included a Commemoration of the Dead for the first time, and the sacrificial leadership shown by those who died defending their land and their neighbors was honored with an unprecedented minute of silence.

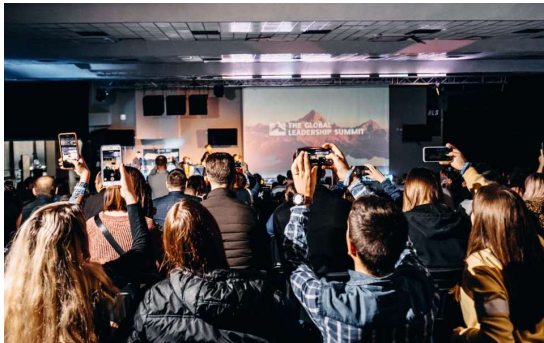
Then something emerged from the rubble, the local leaders began to speak.

Mykhailo Brytsyn, Pastor of the Blagodat Church in the occupied city of Melitopol shared a message at the GLS "Deserts of Leadership" — How to recover and continue ministry after losing what was built for years - churches, teams, jobs.

As Pastor of one of the largest churches in the city, the Blagodat Church building was taken by the occupiers in August 2022 who they placed their administration there. Believers were dispersed and forbidden to gather. More than half of the Christians left the city. Now Mykhailo is the Pastor of the scattered church.

Founding pastor of the "Holy Trinity" church in Kharkiv, Ilya Gerasim was in the line of active hostilities. He shared about the loss of five friends and the first weeks of the war. He encouraged leaders to always believe the best and hope in God despite the circumstances.

During the shelling of Kharkiv, Ilya (a successful businessman) stayed in the city, helping evacuate people, delivering food, medicine and sharing the Word of God. He continues to serve as a volunteer in Kharkiv.



The Possibilities

Despite the challenges in Ukraine, the GLN team there have great dreams and goals moving forward. They see leadership development as being crucial for the health of their nation.

EVENTS:

1. **GLS** sites in Kyiv, Poltava, Dnipro, Chernivtsi
2. **Conference** on the role of the Church & Christian organizations in overcoming the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine.
3. **Forum for journalists and analysts** covering the life of families and ministry of church communities during the war in Ukraine.
4. Meeting of heads of Regional Centers for **training and coordination** of work.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS:

- Monthly trips with humanitarian aid to the frontline regions – to deliver generators, medicine and hygiene products.

SUPPORTING WAR VICTIMS:

- Purchase and delivery of building materials for minor repairs of residential buildings that are damaged, but not destroyed - replacement of windows, doors, roof repair.
- Escort civilians with severe injuries. Interaction with medical clinics in the USA & Europe. Preliminary agreements already in place with two clinics in the state of Texas, USA.

EXPANDING THE GLN UKRAINE TEAM:

- We require at least one new full-time lawyer to interact with Ukraine authorities in the process of humanitarian and human rights work; monitoring and reporting human right cases – persecution of Christians and Churches of the occupied territories of Ukraine.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Purchase and installation of uninterruptible power supply systems for the functioning of our offices and teams during permanent power outages. The system consists of an inverter and a significant number of batteries. Unfortunately, the use of generators in office conditions is impossible.

The Need

The Global Leadership Network is working to support and restore a nation under great duress. The GLS leaders truly believe the Church and Christian leadership are the hope of the world and hope for Ukraine. The Global Leadership Summit, in times of a war, becomes an incredible challenge and responsibility for the team.

Due to the sensitivity of this situation, exact figures are not able to be shared regarding financial needs, but the following give an indication of needs that are at the forefront:

7 Events in Ukraine	\$35,000
Humanitarian assistance – travel, supply of equipment and resources	\$25,000
Supporting war victims	\$25,000
New Full time Staff member	\$35,000
Equipment	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$130,000