



The war in Ukraine is deeply concerning and upsetting. As a country already struggling, the invasion by Russia is having catastrophic impact on civilians, infrastructure and those taking up arms. We need to continue in offering our prayers but will you also join us in taking practical direct action. As part of our 40 days of prayer and giving we are asking you to give money to help the relief effort. We are suggesting two ways of giving; **individually** to whichever relief agency you feel called to support, and / or, join us as a **Hope Church collective** to pool our efforts into a specific relief situation.

1 Individual giving

You will no doubt have heard that the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) of which Tearfund is a member has made an appeal for funds to provide humanitarian aid for the people displaced as a result of the war in Ukraine. HM Government has promised to match every £ given up to £20 Million. If you would like to support this appeal, you can give as an individual in the following ways:

- Donate via any organisation of your choice through their website
- Donate direct to DEC at www.DEC.org.uk
- Donate direct to Tearfund at www.Tearfund.org
- Donate via Hope Church, clearly marking your donation 'Ukraine appeal – Tearfund'

2 'Giving as a Hope Church Collective'

We have had a number of discussions with Hugh Scudder from CR2EE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe) whose main support is the country of Moldova. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and is situated right by Ukraine. They are receiving large numbers of refugees from Ukraine and are struggling to provide food, clothing and shelter. CR2EE is a voluntary charity, with pretty much all funds going directly to those in need. Any money given will reach those that need it in a matter of only a few days. Whilst we can't make a difference to the overall war situation, we could as Hope Church directly impact and save lives in a particular street, group of families or nearby church. This would enable us to receive 'real-time' specific prayer requests from the front line.

Kieron and Victoria McBride have stepped up to lead this Hope Church collective effort and would like to run an initial emergency appeal from now until Thursday 24 March. CR2EE would then be approached to identify a specific donor street, soup kitchen, set of families or church that the funds could be channelled to. He would also provide communication contact details so we could activate a 'real-time' prayer link. **Please make an emergency donation before Thursday 24 March.**

Kieron and Victoria need help to form a small **Action Team** during this period to help with fund raising, prayer and communication. If you feel called and able to help please contact them:

Kieron: 07970 825332
Victoria: 07877 989655

How to give via Hope Church

For any of the methods below, clearly mark your donation either 'Ukraine appeal – Tearfund' or 'Ukraine appeal – CR2EE'.

- **On-line:** Direct to our bank account using Sort code 30-90-89, Account number 39779568, with clear reference to which appeal
- **Cheque:** Give cheque to Alan Rudall, payable to 'Hope Church' – please write which appeal on the back of the cheque
- **Cash:** Give an envelope with the cash in to Alan Rudall – please write on the envelope which appeal.

Ideas for raising funds and giving

Many of you are already giving significant amounts to the Hope Church building fund, the general fund and other charitable causes – thank you! However we have a couple of ideas that may help to release more funds:

“Lean Week” – cut down on shopping for 1 week, donate the savings

When finances for some are already stretched, it is difficult to know how to give more. One suggestion is to give through cutting back on regular weekly expenditure such as food shopping. As people struggle to eat in Ukraine, why don't you reduce the quality and amount of food you eat for a week? For example if your weekly food shopping bill is £150, then commit to spending £80 (beans, baked potatoes etc) and donate the £70 to the appeal?

Pick a 7 day period between now and the 24 March and join us on 'Lean Week

Sponsored walk – 9.30am on Saturday 19th March

A group will be meeting at Marine Garage on Exeter Road to walk, talk and pray along the way. We will go from Exeter Road to Powderham Castle and back (with options to turn back whenever you feel like it).

Please contact Kieron and Victoria for more details

Please join us – take action NOW