

# January 2026 Ukraine

## UKRAINE

You really can't describe the joy and gratitude in sister Svetlana's extended family the evening when the generator first went into use, and there was light, heating and the chance to cook hot food. And a peaceful night, instead of all waking up whenever the electricity came on for an hour or so at some random hour of the night, usually around 2 AM, and madly trying to do whatever needed to be done with electricity- cooking, charging battery packs etc. Really as sister Svetlana wrote afterwards, it was a case of "Let there be light!", but the whole family see in this the grace and love of the Father and Son. They extend very, very sincere thanks to all who supported the initiative of buying them a generator.

But it wasn't [and isn't] as simple as going onto Amazon and clicking some box and getting it delivered. Ukrainian airspace is closed so everything must come in overland... with tariffs, and the need to distribute generators within Ukraine. And they are heavy. The one we bought was only 7 kW but needs two men to lift it into a car... although it can just about be pushed on wheels. But there's an energy crisis in Ukraine, as the country has had its energy infrastructure progressively bombed to shreds. And now they are in the grip of the worst Winter Ukraine has experienced for years. The low temperatures are set to continue for 2 weeks. At times in places it goes well below -20 c [-4 F]. Many brothers and sisters are living without electricity, water and heating. People are really suffering, and life is just unbearably miserable and is a serious threat to the life and health of vulnerable people.

We couldn't sit in London saying "Be warmed and filled" so we went over to Ukraine to assist just one extended family, that of sister Svetlana, which includes both very elderly and [grandma] and very young [great grand daughter of grandma]. Four of the family are baptized. Thank you for your prayers. Plenty of drama. And God's continued grace. In the nearby town, there were no generators. Shops have long since sold out. So sis Svetlana and brother Misha went with Duncan to the local market where we had heard there might be some on sale. We got into a bidding war for one, with two orthodox Jews. Who said they needed it by sundown [it was a Friday] as Shabbat was starting. But the seller went to the highest bidder which was us. At a price over double what you'd pay in the UK.

How high shall we bid? Misha videoed the bidding:



The Jewish guys had brought a van to transport it. We bought it, but there we were at the market with no vehicle. So whilst one of us guarded it, the others took two hours to find a guy with a vehicle willing to take us and the generator [they are heavy] to our sister's village home.



Their home near the front line has been destroyed and they escaped with their lives, some of their neighbours were killed. They were given a previously derelict house to live in, which they've turned into a home for themselves and are doing their best to farm the land around it. With their bare hands. The generator had been in the extremely low temperatures for some time, the oil in it was "as thick as the honey my mum makes from our bees" as brother Misha put it. So he had to change the oil before it would start. He's a real smart practical 18 year old who dreams to be a car mechanic. Not canon fodder for this crazy war. But what joy to them all. Little Sasha, Svetlana's grandchild, was in tears of joy and said she had been praying for a generator. So they could have light, heat and mum can cook hot food. And not at 2 AM when the power comes on briefly.



Thank you so much for your prayers. We plan further visits in February and March / April, Lord willing, to distribute more generators and do more such work. Meantime to cope with the

extreme cold, we've offered hotel accommodation to many of our brothers and sisters [i.e. in upper market hotels that have their own generators and therefore autonomous heating and electricity]. The energy infrastructure is so damaged that these endless power cuts and energy problems are likely to continue for a long time. There's no point rebuilding power stations only for them to be immediately hit again; and even if the war ends today, it will take a long time to rebuild the infrastructure; and who's going to pay for that?!? Not just power generation but power distribution networks have been systematically hit [substations, etc.]. So we are looking for more permanent solutions for our brothers and sisters over the medium and perhaps longer term.

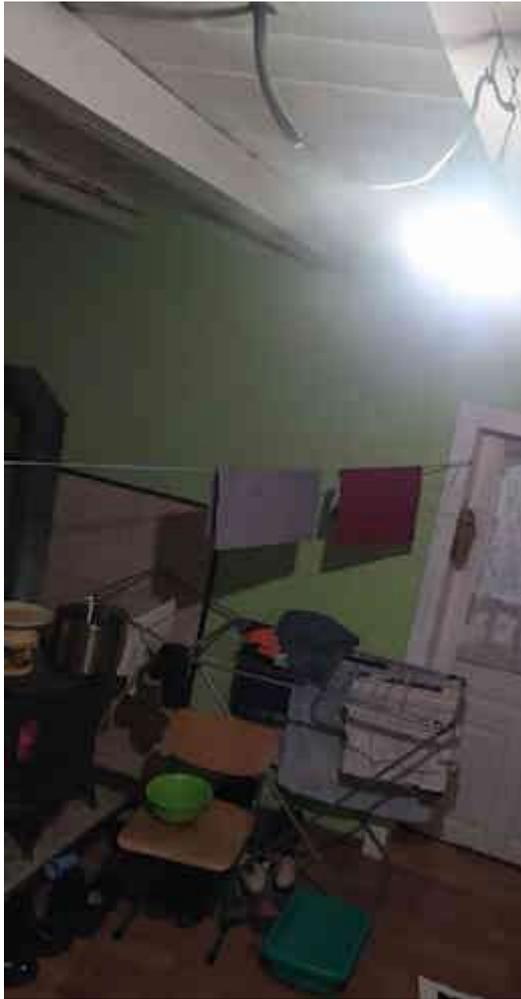
Sister Svetlana writes in thanks [translated]:

Svetlana Chernivtsi Jan 26, [16/01/2026 19:00] Thank God! Thank you so much for such a wonderful gift for our family. How wonderful and pleasant it is to have light! I don't like the dark. I even go to bed and need at least a night light on, but there must be light. I didn't like it when my parents turned off the lights at home and said, "Now it's time to go to bed." Svetlana Chernivtsi Jan 26, [16/01/2026 19:08] Alena came home after work. She was very interested to hear how everything happened. I told her how it all happened, how the Lord helped us buy it at the market, and that we needed exactly this powerful one!!! Svetlana Chernivtsi Jan 26, [16/01/2026 19:09] We felt very honored when you made such a purchase for us! Svetlana Chernivtsi Jan 26, [16/01/2026 19:14] I remembered being little and how nice it was to go to the the market with my dad! Svetlana Chernivtsi Jan 26, [16/01/2026 19:16] Thank God for you, dear brother, and everyone you know who made this project a reality!

Her thank you present was to give us many packets of seeds for Cindy to plant in her veggie patch in the garden in Croydon:



And the family keep sending photos of the light they've rigged up that runs off the generator; they've been able to boil water, wash clothes and cook warm food for the first time in weeks. They're so happy! And grateful. The photos of a light bulb illuminating a room with washing it mean everything once you know the background to them!



In other news from Ukraine:

So sorry to report the falling asleep in the Lord of brother Vladimir, husband of sister Ludmila and father in law of sister Natalya. Vladimir and Ludmila were sleeping in their flat when it suffered a direct hit. They were pulled burning from the burning flat, as we reported earlier. They both survived, despite severe burns, although Vladimir lost his sight and then had a stroke- and now another, fatal stroke. We baptized Ludmila nearly 30 years ago...



We can also confirm that our dear and active brother Alexei was seized by the military police on the street and forced to undergo military training and has been sent to the front. He leaves behind our elderly, partially sighted sister Lena, his mum, who lives in a high rise block currently without electricity and therefore no lift. She's being cared for by her in-laws and neighbours. We were with our brother just a few months ago. The gangs of military police regularly prowl around grabbing men and forcing them to the army.



#### PRAYER POINTS

- For those enduring the bitter cold in Ukraine, Latvia and other parts of Eastern Europe, especially the elderly and those with young children
- For those who have lost loved ones due to the side effects of the war, as well as from direct military action
- For those who have been forced against their will into military units and sent to the front
- Thanksgiving that we really are making a difference no matter on how small a scale, with God's help

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks