



# A SUMMER OF HOPE

Dear friend,

Have you ever loved someone so deeply you ached inside knowing they could never love you back? Your broken heart felt it would never mend?

I was eight years old when I had to leave my father behind in Bulgaria. My heart hurt. I longed for my daddy's arms around me, to hear him whisper *"I love you,"* just once more.

Now, imagine being a small child in war-torn Ukraine. You cry for daddy to hold you. But you know he never will. He is gone forever. Killed in action. Tear-streaked nights soak your pillow. Then the nights of terror begin. You are awoken time and again by sirens and bomb blasts. You begin to shake then freeze in panic.

Your fear is real. Your panic is deep.

You dream of quiet nights; nights without the terrifying sounds of explosions and sirens. And nights without fear of losing your mom and everyone else you love, too.

**Such is the life for thousands of children in Ukraine.**



## WHEN THE WORLD AROUND YOU HAS BECOME A FRIGHTENING PLACE

*"The war is getting worse. The constant night shelling causes sleep deprivation and persistent thoughts that you might not wake up at all. You wake up to explosions that rob your peace of mind. Sadness and depression sets in. Three years of war is a long time. Your inner strength is gradually depleting. The constant stress, the many losses—it all takes its toll. — Pastor Alexander*

Children are often forced to stay indoors, sometimes days or weeks on end...until the shelling stops. They lack the physical activity and social interaction they truly need. Summer camp is not just a vacation. It's a time to replenish, to be a child again. It is a time to learn of the love and hope found in Jesus.

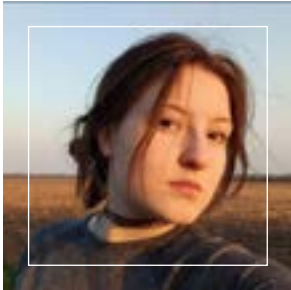
From my own personal experience as a child growing up in communist Bulgaria, I know that **Jesus gives light and hope in the darkest of times.**

Pastor Alexander organizes camps in several areas of the Poltava region for local children and those evacuated from frontline areas. Sadly, as the war continues to intensify, the number of children keeps growing.

## KIDS IN SURROUNDING VILLAGES HOPE TO BE INVITED



*“Summer time in my village is hard. One day I was invited to camp. Every day we played games and I met a lot of new friends. The conversations about God weren’t about rules or pressure — they helped me understand why it’s good and meaningful. I still remember those talks, and they continue to support me.” — Olya*



*I heard about a church camp in our town. At first, I was unsure, but quickly, all doubts disappeared. It was so much fun! We played games outdoors, sang songs, and listened to stories about God. I quickly felt part of the group and started opening up. The conversations at camp made me think deeper, and now faith isn’t just a vague concept. My time at camp truly became a turning point for me!” — Milana – 16*

Last year, with your help, hundreds of children in Nikopol were evacuated during a period of intense bombardment. Many of the children had extreme anxiety and suffered mental and health issues. After a few weeks of refuge, being fed three meals a day (many go hungry for days), receiving therapy and playing stress-free outside, they came back like completely different kids! Mothers were so thankful for the mental and emotional changes they saw in their children.



The importance of camp for children living on the front-lines of war can’t be expressed enough.

At summer camp, doors swing open to countless tiny feet and smiling faces! Children run and play outside carefree. No sounds of sirens that force them to run to bunkers or hide in basements, just sounds of laughter fill the playgrounds. At night, they plunk to bed, exhausted. Not from fear, but from sheer happiness. For several precious days, they regain their childhood.

Dark clouds of sadness and hopelessness are lifted.

Your act of kindness, by sending a child to camp, brings hope and hugs to children in desperate need.

These children are fragile and vulnerable. They have been traumatized by direct exposure to the cruelty of war. They suffer posttraumatic stress disorders in varying degrees. Some have acute anxiety. They begin to withdraw, sit alone and stop communicating. Left untreated, they will shut down.

Summer camp is not just for children to play and have fun - though that’s what kids should do.

For many children, it is a life-line. **Thank you for your continued support for Ukraine!**

YES PAUL,

*I care for the emotional and mental state of traumatized children from front-line cities of war in Ukraine. I want to provide opportunities for hundreds of children to attend summer camp for a time of respite and healing.*

☐ Please use my gift where most needed.

☐ \$50    ☐ \$150    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$1,000    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**\* A gift of \$50 will provide one child with transportation, food, and camping cost.**



*Yes! I want to make a contribution to  
Door of Hope International to help those in need around the world.*

[www.dohi.org/donate/](http://www.dohi.org/donate/)



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