

ReachOut™
YOUTH SOLUTIONS



**Country Leader
Igor Mینenko**

2023 UPDATE

UKRAINE



A world in need of a Savior...

Reach Out's global impact in 2023



Reach Out Global Map

God moved mightily through our Reach Out team in 2023, more than we ever could have imagined! Investing into the training and equipping of youth leaders is crucial in spreading the message of the gospel to the younger generation. Our Country Leaders witnessed God's hand in allowing our team to train and equip more than **5,000 youth leaders** this past year who are now implementing the six essential characteristics taught through Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry into local churches in countries all over the world. Accounts were received about the impact of our JFYM Forums that brought newly certified Eagle Leaders (leaders who are now equipped to train other leaders), churches planted, and onlookers saved. Over **18,000 students were saved** through the ministries of those trained in **Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry**. And thousands more are currently being disciplined into disciple-makers for their generation!

JFYM Forums have sparked the establishment of **85 new churches in just one year**. These churches addressed crucial needs in areas where JFYM Forums were held. Thousands of students also participated in biblical training when our teams were allowed to enter schools in certain countries. Students were given the opportunity to participate in activities that impacted their spiritual, emotional, and relational growth. One of our Country Leaders has even been invited by their government officials to create such a program in their nation!

New opportunities were plentiful in 2023. Youth leader training started in **Pakistan** and **Belize**. Translations were completed in **Hindi** (India) and **Kirundi** (Burundi). And, we were able to add **Ukrainian** as an additional language to our JFYM online training platform! We also trained Links International missionaries from multiple countries in JFYM.

Reach Out hosted its First Annual Golf Tournament early in 2023, which was a great success and was enjoyed by all who participated. We were also able to highlight Reach Out Youth Solutions and Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry at the Southern Baptist Convention, the Texas Baptist General Convention, and Movement Day at Dallas Baptist University.

Thank you for your generosity, support and prayers throughout 2023 to help us extend God's love to the countries we serve. We would not be able to do it without you and your faithfulness in coming alongside us. **Thank you!**

Despite war intensifying...

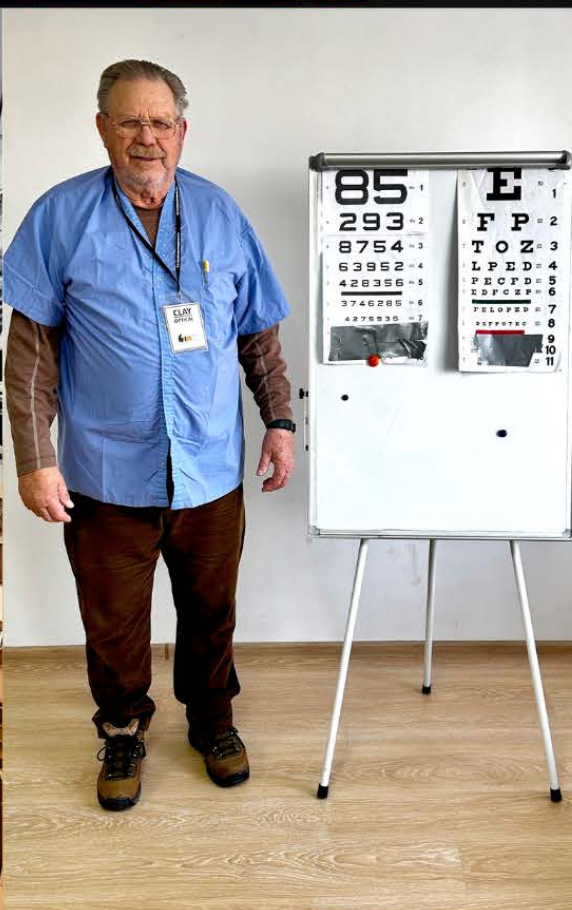
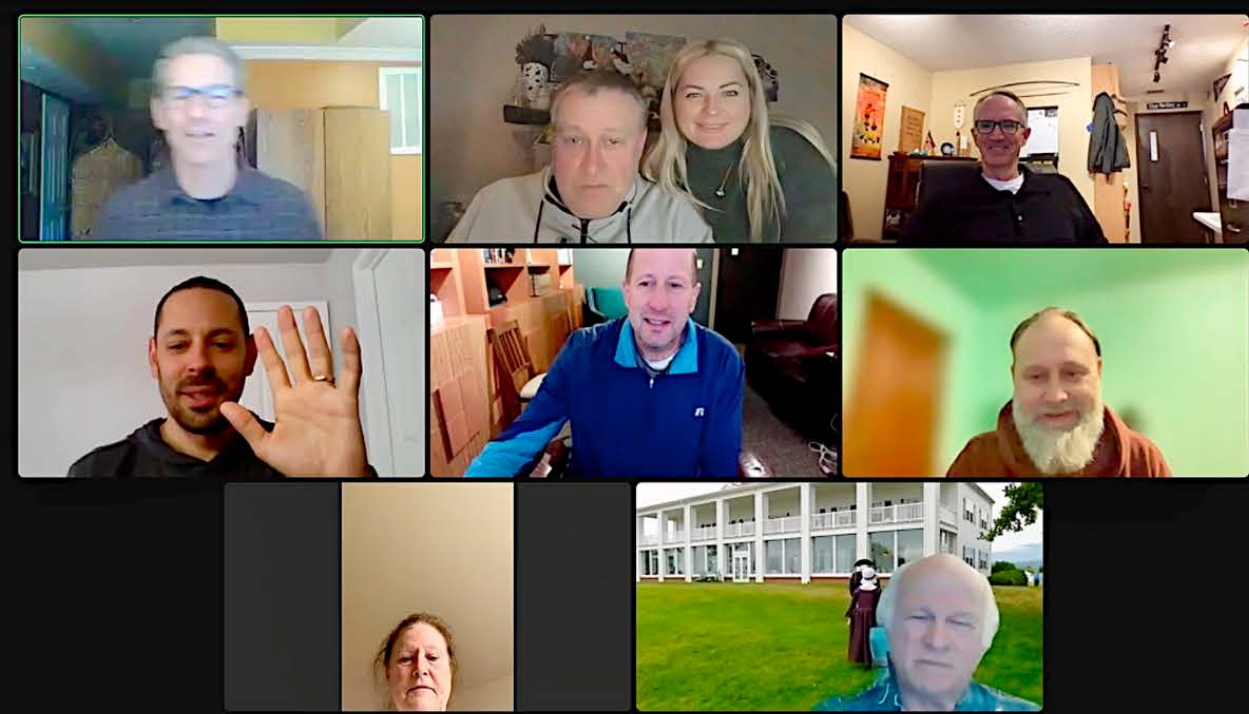
our team continued ministering to those in need

Our team kicked off the year with preparing to host a retreat for **church leaders suffering from trauma fatigue** [top left].

Providing IDPs with food and basic necessities [middle left].

Celebrating the global grant our club received for a ministry to Special Needs Friends with two Rotary clubs in Uzhhorod and the presidents of the rotary clubs in Ukraine and Hungary [bottom left].

Clay Schwab, Oklahoma cattleman turned novice optometrist, has finished two of his six weeks with us supplying glasses for Ukrainians in need [bottom right].





God allowed one event...

to uplift the hearts of many...

In a world filled with turmoil and uncertainty, acts of kindness and compassion shine like beacons of hope. In May, the **City of Life Church** in Uzhhorod, with the support of their sister church in Atlanta, embarked on a heartwarming mission to spread love and faith to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in an evangelistic outreach event in Uzhhorod. Pastor Edik from their Kyiv location gave the message [above].

The outreach was a powerful display of love and compassion in action and brought a glimmer of hope to those who have experienced loss and displacement. Volunteers came together to provide practical assistance, emotional support, and spiritual guidance to the IDPs. From distributing food and essentials, to offering prayers and words of encouragement, every act was a testament to the love of Jesus. **Many of them then gave their lives to Jesus at the event!**





Including those God sent...

to minister to those at the front lines...



There are often unsung heroes working tirelessly to bring light and hope to those in need. As we hear stories of turmoil and unrest in the Donetsk region, it is heartening to know that there are individuals like the team of chaplains from **Father's House Church** in **Dnipro** who are willing to go above and beyond to bring light into the darkness.

With the support of their sister church, these chaplains have been visiting the frontlines to provide much-needed supplies, offer prayers for the soldiers, and most importantly, share the message of hope and redemption through Jesus Christ. In the midst of chaos and conflict, they are bringing a message of peace, love, and salvation to those who need it most. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. On one trip, **50 soldiers repented and became followers of Jesus.**



Eagle Leader Doug Landro shared an urgent prayer request in May:

“At 03:05 in the morning of May 13, 2023, **Russia launched 21 drones against the city of Khmelnytsky** in western Ukraine. 17 of the drones were shot down, but four hit an ammunition depot that injured 21 people and damaged buildings throughout the city. Ten kilometers away in the village of Sharovechka, Marina's relatives woke up to some of their windows damaged in their home. I know that many have had much more damage to their lives, but this was a little closer to our family.”

that directly affected our team...

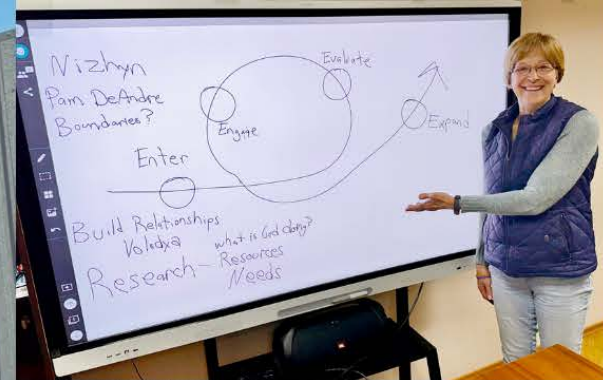
Urgent prayer request...

God's restoration... plans coming to fruition...

Our team met with missionary Pam D'Andre from Evangelical Free Church of America to make a plan for community transformation in **Nizhyn** about 95 miles north of Kyiv [top right].

Country Leader Igor Minenko and Eagle Leader Pastor Sasha brought humanitarian aid to those fleeing flooding caused by the Russian destruction of the **Kakhovka Dam** in **Nova Odesa**, Ukraine [middle].

Clay Schwab traveled near the frontlines to cities that were extensively bombed and even occupied by Russian troops. Sometimes they worked alongside the road as they passed through villages on their way to Apostolove, Nova Sich, Novogrigorivske, Potomkine, Kriviy Rih, Nikopol, and Oleksandriya. He was able to **provide glasses to more than 600 people** on just this trip [across bottom].





God gives Apostolove... a new beginning...

city with the gospel. They purchased the abandoned building in the middle of the city to build a youth center [center top].

In this city of 13,000 people, our team wanted to make sure everyone has access to food, freedom, and forgiveness. They began working on an alliance to bring about community transformation through the power of Christ similar to the one we formed in Uzhhorod [war-torn city top left]. The goal is to help **Svaboda Church in Apostolove** reach the young people in their

Our team held the first semester of youth ministry training for their team plus four other churches in the nearby communities of **Dnipro, Nikopol, Olexandria, and Kherson** [top right, bottom right].

They are bringing City of Life Church into their alliance [bottom left], and Doug was asked to preach for the second time for the church.





JFYM Training at IIYML

In September, Marina [Doug's wife] led the meeting of the IDP Project Group of the Transform Uzhhorod Alliance [top].

Our team also started a new **online huddle discipleship group with youth leaders in the Eastern Ukraine** cities of Apostolove, Nikopol, Kherson, Dnipro, and Olexandria. They will meet with them twice a month over the next year to train them in how to effectively train their teams as disciplers [bottom].



Деня Соколенко

Жанна



In January, Randy Riggins met with Reach Out's former and now again Country Leader for Ukraine, **Igor Minenko**. Igor is pastor of Light for the Nations Messianic Community and director of RD, as well as leads one of the IDP centers in Ukraine that a few of our other Reach Out leaders are overseeing. Eagle Leaders **Doug Landro**, and **Igor, Jr.** were also on this strategic call, as they discussed Reach Out's future plans for Ukraine. Some exciting news: Igor and Doug are now working on ***translating the Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry book into Ukrainian***, with anticipated completion by the end of 2023. We've already added the Ukrainian language to our JFYM Online platform. We continue to pray for Igor and Doug as they keep serving the Lord in Ukraine while the conflict continues [top left].



The woman and her daughter [with Igor on the left] had been cared for during a ten-month season in the IDP center that Igor oversees. Igor was able to help them return to **Kyiv to *rejoin their husbands who had already returned to rebuild***. This was their second time as IDPs, as they had to flee their home in Eastern Ukraine back in 2014 when Russia first invaded. They then had to flee their new lives they had built in Kyiv when Russia attempted to take Kyiv in 2022. It was a great testimony to God's restoration with our team helping in the preservation and reuniting of families.

We appreciate your kindness, support, prayers and gifts in helping the impossible happen in a nation that is facing great conflict. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us and for all that God is going to do through our team in Ukraine as we follow His lead!



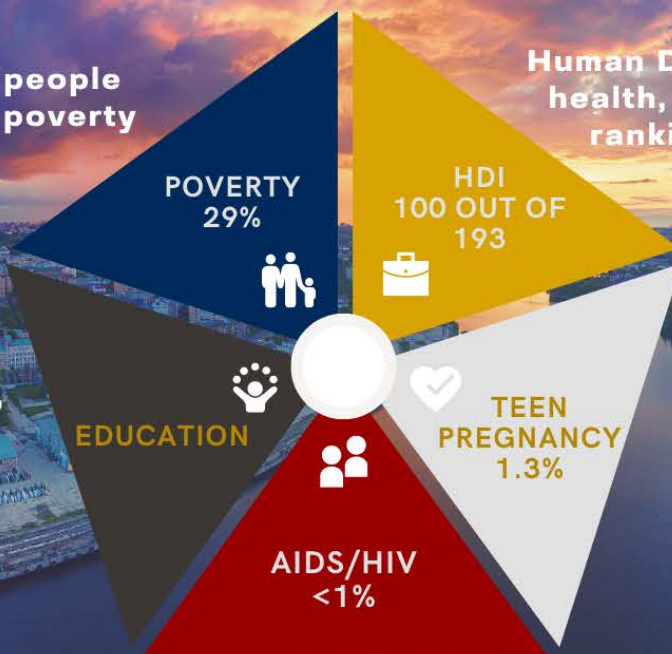
COUNTRY STATISTICS UKRAINE

POPULATION = 36.7 million

29% of people living in poverty

Human Development Index = health, education, income rankings in the world

100% of children attend primary school, 98% attend lower secondary school, 65% attend upper secondary school, 100% complete primary school



of girls ages 15-19

Challenges

- 63% experienced financial distress, including approx. 1/5 of households could not pay for utilities
- Over 6 million people displaced, with another 3.5 million registered as IDPs
- By April of 2023, approx. 1/5 of all households suffered damage to their properties due to the war
- 72% of enrolled students in areas under active hostilities were instructed entirely through remote learning, compared to just 7% in other areas
- Almost 50% of the entire country's budget was spent on defense
- 531 children have been killed and 911 injured since beginning of war
- Approx. 1/3 of Ukraine is now contaminated by explosive remnants of war
- 2,321 schools across the frontlines closed for safety reasons, and of December, 3,714 schools had been damaged and 392 destroyed, representing 13% of total educational facilities in the country
- With Covid-19 and then the start of the war, many children have entered their 4th year of disrupted education with significant learning losses
- To date more than 700k children have been taken by Russia, trained, and forced to bear arms in their military, more than 19k alone since inception of the current war

Reach Out

- A gift of \$1,000 helps indigenous leaders train 50 youth pastors through an "in-person" forum in their country.
- A gift of \$500 helps provide scholarships to train and mentor 20 youth pastors online.
- A gift of \$200 (\$3.85 per week) helps us equip 1 leader for 1 year, with the goal of that leader moving from being introduced to JFYM to implementing and multiplying JFYM. As a result, that new leader will begin training 3 additional leaders, so that from those 4 new leaders, there are a total of 12 young people disciplined and praying for opportunities to influence 36 of their friends to follow Jesus.
- A monthly gift of \$100 helps us continue current ministry to leaders around the world who are trained and resourced through Reach Out.

Sources:
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