



LAST BELL MINISTRIES

IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024



Dasha

EDUCATIONAL
OUTREACH

WHAT IS GOD BUILDING IN ZHYTOMYR?

Dear friends,

The Bible is full of analogies that were clear to the people who lived in those times. I understand best the ones about the harvest, about construction, and about battle.

When I think about the harvest, the most powerful verse that comes to mind is in the book of Matthew. Jesus tells his disciples to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers for the fields. That's an appropriate prayer: for churches to embrace orphans just as they are, to bring them to Christ.

The stories about construction and building are very versatile: from the restoring of Jerusalem, to building the temple, to Jesus' parable about the two houses that are built on the rock and on the sand. And of course the central idea that Jesus himself is the Cornerstone that was rejected by the builders. How unwise to reject the foundation of a spiritual building!

But I'd like to focus on the idea of battle. I don't need to tell you why. You know Ukraine is in a terrible war that has continued for over three years. The passages of Scripture that talk about battles are all very vivid and powerful to me: *The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD* (Proverbs 21:31, NASB).

God is in full control, even when his people are in the midst of distressing circumstances, going through difficulties, trying their best to conquer them.

So would you pray that verse with me?

The horse is prepared for battle. We're making blueprints for service, projecting our budget, making ambitious goals. We're hiring workers for the harvest, building a bigger ministry to orphaned youth. But the victory is completely from the Lord. He will lead us on our path. He will fix our eyes on the right target. He will deliver from evil. And He will receive the glory and honor from us!

May it be our anthem for the coming year: that we'd completely rely on the Lord for victory, and that we'd be actively involved in the process.

May victory come from the Lord for our nation, may the orphans of Ukraine be protected and delivered from the threat of the enemy, may the Lord's peace be in the hearts of those who are struggling this year.

Thank you for continuing at our side and praying with us,

Andrey Pankyeyev
Ministry Director



READ MORE ABOUT
THE NEW DAY CENTER

BUILDING SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Tanya G. is 24 years old. We met her in 2018 at a local social dorm; she'd been passed through four families and foster families before she graduated high school. Her little boy will turn five this year! While staying at our Shelter facility, she attended church and was baptized in 2024. She's now actively serving in Young Life ministry and was recently a leader at youth camp. She married a Christian man who did repairs at the Shelter, and now they're following God together.

18

YOUTH WHO
DECIDED TO
FOLLOW JESUS
2023-2024

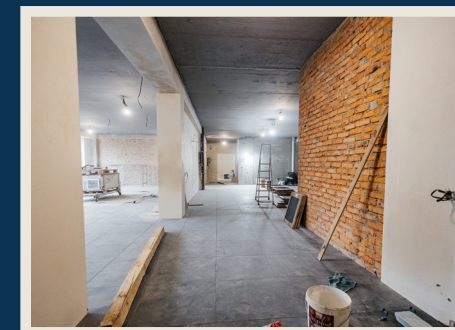
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BAPTISMS OF
YOUTH 2023-2024



BUILDING THE DAY CENTER'S CAPACITY

Our Day Center was already busy, but now it's overflowing! We're thankful for donors who made it possible to purchase this beautiful new facility, which our Restoration Project crew is renovating now. When we open in August 2025, we'll have three times the space for welcoming orphaned youth.



An activity with orphaned youth at the crowded current Day Center



**BUILDING
A FUTURE
FOR ALINA**

Alina's life began with a broken foundation.

Starting at two years old, she lived in four different orphanages. Then, in foster care, she became pregnant because of sexual abuse. Baby Ksusha was born when Alina was fourteen.

A second foster family helped her keep the baby, and she attended college. Yet the future was scary. "Where will I live? Where will I work?" she asked. "Will anyone ever want my daughter and me?"

She dreamed of a home and a loving husband. But she needed help building a bridge to that better life.

Building Hope

At Last Bell, God was already making a place for Alina.

Soon after we met Alina, she and Ksusha started coming to the Day Center whenever it was open. Then she joined Stop the Cycle and began parenting classes. Alina was surprised that a teen mom was welcomed without judgment. She described our staff as "kind, loving, joyful... always able to listen and help." They became her foundation of support.

Building Security

After college, Alina needed to leave foster care. Ksusha was six years old. And with its cozy bedrooms, busy kitchen, and practical and spiritual mentorship, the Shelter was the perfect transitional home for her. Our staff asked her to move in. For the first time since she was a toddler, she had a true home. "You could say I found my family here," she said.

At the Shelter, Alina learned important skills like cooking and budgeting. She loved praying and going to church. But where would she live permanently?

Building Home

Our Shelter staff learned that Alina was eligible to receive housing from the state, and helped her register for the waiting list. And she received a house! But it wasn't livable yet.

Funded by generous givers, our Restoration Project crew began the repair work. Alina's house became a cozy home. Over the years the RP crew added bunk beds, a secondhand stove, and the Shelter's old kitchen cabinets.

Our donors' generosity, our staff's expertise, and Alina's own determination had built her a new life. She and her daughter were happy and safe.

Building on the Cornerstone

Then, the rest of Alina's dream came true! She fell in love. Now she and Ksusha and a new baby all live with her husband's parents. Thankfully her old home provided a place to stay while her husband was at war, and she keeps a big vegetable garden there.

Unfortunately, Alina's husband lost a leg on the front lines. But her faith in Jesus, the true Cornerstone, is still strong. She prays constantly. The cycle of orphanhood has been broken in her family; her children will grow up loved and safe.

We're all deeply grateful for what God has built in her life. How exciting to ask: Now what will He build *through* her?



Stop the Cycle program staff



The Restoration Project crew with foreman and crew mentor Sergei

STOP THE CYCLE PROGRAM



Victoria left an abusive marriage and moved into the Shelter in late 2024. *I really like the Christian environment and fellowship, she said. I'm learning about communicating with my daughter and everyone around me.... The fact that we don't have to worry about our financial security here allows us to relax and look at our life from a new perspective.*

I'm extremely grateful to the people who support the Shelter. May the Lord bless you so that you can continue to change lives!

44 ORPHAN-LED FAMILIES ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN STOP THE CYCLE IN 2023-2024

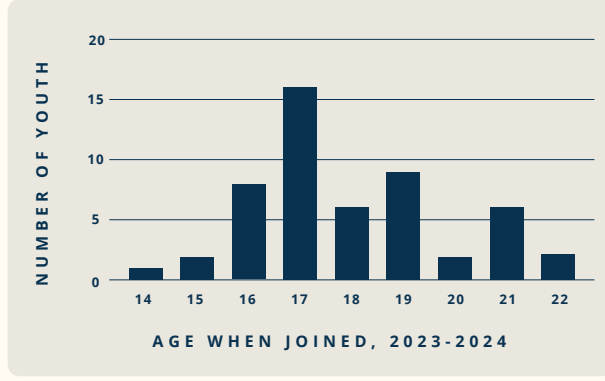
265 MOMS, DADS, AND KIDS SERVED IN 2023-2024

1 ONLY ONE MOM GRADUATING FROM THE SHELTER HAS EVER GIVEN UP A CHILD TO STATE CARE

One of our moms was raped and became pregnant. Because of the trauma, she didn't feel able to keep the child. Our staff helped with the paperwork, and the baby was adopted.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Age of youth when they join Last Bell



Educational Outreach program staff



Orphaned guys and one staff member at youth camp

Four Challenges of Independent Life for Orphans

- 1 No housing, or unsafe housing
- 2 Unaddressed medical, vision, and dental problems
- 3 Lack of independent living skills
- 4 Poor mental health and spiritual hopelessness

302 YOUTH SERVED THROUGH EDO 2023-2024



Dasha

shown on front cover:



I am very grateful to God that he answered my prayer with such wonderful believing leaders. Life has improved because I have made new acquaintances and friends.

Ilya Polischuk, a staff member on our Educational Outreach team, with one of our orphaned youth at a Day Center event

TRANSFORMING ORPHAN CARE IN THE CITY OF ZHYTOMYR

Last Bell partners with Zhytomyr's government in various ways. For example, our staff hosts life skills classes at state-run trade schools; orphaned moms are referred to us from the city's crisis housing; and we work with government agencies to make better policies for orphans. The former orphaned youth on our staff are able to speak up and share their experiences during conversations about policy.

These relationships help us better serve our youth. And we have a new opportunity! Last Bell is consulting with the city about increasing city social workers' understanding of trade school residents like orphans. Recently, they began planning a training program on mentorship. Our staff will participate. We'd love to see local churches sending mentors! A strong community network will help end the orphan cycle in Zhytomyr.

Weekly Employee Hours

USA: 48

UKRAINE: 676

Orphaned Youth & Close Family

61

ON ACTIVE DUTY

10

HAVE DIED IN THE WAR

18

HAVE ONE OR MORE LOVED ONES ON ACTIVE DUTY

6

LOST A LOVED ONE IN THE WAR

6

SERIOUSLY INJURED DURING THE WAR

2 with amputated legs and 1 with a knee injury

1 with multiple bomb fragments in his body

1 with concussions, 80% vision loss, lost hearing in one ear

1 with total vision loss, atrophied arm, and bomb fragments in his body

Staff

4

HAVE A LOVED ONE ON ACTIVE DUTY

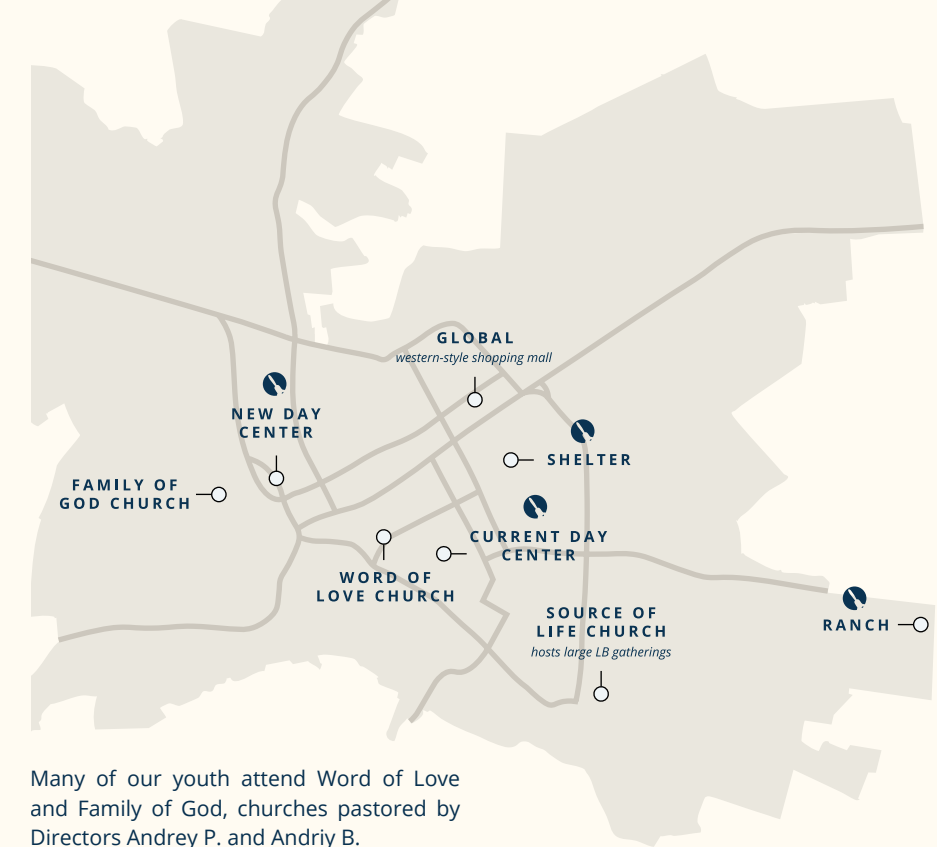
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LOST A LOVED ONE IN THE WAR

1

ON ACTIVE DUTY

ZHYTOMYR



Many of our youth attend Word of Love and Family of God, churches pastored by Directors Andrey P. and Andriy B.



The grave of Misha S. in the Zhytomyr military cemetery. Misha was a student in Last Bell's Educational Outreach program, and beloved by all. He died on active duty at the front lines.



The military cemetery in Zhytomyr



Two orphaned young women at Last Bell's summer camp, wearing vyshyvanki - traditional embroidered Ukrainian blouses

1,304

AIR RAID SIRENS IN THE ZHYTOMYR REGION SINCE BEGINNING OF WAR

Wartime Cost of Living Increases

2021 - 2024

BREAD: 105%

MILK: 80%

EGGS: 137%

GASOLINE: 120%

ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT RENT: 85%

In UAH, not converted to USD

\$365K

SPENT ON WAR RELIEF SINCE BEGINNING OF WAR

\$123K

OF THAT ACROSS 2023-2024

Dear friends of Last Bell,

On my phone's translation app, I've been collecting stories. It's where I keep texts from our staff as they recount answers to prayer, new crisis prayer requests, and remarkable moments from their interactions with orphaned youth.

Each story illustrates our God Who sees, knows, and loves each of our youth. God authors their stories from eternity past! His plans are unhindered by wars and broken economies.

In this Impact Report you've read about God's work through our team over the past two years. And we see that God is already writing the next chapters. As we follow His Spirit's leading we're making plans for the coming years:

DAD CAMPS: BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

Launching in 2025, Dad Camps will equip orphans who have become fathers and strengthen their relationships with Christian dads in our community. We'll also offer Dad Camps to military men stationed in Zhytomyr. Dads will learn how to have great conversations with their kids, love them unconditionally, and lead them spiritually.

SOLDIERS: BUILDING UP BROKEN WARRIORS

We'll increase and formalize our care of orphaned soldiers, who often struggle when they return home. Our staff are trained to draw the wounded into healing relationships, weaving practical care with the threads of Jesus' tender compassion.

TRADE SCHOOLS: BUILDING BIGGER REACH

Our new city partnership fosters increased access to trade schools where we don't yet have a presence. Our staff will be able to meet more orphans, letting them know about the opportunities available to them and bringing real hope for the future.

HOMES FOR MOMS: BUILDING STABILITY FOR MOMS IN TRANSITION

Orphan-led families often struggle with housing, even after finishing our programs. Many don't qualify for state housing and can't afford rent. The housing market destabilized even further during wartime. We'll refine our strategy of "housing with accountability" and look for practical ways to increase housing options.

These are strategic plans for healing and growth. As Andrey declared, we look to God for the victory! And we remember Psalm 41 which David wrote for a choir, their joyful song drowning out the clamor of the enemy's assault:

*Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;
the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land;
You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.*

We pray these verses over you and our whole community!

Trusting together for God's deliverance and blessing in Zhytomyr,



Marguerite Havard
Executive Director

OUR FRIENDS IN AMERICA

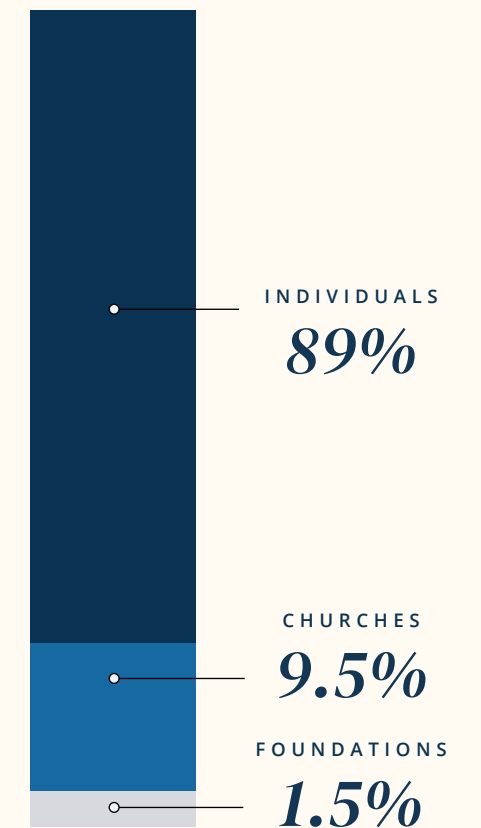


Olya and her daughter, former Shelter residents, wearing winter gear donated and shipped by friends at First Presbyterian Church and Changing Footprints in the USA

Building Our Network of Friends

As God expands our influence in Zhytomyr, we long to share our vision with new friends who love what Last Bell is accomplishing and yearn for a deeper impact. In the coming years we'll provide more resources to help current supporters tell Last Bell's story to family, friends, and churches.

Funding Sources



**LAST BELL WILL TURN 20 IN 2026.
GET READY TO CELEBRATE!**

**“The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
but the victory belongs to the LORD”**

PROVERBS 21:31, NASB



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