

OEKROE 20 years!! Newsletter 4 - September 4th 2023 (21st volume!)

Camp Ukraine 2023 & Working Hands 2023



Westerpark 150
2231 DM Rijnsburg
The Netherlands
Tel. 071-4022787
Internet: www.oekroe.nl
E-mail: info@oekroe.nl

Dear Sir, Madam!!!

This is Newsletter 4 of this year! If you have a new postal or e-mail address, or no longer wish to receive the Newsletter, please let us know!

Foundation Oekroe 20-year anniversary!!!

Oekroe was officially founded Friday the 31st of March 2003! It is unfortunate, but help is still very much needed. We are happy and grateful to be supported by so many loyal supporters!

We will celebrate this milestone DV Friday the 15th of September 19.30 - 22.00 at the Fonteinkerk, Willem de Zwijgerlaan 1a in Katwijk. The motto for this evening will be: **"Look back and looking forward, also in wartime!"**

Everyone is warmly welcomed to attend this evening which will also be attended by Ukrainian children!

Visit to Ukraine!

Every day you hear and see reports from Ukraine. About rocket impacts in apartment buildings, casualties, and dramatic stories. Finally 1 - 12 August, Arie Vletter, Vincent van Zuijlen and Jaap de Mooij, went to central Ukraine to support our partners there.

Beforehand, people asked, "What are you going to do there? It's life-threatening! War". Our reply was simple: "when your brothers and sisters, young and old, are in dire straits, you want to be there to put an arm around their shoulders, pray with them and give thanks". And that's what we did. It is unbelievable how grateful our friends were, even in this time of war, we came to visit them: "you are the first foreigners who, besides praying for us, actually came to visit us!".

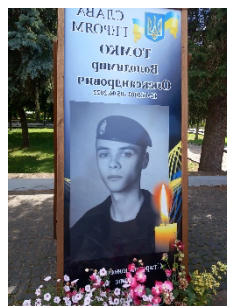
On Tuesday the 1st of August, we flew from Eindhoven to Suceava in south-eastern Romania, about 40 km from the Romanian - Ukrainian border. There we were picked up by Ukrainian friends. After a 9-hour drive, we arrived in Shepetivka. Naturally we did visit the Inspiration Centre and spoke to refugees from, amongst others, Bachmut, Charkiv and Cherson. We were able to encourage them and to pray with them.

We also attended a baptism service at the lake, where young people, who had never heard the Good News, entrusted their lives to the Lord God. One of them was Bogdhan. What an amazing witness to his Lord is this 18-year-old guy! In Ostroh, we were at the distribution of clothes to refugees who had lost everything. There, too, we were allowed to speak encouraging words. In Dubno we visited the Christian school "Premudrist", a wonderful school with an enthusiastic leadership. We also attended a youth summer camp at Dubno. It was nice to be addressed there by guys and girls of around 20 years of age. During earlier years they joined Camp Ukraine and are now camp leaders themselves! In Korets, we visited school 24. We worked there in the past with Working Hands. We also visited the 2019 Working Hands Project in Staroconstantiniv. This nursery is about 600 metres from the airbase, which has been bombed several times. This happened again even 2 days before we got there! The nursery is undamaged and running like clockwork. When the air raid alarm goes off, the children naturally go into the bomb shelter. Ordinary life in Ukraine also goes on 'as usual'. Everywhere you notice the deep wounds the war is causing such as the countless photographs of fallen soldiers you see on the squares. On Saturday the 12th of August, we flew back home again with suitcases full of stories and deep impressions that encourage us even more to continue with our activities! This is only possible with your support in the form of prayer and donations!

Camp Ukraine 2024 and Working Hands 2024

Also in 2024, we will continue to support the camps financially which are also held there during the war, in case we cannot go there ourselves.

Concerning Working Hands: In October, a couple of people will be going to Moldova, to check out possible projects for Ukrainian refugees there.



And remember: Giving only makes you richer!

Where we can, we will continue to help. Are you helping with us? Would you like more info? Let us know! Will you continue to support us with prayers and gifts?

Thank you in advance, also on behalf of our many friends in Ukraine!

*Camp Ukraine 2023 and Working Hands 2023 activities of Foundation Oekroe at Rijnsburg
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