

Building Up & Reaching Out

HOPE AMIDST CRISIS

How We're Helping Ukrainians Find HOPE



Photo by Tim Mossholder

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HOPE AMIDST CRISIS

How We're Helping Ukrainians Find HOPE

From train stations to church basements, refugee camps to renovated classrooms, the Harshes have witnessed the faces of loss—and the quiet resilience of those searching for more than safety. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Building Up & Reaching Out (BU&RO) has been actively ministering to the displaced, not only in Ukraine itself, but across Czechia and surrounding regions.

In the words of Robin Harsh, “Every week, we see Ukrainian families—mothers, children, grandmothers—walk through the doors of local Czech churches, looking for more than just food or supplies. They’re looking for hope.” The work is deeply relational: listening, praying, sharing meals, and walking with families as they rebuild their lives in unfamiliar places.

“Every week, we see Ukrainian families... looking for hope.”

Robin Harsh

To meet spiritual needs alongside physical ones, BU&RO began producing and distributing gospel-centered materials early in the crisis. As of December 2023, “over 10,000 copies of BU&RO materials have now been printed and distributed in Ukrainian



Photo sourced from <https://war.ukraine.ua/>

and Russian.” These resources are more than paper and ink—they are tools for identity restoration, for connection, for grounding.

“These aren’t just handouts,” Roger explains. “We follow up with people. Many have joined discipleship groups or now attend regular



Jesus for the first time,” the Harshes shared in a recent update. These moments, while often humble in scale, carry weight—seeds planted in dry ground.

And the fruit is showing. Children are memorizing Scripture in a second language. Mothers are requesting Bibles. Grandmothers are leading prayers. The crisis is far from over, but something eternal is taking root.

One Ukrainian teenager who received a discipleship booklet recently told

Photo sourced from <https://war.ukraine.ua/>

worship services.” The ongoing relationships built through these resources have helped churches create spiritual homes for those navigating displacement, trauma, and long-term uncertainty.

Ministry efforts have extended beyond Czech cities and into community events and youth programs. “We’ve hosted evangelistic events for refugee families and helped organize camps where many children heard about



Photo sourced from <https://war.ukraine.ua/>



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the team, “I didn’t know that God had anything to say about my pain.” That, Robin says, is exactly why they remain.

The goal is the same for all souls God brings them: to offer hope that is not circumstantial, but eternal.

“I didn’t know that God had anything to say about my pain.”

Ukrainian Teenager

THE GOSPEL IN WARTIME

Pastoring Through Shelling, Scarcity, and Spirit-Led Growth

The war in Ukraine continues to displace millions, but for many pastors, the calling to stay has only grown stronger. In cities and villages under the constant shadow of air raids and power blackouts, church leaders are stepping into a new kind of ministry—one defined by endurance, scarcity, and Spirit-led creativity.

Earlier this fall, BU&RO's Roger Harsh traveled into Ukraine to participate in a conference for church planters. The pastors gathered were not just ministry leaders—they were survivors. Many had sent their families abroad to safety but chose to stay behind to serve their communities.

Despite the hardship, the faith on display was resilient. "These men have faced shelling, displacement, and trauma," Roger shared, "but they continue to shepherd their people with quiet strength."

BU&RO provided humanitarian aid alongside spiritual encouragement—distributing food, essential supplies, and thousands of discipleship booklets printed in both Ukrainian and Russian. These resources, paired with personal mentorship, are equipping leaders to plant home groups and gospel-centered fellowships across the region.



Photo by Robin Harsh

"The men have faced shelling, displacement, and trauma, but they continue to shepherd their people with quiet strength."

Roger Harsh

FAITHFUL IN THE QUIET PLACES

Discipling and Strengthening the Local Church in the Czech Republic

While the world watches Ukraine, another mission continues quietly in neighboring Czech villages and cities. For Roger and Robin Harsh, the work of building up the Church here is slower, deeper, and no less vital.

Roger has spent the semester teaching at a Czech Bible school, investing in the next generation of ministry leaders. His time with a small church near Brno includes mentoring the pastor, preaching regularly, and simply being present—a gift in a context where long-term faithfulness speaks volumes.

Meanwhile, Robin leads a Czech-language women's Bible study each Sunday afternoon. These gatherings have become a space for trust, vulnerability, and spiritual growth. "We cry together, pray together, and open the Word together," she says. "God is knitting our hearts across language and cultural barriers."

Though it's not the kind of work that draws cameras or crowds, it's the foundation on which sustainable ministry is built. With less than 1% of the Czech population identifying as evangelical, this kind of relational, day-by-day discipleship is both rare and deeply needed.



Photo by Roger Harsh

*"God is knitting our
hearts across language
and cultural barriers."*

Robin Harsh

NEW FIRE AMONG THE NEXT GEN

Youth Camps Rekindle Faith Across Czech and Beyond

In the hills of the Czech Republic, something quiet and powerful is unfolding among young people. At youth camps and outreach events supported by BU&RO, teenagers are encountering a faith that's alive—and for many, for the very first time.

This past summer, Roger and Robin Harsh helped organize and lead two youth outreach camps. About 320 teens from various Czech cities gathered for several days of worship, teaching, and community. About a dozen Ukrainian youth, now living in the Czech Republic due to the war, also joined.

Many came from nominal or non-believing homes. Some were openly skeptical. But as the days went on, walls began to fall. Conversations grew deeper. Worship grew louder. And by the end of each week, multiple teens had made decisions to follow Christ.

“The goal of these camps isn’t just conversion,” Robin explained. “It’s to plant seeds, build trust, and show them that Jesus is not distant. He sees them. And He’s worth following.”

These students are now plugged into local churches and follow-up groups, continuing their journey of faith in community.



Photo by Roger Harsh

“The goal of these camps isn’t just about conversion. It’s to plant seeds, build trust, and show them that Jesus is not distant. He sees them. And, He’s worth following.”

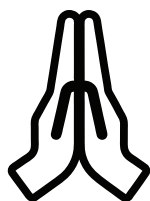
Robin Harsh

HOW YOU

Building Up
Reaching Out

*"Be the hands
and feet of*

CAN HELP



PRAY

Pray for the displaced families we serve throughout Europe. Ask God to provide safety, housing, and healing for those who have experienced deep trauma. Pray for local churches as they welcome refugee families and walk alongside them. Lift up the pastors and volunteers ministering in war-torn communities. Join us in asking for wisdom, provision, and open hearts to the gospel in every village and city.



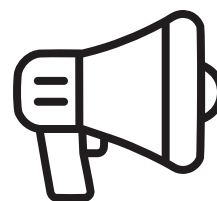
GIVE

Your financial gifts directly help us provide food, winter supplies, discipleship materials, and trauma-informed care to Ukrainian refugees and church communities. Your donation sustains these efforts and allows us to serve both practically and spiritually. Scan the QR code or visit our website to give securely today.



VOLUNTEER

Are you called to serve in the mission field—either short-term or long-term? We're looking for helpers, teachers, organizers, and encouragers. Join us on a future trip to support refugee ministry, teach Bible lessons, lead camps, or help distribute aid. If you're local to Europe, reach out about in-country opportunities. Email us to learn more or to begin the conversation about how you might join this work firsthand.



SHARE

Help spread the mission of Building Up & Reaching Out. Share our updates with your church, small group, or online network. Invite others to pray and give. Host a fundraiser or awareness night in your community. Follow us on social media and let people know how they can be part of helping the Church respond to crisis with compassion. You are a vital link in mobilizing others for the Kingdom of God.

ROAD BETWEEN

A Personal Update from the Harsh Family



Though much of their time is spent in Eastern Europe, Roger and Robin Harsh continue to live between two worlds—called to serve abroad while still deeply rooted in the lives of their now-grown children.

This past November, the Harshes spent a meaningful Thanksgiving in Florida with their children, Elizabeth and Josiah. The trip was especially joyful as they celebrated the engagement of Elizabeth and her fiancé, Avery. A summer wedding is on the horizon, and preparations are well underway.



After returning to Europe in December, the Harshes celebrated Christmas with their Czech church family, hosting gatherings in their home and continuing their ministry throughout the season. The pace remained full, but the holidays were a welcomed moment to reflect, reconnect, and rest in community.

Looking ahead, Roger and Robin plan to return briefly to the U.S. in June to attend Elizabeth's wedding and spend a short time with family before continuing their work in Europe.

