



In **t**ernational
Aid Trust

Christian Compassion For A Hurting World

In *t*ouch

Issue 8

Welcome! From our Founder and CEO

Dear Friends,

It is early July as I write this, and by the time you read it I will have visited our people in Ukraine for the second time this year.

We are now receiving good news as the Ukrainian counterattack achieves some positive progress. Of course, this has not been as fast as many would like, with some of us wanting almost instant success. But the fight against this invasion has had to be carried out with much prayer and very careful forward planning to save lives.

Where Putin has been willing to sacrifice almost a quarter of a million soldiers and conscripts - and at the same time kill thousands more in Ukraine - the Ukrainian military leadership have tried their best to conserve lives. But evil is nothing new, there is nothing new under the sun.

If we look back at the days of Lenin and Stalin, we see that Christians, together with political dissidents, were sent to the gulags, tortured, and used as slave labour to build the railroads and canals. At its peak the gulag system held over two million prisoners and hundreds of thousands died. So many pastors, deacons and ordinary church members were taken away simply because of their Christian faith. Thousands of mothers, wives, and children were left behind not knowing when, or if, they would ever see their loved ones again.

Ukraine suffered more than most during this time. Back then, and even before, they tried to eradicate the Ukrainian nation's identity. It's called genocide, and just like Stalin, Putin today has used his morally reprehensible ambition to try to bring that about. But he will not succeed.

Why? Because of prayer, back then it helped to instil faith and hope in the oppressed people, and now, it will play a huge part in the coming victory, with many thousands of churches in Ukraine raising their voices against this wickedness. Plus millions more people around the world holding them in up prayer and providing much needed practical support.

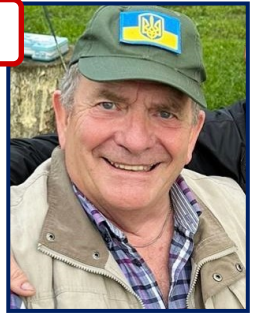
It's a battle of good versus evil, love verses hatred, and love always wins eventually. Of course, there are many wars and conflicts all over the world, but we must make a stand.

Thank you all for your love and support. Please keep praying, believing, and sharing the love of Christ to this hurting world.

Bernard

Rev Bernard Cocker, CEO & Founder

1 Corinthians 13:13: So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



Ukraine Appeal: Thank you for your support



In the last 500 days we have been able to send 50 loads of aid, with a total weight of over 562 tonnes and value of over £11.5 million to help people affected by the war in Ukraine.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

We visited the Inner Wheel District 18 International Rally recently and collected lots of wonderful knitted items, clothing, bedding, food and toiletries, pictured are Joan (District Commissioner) and Pam (UK International Secretary).

Megan and Annabel (right), their cousin Holly and grandma Sue, organised a Lent collection of colouring books, pens and pencils for children in Ukraine from St George's school Chorley, St James Church Chorley, Brinscall St John's School and Hillside Methodist Church. These were gratefully received at Soborna Church and Klekhivka Church, for their work with local children and refugees.



Left: Stephen (Trustee) and Phil (Operations Manager) with two fully functioning ambulances - which were sourced in the UK, and filled with useful medical equipment - handing them over in Germany to the Ukraine team! These will be a huge blessing for the hospitals and emergency teams we work with! Please see our website for their onward journey...

We praise God for everyone who continues to support the Ukraine Appeal, through prayer, financial and practical donations. We thank God for the blessing of the ambulances and pray that they will be a great help for the hospital teams in Ukraine, working hard with limited resources.



UK News

Our CEO and Founder, Rev. Bernard Cocker was invited to the Royal Chelsea Hospital for their Founder's Day Celebrations with Pastor Colin Paterson (left) who is now a Chelsea Pensioner. Colin has served with International Aid Trust in Ukraine and Sierra Leone, receiving an award for his work in Sierra Leone during the Ebola crisis.



A big thank you to our supporters have very kindly organised fundraising events for International Aid Trust recently, these have included churches hosting Lent lunches and the events pictured:

Left; Christine, Sarah and Ann-Marie at their the wonderful 'Music for Ukraine' concert at St Michael and All Angels church, an eclectic mix of songs, the finale was a number from 'Cats' hence the ears! Centre: The joyful 'Blowjangles' jazz band performing at the fundraising concert, organised by Clitheroe Town Mayor, Jenni Schuman, a great night was had by all. Right: Wildwood Days Woodland Festival, where Les and Kate, two of our amazing warehouse volunteers, had a stall selling beautiful handcrafted items, including bird boxes and wind chimes.



Got a great idea for a fundraising event or interested in a copy of our Supporters and Fundraisers Pack? Please get in touch with Julie, our Community Ambassador email: julie@internationalaidtrust.org.uk phone 07502 055109.

We thank God for everyone who gives their time, talents and enthusiasm to the work of International Aid Trust, both in the UK and overseas. We pray that God will continue to provide all the resources that are needed for us to keep sharing Christ's Compassion with this hurting world.

UK News: Focus on Mill Hill Charity Shop



This time we visit our charity shop on New Chapel Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn. Pictured left are volunteers Samantha and Alice with manager Ali, who is very thankful for to all the volunteers, including Tony, Collette and Lynne, who weren't in when the photo was taken.



Samantha says “the team have a good rapport with the customers and there’s a good atmosphere.” Alice (who has been volunteering for twenty five years now!) says “I always wanted to volunteer since I left school, I’ve met lots of new friends through working here.”

The shop has a very good selection of books, DVDs and games, including some interesting vintage board games, well worth a visit if you’re in the area!

Ali says “It’s a very supportive community here, we welcome everyone, new customers often say they will be back. We have book club once a week (below), reading Christian book, ‘Incomparable’, it’s wonderful to be able to share the Lord at the shop!”



We give thanks for all the team at Mill Hill and for the dedicated staff and volunteers at all our charity shops. Please pray for them all to know God’s help in their work, please pray for the book club at Mill Hill to be a space where people have time to think Jesus.

News from Ukraine

Bernard, our CEO and Founder, and Phil Walker, our UK Operations Manager, visited Ukraine recently. They were able to meet with and encourage



the team and churches in Odessa, before joining our Ukraine Director, Pastor Pasha and team distributing aid in the Kherson region.

Pastor Ruslan (left) and Bernard (right) are pictured with Tatiana, who organises the aid distribution to locals and refugees in her village, she says "There are many migrants here, homes were destroyed and we gave them shelter. For nine months there was endless bombing. The help you are sending is very important, a lot of people are unemployed, businesses were bombed and destroyed and therefore there is no work."

Sadly since then the Kakhovka Dam has been destroyed and vast areas of the Kherson region have been flooded, our team are continuing to deliver aid and share hope in Jesus with people in great need in this area.



Bernard and Phil were also able to spend time at our base in Moltovilovka where temporary accommodation has been set up for internally displaced people, there was a special service at the church for refugees and they received parcels of food and essentials (left). Pictured right are refugees from Eastern Ukraine in the Fastov region, also being supported by the local churches, selecting from the clothes and bedding sent from our warehouse.

Give thanks for the dedication of our staff and volunteers in Ukraine. Please pray for their safety as they deliver aid and share the gospel, for and for God's continued guidance. Please pray that all the aid sent will bless the people who receive it and for God's help and comfort especially for those affected by the floods in Kherson region.

Phil's reflections on visiting Ukraine

Phil (pictured right, helping to distribute shoebox gifts and other aid) writes about his first visit to Ukraine:

"What a blessed time I had visiting Ukraine for two weeks in May!

International Aid Trust have been ministering there for over 30 years and I certainly saw the benefits of all the work that God has done during this time.

We were able to visit a women's prison in Odessa (below) where our prison ministry volunteers; Sergei and Julia, lead a group of ladies in Church and Bible study twice a week. I was struck at the freedom the majority of these ladies showed, I knew it was testament to them knowing our Lord Jesus Christ and the continued discipleship that was happening there. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 28 "go and make disciples of all nations."



Reflecting on how the war has affected Ukrainians, Phil says

"The people of Ukraine are overwhelmed that people all over the world care about them and are willing to support them. Fifteen months on from the invasion they have learned to live in their country getting on with day-to-day life, not planning for tomorrow because those plans are likely to change because they are at war. They appreciate what they have and are looking forward to the days that they don't have to hear air raid sirens in the evenings and see rockets trying to be shot down above their homes."



Give thanks for Bernard and Phil's visit, for the fellowship and encouragement they were able to share with brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Phil says "Do keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers and ask God to work in all people's hearts to love their enemies and to pray for those who persecute you."



News from India



Our team in India have recently planted four new churches in the Bidar District in Karnataka state. These pastors are all graduates from our Living Word Theological College.

The pictures shows these churches meeting and (below) members receiving their own Bibles. Thank you very much to everyone in the UK who has kindly donated to give the gift of a Bible in someone's own language, here are some of your gifts!



As you may be aware, persecution of Christians in India continues to increase, with churches being burnt and believers being killed in Manipur.

Despite the dangers, the outreach by the pastors is bearing fruit more and more people are coming to faith. Bishop Kota is pictured above left and left, baptising and praying with new believers.

We thank God that despite increased persecution of Christians in India, Bishop Kota and all the team are tirelessly reaching out with the gospel. Please pray that God will protect and encourage them, please pray for those who have been baptised recently to grow in faith day by day.

Focus on Vacation Bible School, India



School summer holidays in India are during May and June, the hottest time of the year. The Olive Church, in Secunderabad, Telangana held their annual Vacation Bible School. Children and teenagers were in groups according to age. They enjoyed lots of games, worship, discussion and snacks.



The theme of the Bible School was 'God Made Me', the young people learned all about creation and the God who made them – and responding with their own creativity! Vacation Bible Schools were also held at several other churches, Bishop Kota says "We praise God for bringing young people to faith in Jesus this summer, we are now seeking to encourage and disciple them through the Sunday Schools."



We give thanks for all the teachers and leaders who gave their time to teach the children about the God who made them and to help them to have a fun and memorable summer. Please pray for the children to remember all they have learnt, to keep attending Sunday school and growing in faith.

News from Sierra Leone



The building work on our New Hope Academy Secondary School is progressing well, the concrete slab to form the floor of the first floor classrooms is in place, our Sierra Leone Director, Pastor Michael is pictured centre, with the architects, he says “The building has been well done and is very elegant. Everyone is very happy with the quality of the building work.”

The young men who have been trained in construction (right) are enjoying their work and seeing the progress they are making.

The work is on track for lessons to take place in the building in September. Picture below right shows JS1 (year 7) who are currently having lessons in the hall of Emmanuel House Children’s Home, enjoying games with the team from Fulwood Free Methodist and St Simon and St Jude with All Souls who visited in the spring.

These young people are very thankful for the opportunities they are being given and are benefitting from a varied curriculum.



Give thanks for the progress on the building work and the benefit that the school building will be for the whole community. Please pray for students in JS1 that they will grow in knowledge and in faith day by day.

Mr Bockarie teaches Business Studies, Computer Science and Religious and Moral Education, he was delighted with the laptops the visiting team were able to take. He says “I am very excited about the future for these students, they are able to continue their education, in the future they will be able to share their knowledge and their faith with others.”



Focus on the Vision Mission



Opticians Peter and Sheila Booth lead the International Aid Trust Vision Mission, they sort and grade all the second hand spectacles that we receive, they train teams overseas to test eyes and dispense glasses.

In the spring the Vision Mission team of Peter and Sheila (centre), John Irwin (2nd left) and Alison Davies (3rd right) visited Sierra Leone. They were supported by Pastors Michael and Alice, James (left) and especially Nurse Rebecca (2nd right), and Midwife Marion (right), who were trained in conducting eye tests.

Peter says "During our recent trip to Sierra Leone, Sheila, Alison, John and myself were wonderfully received by the team, who helped us to examine nearly 1000 patients including the children at New Hope School. God is really working through the ministry in Lungi and it was uplifting to be a small part in that."



The work of the Vision Mission is continuing to bear fruit in Ukraine, where people have come to faith following receiving glasses and being able to read the Bible for themselves. The volunteers trained a few years ago have been testing eyes recently for refugees from Eastern Ukraine and also soldiers stationed locally. Keep reading to find out where the Vision Mission is going next!

We thank God for the difference the Vision Mission has made to thousands of people in giving them the gift of sight, and for the witness to Christ's love that this outreach is. Please pray with us for Marion and Rebecca as they continue this work in Sierra Leone.

News from the Philippines

The charity's work in the Philippines is co-ordinated by Lennie Fisher, who is one of our Trustees.

Lennie says, "We support four missions in different areas of the Philippines, they all work with vulnerable young people, including street children and children from very poor families."

Merlie, pictured left at the clinic for poor children, is the founder of the 'Mountains Ministry' and currently co-ordinating the Summer Bible School. This is in a very remote area, approximately 150 children are attending, they are from families with a very basic lifestyle, living in wooden huts, washing in the streams and relying on subsistence farming.



At the Summer School the children enjoy lots of fun, games, singing and dancing, food and learning about God's love for them. Revival Movement in Northern Ireland supply the teaching materials, local Christian parents and young adults have signed up to help.



Some of the young leaders are pictured making bracelets to encourage the children with verses from Scripture (inset).



Merlie says "We are praying for God's guidance in our endeavour to spread the good news of Jesus to the children and their families. It's so exciting to see them all!"

We thank God for the 'Mountains Ministry', for Merlie and all the leaders of the Summer School. Please pray with them for God's guidance and help in this outreach, please pray for the children and their families to want to get to know Jesus for themselves.

News from Moldova



More holiday fun! Here are some photos from the Summer Youth camps in Moldova, organised by Pastor Victor and the team at Nisporena Church.

The teenagers greatly enjoyed all the team games and sports and had time to think about God through Bible teaching, prayer and worship.



The ministry led by Pastor Victor also covers churches planted in seven other villages, where people are living in desperate poverty, the churches continue to support many Ukrainian refugees.

The next Vision Mission trip will be to Moldova in the Autumn. A larger team is visiting, so that clinics can be held at as many villages as possible. Here are some of the spectacles that have been donated recently, boxed up and ready to go – and the most recent donations ready for sorting. Thank you very much to everyone who has donated their unwanted glasses!



We thank God for the Summer Camps, for all the leaders who give their time and for all the young people who have attended, please pray for the seeds of faith that have been planted to keep growing throughout the year. Please pray for the preparations for the Vision Mission trip and that it will be a blessing and a witness to those who have their eyes tested.

In Memory

In Loving Memory of



Eileen Hardacre

Over the last few months we have sadly said goodbye to two people who have been part of the International Aid Trust team for a long time.

Eileen Hardacre (left) sadly passed away in March. Eileen will be remembered by many people as a very long serving volunteer area manager over our shops in Lancashire, who retired a few years ago. Having previously worked in retail at Marks and Spencer's, Eileen's talent for visual merchandising was a great asset to our charity shops.

Alison our office manager says; "Eileen would do anything for anyone, she was a very kind and generous lady, who always had time for people."

Pearl Davis (right) volunteered at our Pelsall Charity Shop for twenty years and sadly passed away in February. Pearl first joined the team when she went into the shop as a customer, saw how busy it was, and put the kettle on to make a cuppa for the staff and volunteers who were rushed off their feet—which shows a little of her thoughtfulness and care for people.

Nina our retail manager says; "Pearl was such a lovely lady, so kind and dedicated, she is very much missed."

We are very thankful for Eileen and Pearl's service over the years.

We are also very thankful for donations through legacies and those given in memory of supporters and friends of International Aid Trust, that have been received recently.

This kindness is helping our teams to continue sharing Jesus' love and care, making a difference to the lives of people in great need, including helping to fund healthcare, tailoring training and building work on New Hope Academy in Sierra Leone.



We thank God for the lives of Eileen and Pearl, for the difference they made to the charity and to their local communities. We also thank God for the lives of our friends whose memories have been honoured through donations and legacies. We pray that all their families will know God's peace and comfort at this time.

Archie's Activities: Patterns

Hello Fur-riends!

In this issue of Intouch, there's lots of creativity! can you find:

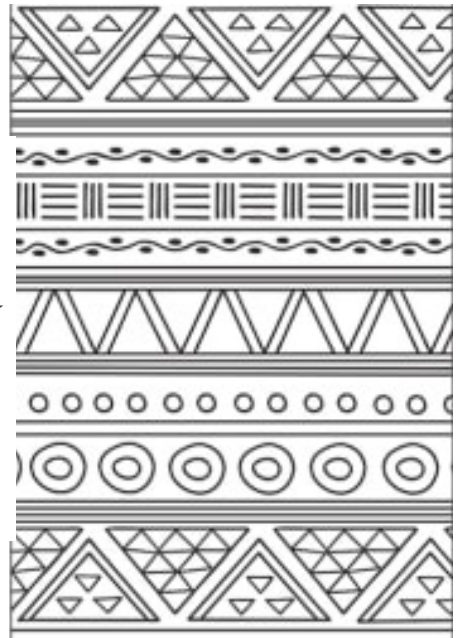
- The girls who collected colouring books for children in Ukraine?
- Children making pictures about creation?
- Bracelets being made as presents?



Obviously I think the best patterns are made with paw prints!

But here are some patterns from three of the countries where we work; Ukraine, India and Sierra Leone for you to colour. Can you work out which pattern is from which country?

On a separate piece of paper, can you design your own pattern representing one or more of the countries?



Freepost INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

Get In touch

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by email usually once a month
by post no more than three times a year

Please contact me about regular giving plans
Please contact me about sponsoring a family or pastor

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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and / or Capital Gains Tax in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Please pay: Royal Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 16-28-16, Account Number: 10075885 for the credit of International Aid Trust. Amount in figures: £ Amount in words For Fund

Commencing on (date) and on the same day every month

Signed **Date**