INNOVISTA

UKRAINE IMPACT REPORT

How your support for Christian leaders is changing lives in the midst of war





Your support provided an oasis... a safe place to recover from the storm, then get ready to go out to face it again.

Olya, Ukraine

On behalf of Ukrainian leaders, *thank you*

You are a blessing. Truly.

Your steadfast support for Christian leaders in Ukraine, through these long and painful years of war, has been incredible.

Back in February 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, you were among the first to respond with generosity and compassion. One leader told me, "Innovista arrived here before the United Nations."

And even as war rolls on, you have not given up.

Your prayers give Christians the strength to go on. Your gifts fund hope-bringing ministries. And your support means your Ukrainian brothers and sisters don't feel alone. Thanks to you, churches are still serving their communities and changing lives.

I see the impact of your kindness whenever I visit Ukraine. Recently, I met Antonina, a church leader in northern Ukraine. Antonina was weary and broken from years of conflict. This faithful woman was on the verge of giving up.

But then you showed up...

Your support provided Antonina with specialist training and it was transformative. I'll never forget Antonina's words to me afterwards... "It was like coming back to life," she said. Ever since, Antonina's church has been growing and thriving!

There are so many stories like Antonina's – and in this report you'll meet more courageous Ukrainians who are benefitting from your help. I hope you are inspired and encouraged by what you read.

So on behalf of these leaders, ***thank you.***

Thank you for standing with them. For believing in them. For walking alongside Christian leaders in these dark days.



Jason Lane
International Director,
Innovista

Your have empowered leaders across Ukraine

You equipped **864** leaders from churches and ministries in **34** cities and towns



You helped fuel the ministry of **75** churches and organisations through your financial support



Bucha: You gave a ‘tent of invincibility’ so a local church could provide warm space, hot food and phone charging for people whose homes had no power.



Kharkiv: You helped Irina evacuate more than 1,000 people (from Kharkiv) by providing fuel and tyres for her vehicle. She regularly travelled off road to avoid being attacked.



You provided mentoring and training for young leaders who carried hope all over Ukraine.





Pavlo-Maryanivka: When you’ve lost everything and people take notice it gives you strength to live, believe and move forward.

Mykolaiv: You equipped Lilya and her team to provide care and community for women whose husbands were killed or missing.



Odesa: You provided expert care for traumatised leaders.



Kherson city: You turned a big basement into a bomb shelter, enabling a frontline church to serve around the clock. In September ’26 this church baptised another 12 people.



Kherson Region: You equipped volunteer teams to clean up, rebuild and connect people with Churches after the bombing of the Kakhovka Dam caused catastrophic flooding.



Kherson Region: You helped communities “...come back to life” after brutal occupation. Leaders started three new churches, with ninety people joining in the first six months.



Life in Ukraine

Alex, Innovista's finance manager in Kyiv, Ukraine, and grandmother-of-two, gives you a special insight into the challenges of everyday life in a warzone...

On sleeping

"The nights are terrible. For months, we have been bombed non-stop, so we don't sleep. I live in a fourth-floor apartment and the closest shelter is 20 minutes away.

When the air raid sirens sound, we usually don't go out. Instead, we lie down and pray. Our life is in God's hands."

On buying food

"During air raids, stores are not open so you can't buy bread, milk or meat. Food and medicine warehouses have been bombed, and delivery company trucks are often targeted by drones. It's not easy to find what we need. I usually prepare crackers by drying bread in the oven, and eat them with soup, and share with my neighbours."

On work

"I go to the office because it has light and heat. My laptop battery lasts four hours and Innovista bought us big power banks, which help when there is no electricity."

On her grandchildren

"My grandchildren, aged 16 and nine, are so scared. They sleep with the light on. In schools, children sit in shelters almost the whole day. All children are weakened and nervous, and need medical care."

On Kyiv

"The hardest thing is to see people being killed. Every day! And to see young people without arms and legs. On crutches, with prosthetic limbs or in wheelchairs. Half of Kyiv is like that. There are very few men on the streets now too.

I am from Kyiv and this is a city I love. Every bomb is a knife in the heart, as monuments, streets and parks where we spent our youth are all destroyed."

On the future

"We have been told we will not survive winter in Kyiv. But I don't want to leave. Someone needs to stay in the church. Displaced people who need care are coming here, and someone must help them."



Pray with Alex

Lord God,

Our war is getting worse. More brutal. More victims. More destruction.

Please protect our doctors, so they can treat us. Our teachers, so they can teach our children. Our firefighters, without whom everything burns.

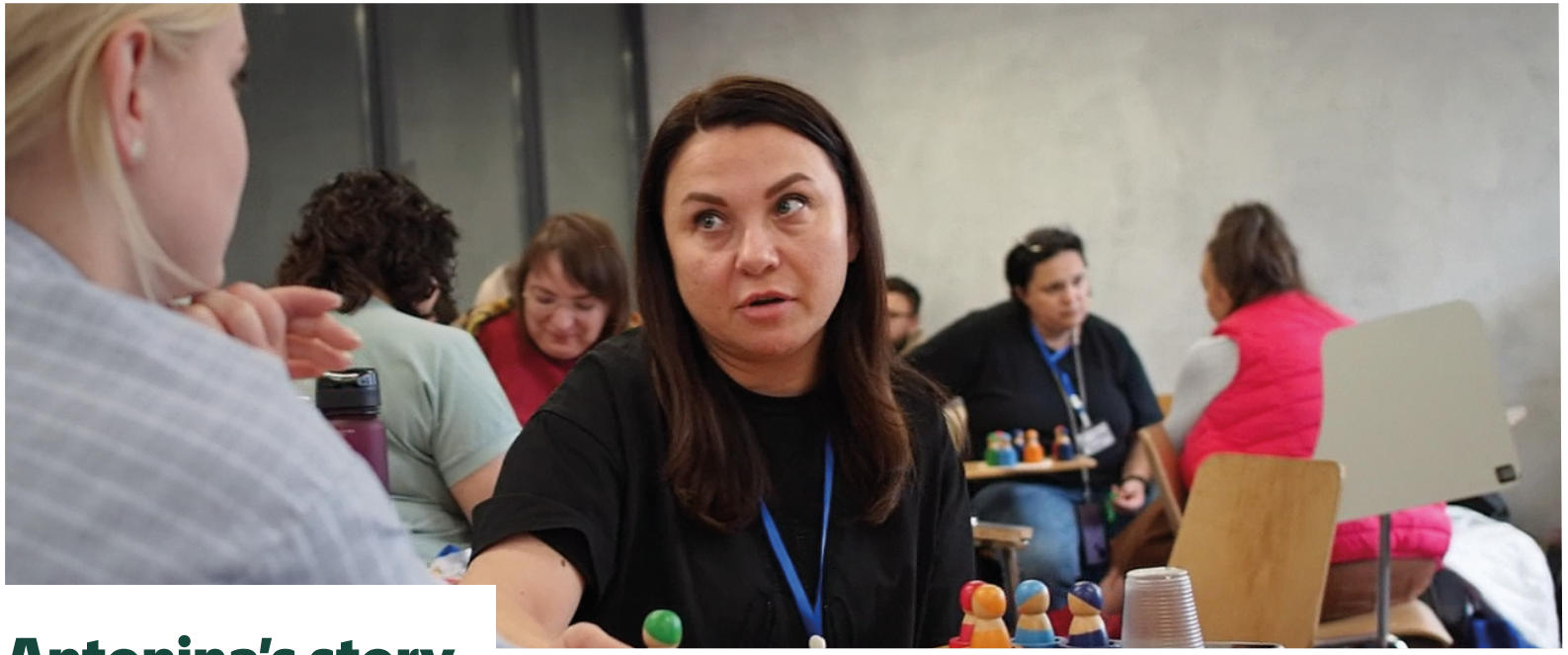
Lord, be our rescuer and our rest.

Give us strength and comfort.

Provide courage to those who keep showing up to help, serve and care.

Above all we pray, boldly and urgently, for peace.

Amen.



> **Now I serve with new strength.**
>
> *Antonina, church leader*

Antonina's story

Location: Chernihiv, near Belarus and Russia borders

Role: Church leader

You provided: Trauma assessment and support plan; training to help people with trauma

At the beginning of war on Ukraine, when Russian invaders surrounded their hometown, Antonina and her family fled Chernihiv. But it wasn't long before Antonina was back...

Her church was damaged by bombing so Antonina took over another building. She set up a classroom and children's work in the basement, a beauty salon and women's ministry on the first floor, and the second floor is being converted into a gym.

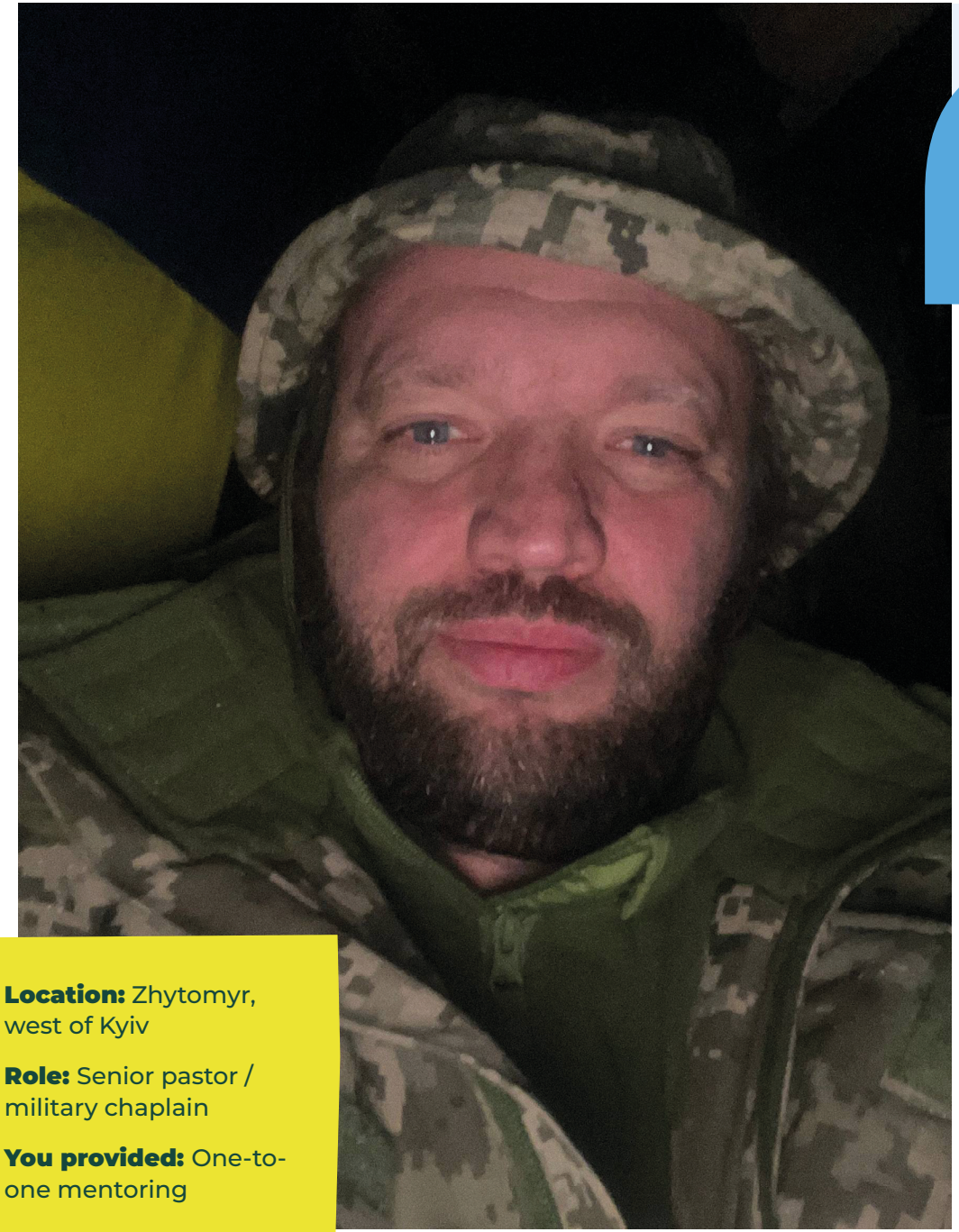
Antonina's determination and faith is extraordinary. But the work took a toll.

"I was exhausted," said Antonina. "I was giving so much of myself to people but I wasn't receiving anything. I was in a state of depression. Empty."

Thanks to you, Antonina received specialist training from Innovista – and it changed everything.

"I came back to life. Like I was resurrected. After these seminars, I now serve with new strength. It feels like new breath is in me. A new understanding of how to care for people."

Antonina was coached by Dr Joy Winterbotham, a specialist in complex psychological trauma. She learned how to process her own trauma and support others. Now, Antonina is running women's groups near the frontline – and bringing the hope of Jesus to her community.



Location: Zhytomyr, west of Kyiv

Role: Senior pastor / military chaplain

You provided: One-to-one mentoring

> **Innovista helped me determine a single direction for my church.**
>
> *Yurii, church leader*

Yurii's story

For years, Pastor Yurii Zhytomyr and others in his church raced around helping as many people as possible. Enthusiastic but breathless. Chasing every new idea that came along. Burning out trying to meet needs amid ongoing war.

Then an Innovista coach worked with Yurii – and it sparked a revelation...

"I realised we were doing everything for everyone and, in end, nothing for anyone," said Yurii. "We simply had too much noise in our heads. We needed one single direction for our church."

Your support provided one-to-one mentoring for Yurii, and over time this committed leader developed absolute clarity about his mission.

"Now, we work first and foremost so our children and their friends follow Jesus," said Yurii.

"Everything else, we set aside. Even when we help the military, we focus on children of the military. When a father is at the front, we lend a fatherly shoulder to his children.

Every ministry in the church now revolves around this vision – and each person is involved in ways that draw on their strengths.

As a result, our leaders are not out of breath doing everything. They move in one clear direction," says Yurii.

"We filtered out everything that hinders, so we can step towards our goal."

Slavic's story

Location: Kharkiv, close to the Russian border

Role: Family centre director, social worker and pastor, military chaplain

You provided: Emergency food for distribution. generators for the church and family centre, funding for the mentoring of boys, one-to-one leadership development



When Russian troops rolled into Ukraine in February 2022, Pastor Slavic and his wife Olena bravely chose to remain in Kharkiv – despite being just 15 miles from the frontline.

The city, the second-largest in Ukraine, regularly comes under fire from missiles and drones. But even in the darkest days, your generosity brought hope to desperate people.

Over the past four years, you've helped to provide:

- Emergency food
- Warm clothes, hot water bottles and sleeping bags for hundreds of refugees.
- Social care support to more than 1,000 families.
- Youth clubs, regular summer camps and more than 600 therapy sessions for children at the brand new 'You Too' family centre.
- Mentoring for teenage boys through the 'Wise Carpenters Club', which pairs woodworking with Bible study.

Last year, Pastor Slavic was drafted into military service and now serves as a chaplain in the army. His wife Olena stepped up as the new senior leader of the You Too Family Centre – and your support is strengthening her for the role.

Olena said, "I meet two to three times a month with my mentors, and that time is very important to me. Sometimes I need to talk. Sometimes I need advice or prayer. Sometimes I just need to know I am not alone."

"This is one small miracle in the midst of war: being there for one another.

Olena, wife of Pastor Slavic



Location: Originally from Mariupol, now in Kyiv

Role: Charity leader supporting bereaved children, specialising in trauma therapy using animals

You provided: Training and equipping

Sandra's story

In Sandra, you are supporting a remarkable woman.

When conflict broke out and Mariupol became occupied, Sandra fled her home and walked for days without food to reach safety. It was a dangerous ordeal. One which would cause most people to withdraw for a while.

But not Sandra. She had a dream to help children impacted by the war... Children so traumatised they'd stopped speaking. Children whose fathers were killed on the frontline. Children carrying grief beyond their years.

With your generosity, Sandra's dream became a reality. Now, she runs an animal-based therapy centre where young people are learning to heal. They spend time with dogs, horses and other animals – and it changes lives.

"Animals can touch a child's soul," says Sandra. "Just by gently stroking a dog, children slowly connect with you, they share their pain and begin to open their hearts to healing."

Your support helped turn Sandra's ministry idea into a hope-giving therapy centre.

You equipped her with the knowledge and skills to organise a team and run focussed, well-supervised sessions. Sandra's charity now has a base in Kyiv and a mobile unit which travels to frontline locations.

"I dreamed of this place," says Sandra. "And now, here we are."

> **I now know how to care for my team, so they can keep caring for children.**
>
> *Sandra, charity leader*



Looking ahead: in deep darkness, light shines brighter

As Ukraine enters another difficult season of war, the road ahead remains uncertain.

After years of conflict, the strain is immense. Communities are carrying deep wounds. Church leaders are exhausted and overwhelmed by the huge need around them. Peace feels a distant dream.

At the same time, there's a danger the world could grow weary of war in Ukraine. The conflict drops off the headlines and the people involved slip from our thoughts.

That's why your steadfast support matters so much.

While others may be stepping back, you are standing alongside courageous individuals still serving, leading and bringing hope in Ukraine.

Your support means charity workers like Sandra keep caring for traumatised children. It means church leaders like Antonina are re-energised for mission. It means pastors like Yurii stay focussed on what matters, for the greatest impact.

We don't know what the coming months will bring in Ukraine. But we do know the need will remain great – and your ongoing support will have a powerful impact. When the darkness is especially deep, light shines even brighter.

Your extra gift

To give an additional gift today, please scan the code or visit innovista.org. There's no expectation or obligation; you have already done so much. Thank you.

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Thank you for believing in Christian leaders in Ukraine.

Your steadfast support in the hardest days means everything.

INNOVISTA

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