

CHEVRA REPORT



Chevra means friendship. Our goal is to help our people in their time of need.

OCTOBER 2014

HELPING IS EASY!

Please consider supporting Chevra with your donations.

Please note our new giving address in Worthington, OH, effective immediately.

ONLINE ▶ At our website: www.chevrahumanitarian.org
Visa, MasterCard or Paypal
If you have questions about online donating, please e-mail from the 'Contact us' page on our website.

MAIL ▶ Send checks to:
Chevra USA
P.O. Box 168
Worthington, OH 43085-0168
U.S.A.
Please, never send cash or currency!

CHEVRA USA
Chevra is the American entity for our international effort. Chevra's work is a way people can make a real difference in the lives of many people in need.

HOPE FOR THE HOLY DAYS ▶

I'm not sure everyone realizes it, but most of the places in the news lately—Israel and Ukraine—are where we are doing our humanitarian work. We have been busy sending funds and doing the work to help our people. As we approach the High Holy Days of Rosh HaShanna and Yom Kippur, I hope you will consider us for a gift to continue our work in these difficult war zones at this crucial time. Thanks so much,

Michael Schiffman



SCOTT/BIGSTOCK

NEWS FROM AFAR ▶

REPORT FROM UKRAINE

Military operations are in the east of Ukraine and military operations in the east of Israel. The war in Ukraine is between slavic brothers, and in Israel between brothers from their father Abraham. We believe that everything is in the will of God. No one was

ready for these kind of events. There is no way to find the guilty ones. Sin and godlessness are the perpetrators. Sodom's marches, abortions, underground drugs business, anti-Semitism—these are just a few perpetrators on the dock.

Our brothers from the church started being called to the Antiterrorist Operation area. Sta-

tistics are secret, but from all over our friends and acquaintances are getting horrible news and bury their boys. Many on the West of Ukraine do not get it how serious it is in the east part of the country. The U.S. dollar rate is

Continued »



My name is Eduard Mikhailovich Kazakin. I'm 51 years old. I was born in Donetsk, Ukraine.

I'm writing this letter on behalf of all my family including my spouse Nina, my son Michael, his spouse Oksana, and their two daughters (Anna, 7 years, and Victoria, 2 years), our daughter Olga and her husband Andrew and their children Artem (6 years) and Lillia (4 years)

All of us were born and raised in Donetsk. We studied and grew up in Donetsk. Studied, worked, raised our kids and grandkids. Probably you already know Donetsk became one of the centers of military activities. It became dangerous for your life to stay there. We became witnesses how industrial and cultural areas of the city are being destroyed and how peaceful citizen of the city die. We all are hoping for the end of this unannounced brother killing war. But even now it is obvious that to restore the region it will take years and may be even decades.

In this situation we can see only one solution for ourselves, our kids and grandkids: repatriation to the historical motherland, to the country of Israel.

On behalf of all the members of our family let me express sincere thankfulness to you and your assistants for the given organizational and financial support for our family during

the time of preparation and directly with repatriation: we were given nice housing in the suburbs of Kiev, organized food during our stay in Kiev, organized transportation to the railway station in Kiev, consulate appointment we were given a financial help, moral help and psychological help.

As a result our son Michael and his family are in Israel in the Karmiel city from August 3. My daughter and her family successfully went through the consulate appointments and re-

ceived a right to repatriate. We should leave on September 21, 2014.

Let me show my gratitude one more time for the attention from every area for every member of our family in such a difficult period of life for us.

I wish you and your team health, peaceful heavens and happiness.

With all respect,
Eduard Kazakin



going up, utility bills in Kiev are going up. The fuel is getting more expensive ... Yesterday we talked to our pastor friend from the city Antratsit. He and his three kids are living in Kiev. He can't get in touch with anyone from his home city. A few families responded who had a chance to move to another cities, but what about others? There are dozens of Jewish families in Luhansk whom we can't reach. I got a call from a rabbi from Luhansk and asked to help his people who didn't have a chance to move out. There is no power, no water, no gas. People are hiding in basements and canalizations without food. A bottle of water costs 10 times more than the regular price. Every day Shmuel, the consul in Kiev, with whom we are working closely for the past three months gives us lists of missing people and we forward them to volunteers in ATO zone to be able to find missing people. We get calls from Israel to find their relatives from the East, ask for help, to find and to evacuate.

In August, the geography of clients with whom we are working has changed. This is Donetsk, Luhansk, Shahtersk and Khartisk ... People are literally coming “naked and bare-foot.” They don't have a change of clothes, just whatever they were able to grab on the way out.

Last Friday, we had a young man from Shakhtersk who walked to the closest city. He said he left Shakhetersk (look at the map) walking through the dead bodies. He was with his parents under the fire of guns. He came to Kiev just with a plastic bag, without a change of clothes, one pair of sandals. His parents stayed in Zaporizhe region. On the arrival day we filed to make his international passport, gave him housing in health center with food. Soon he is going to the consulate appointment.

People call in different times of the day. This is a big responsibility and a big humility. Many of them are sure that we are fascists here in Kiev and don't have any information, and that we have filtration camps. The Kruk family came from Donetsk on the last train. Today it's impossible to travel by train anymore. They called and asked every single detail what's waiting for them here in Kiev and what camp they'll be sent to. I couldn't understand what they were talking about until they explained me with tears, “We

don't want to get into the filtration camp. My God! Help us.” The Kruk family came and we gave them housing in the Bible seminary in the beautiful place, fed them and tried to comfort and encourage. Yesterday, all of them started filing to get their international passports. They almost don't have any luggage. Two ladies (both were born in 1937) called me from the railway station. They left by miracle from Khartisk (!) and spent a night at railway station at their age. Today they are at the wonderful place with food three times a day, and we set them up for the consulate appointment.

A few weeks ago we had one man arrive. His name is Alexander, 45 years old, but looked much older. We were surprised to see him with a long sleeve shirt on because it's 40° C outside. Then we found out he had bad eczema. His mom, Anna Lazarevna, stayed in Luhansk. She didn't want to leave with him. He is not adapted to life—you can see that he was living under his mom's care all his life. We ordered an international passport for him and gave him housing in Pusha. We called his mom every day and asked her to come, until the power went down and now there is no more connection with her. After two weeks of no communication with his mom, Alexander went to the consulate appointment and called me: “I'm going to Luhansk; I can't do it without my mom,” he told me. I asked and begged him do not do it, because people are being evacuated from there and we'll try to find his mom, but he didn't listen. He told me he will catch a Donetsk train and will walk from there to Luhansk. When I called in the morning he was already around Yasinovata, and there are a lot of military activity ... then I lost communication with him for two weeks. His mom was found and evacuated to Kharkov by volunteers, now she is calling me and asking, “Where is my son?” I really hope that he is alive and hiding in some basement, and not kidnapped and working for terrorists. His mom says there is no one else she can talk about this and always cries, cries, and cries. We have got more grief in these days.

Two ladies, mom and daughter Ulitskis, both with walking sticks. They are 65 and 85 years old. Her daughter Vera calls me every day and cries, “Please bring one more changing dress, because I wash my suit every week,” and asks just to talk ... but HOW??? I have a minimum

of three hundred calls a day. Yesterday I went with her mom to receive their International passports. She scrupulously believes that her house in Luhansk is in one piece. I can't explain her that not just a house but the neighborhood is gone. I don't have time for emotions right now. We have to work. No time for reports, I have time only for making a list for people and monitor the process of documents, scan documents for the consul. I'm grateful for brother Nikolay who is helping with his vehicle, although two cars are involved daily.

One is ours—the Volkswagon—the second one we were temporary given by a sister from the church. If we need more transportation we go and ask in different places. On August 14 we used FIVE cars: 1) to meet five people (Gulchenko) from Donetsk from the railway station and gave a housing in Irpen; 2) at the same time we had one family from the far area of Kiev (Vaynberg Savchenko) were moving to Israel (three *olim*); 3) mother and son (Sharaban) were moving from our house to Israel; 4) one more family (Isaevs), four people, were moving from Pusha (this is where we give housing for people) to Israel; 5) family (Ostrousovs) from Pusha with little children went in the early morning to their consulate appointment in our transportation. A lot of people are getting lost in the big city, they are in panic from the subway and don't know how to move around in the city. In their little cities they only had little buses, that's it.

Michael Kazakin from Donetsk with his family of four people left couple weeks ago. He is very happy in Haifa. He was filing all his documents in Kiev. Today we have his sister living with her family of four people, mom and dad. They are very grateful that they can stay in the safe place before they go. On September 3 they'll have a consulate appointment. Kiev Embassy didn't have such a busy schedule until now. Sokhnut workers are making fun and telling me, “Natasha, we have a desk for you, come and work here.” I wish they heard the phone calls on two of my cell phones.

By the way one of my phones “died.” To buy a new camera instead of the broken one, I don't have time. My sight and my hearing are the biggest prayer needs for my health that I have.

“Report from Ukraine ” Continued »

I get fatigued very fast, for a few weeks I had high blood pressure but we were getting with prayer to the car and working till late night.

Close friends stopped asking me out, but how can I explain them that the work with people doesn't let me to get bored. The best bible school is to live and fellowship in one house with unbelievers; most of the time they are with negative mood. I have a lot of letters of gratefulness from many people. Maybe I will have time to read them when I get older.

I thank God for every *grivna*, for every prayer, for every dollar for every euro. I thank my dear brothers and sisters who come just to buy and prepare food in our house, who come just to clean and do laundry (yes, yes, this is a spiritual work in our house indeed), who come and bring clothes for refugees. May the Lord give back to them 100 times. Thank you everyone for your love, which is expressed in different pieces of the help ... financial and prayerful.

I'm grateful for 75 who were able to leave to Eretz-Israel in such a hard time as this. This is our labor. Dear Max, dear Leshek, this is an honor for us to cooperate with you in this special time! Just finished with the bureaucratic process of customs clearance for mattresses. And we have been in "MIR" close to Rivno and get it!!! Thanks for all the washing liquids and powder! We love you and bless you!

—Yuriy, Nataliya

REPORT FROM ISRAEL

Shalom Michael,

Looking back at the last two months there were some interesting things that happened. During the month of August we were open each Wednesday to give out food. During each of the four Wednesdays we were open it was during a "cease-fire."

Your love and support made it possible for us to be there for more than just the 460 families we help normally. We were able to help with



MIRO NOVAK/BIGSTOCK

two medical bills, school supplies for 24 children, repaint one of the local schools, make two home repairs, supply an air-conditioner for one family's bomb shelter, brought Shabbat food to our soldiers at the "Iron Dome," and brought cases of water to soldiers in staging areas.

Because of you, even though getting out sometimes was a challenge, we were able to accomplish a lot. We have said it in the past and will reiterate it now ... we are just the delivery boy of your love, care and concern.

—From our workers in Israel

LOOKING FORWARD »

The current cease-fire ends on September 25; what will happen then is still a mystery to us all. There has been some rhetoric coming out of Gaza and Hamas says that they are ready to pick up where they left off 30 days ago. Looking forward in a happier direction ...

We have been busy packing gift bags for the Feast of Teruah or, as most people call it, "Rosh HaShannah." Besides the normal food, we have been able to add a third bag this month with honey, grape juice, jam, honey cake and candy. We also change the items we put in our bags a bit to try to make them more festive for the Holiday.

Our volunteers are absolute the best. They come when we call them to help, weather there

is war or rain, peace and hot day. Most of them have been with us from the beginning; some have come, some have gone but we all remain friends and part of the Hope For Sderot family. The other night we got together for a barbecue, something we have not done in a long time.

It was enjoyable to hear as each one shared how they first began coming to volunteer. It was a nice walk down memory lane. Each one has left their mark on the organization. When I walk into our building, I see the window Gershon painted, or the bathroom Avigador helped build, or the shelving so many others worked on.

We have been blessed and very fortunate for all the help we have had over the year. We look forward to tomorrow with great expecta-

tion, gladness and a heart full of thank giving for the opportunity to serve the people of Sderot.

Without our volunteers we could not do all that we do, but even with the best volunteers in the world, without your love and support we would have nothing to pack, nowhere to pack it, we wouldn't even have the empty plastic bags ... to you, the ones that keep the lights on, the food on the shelves, the roof over our heads.

Thank you, Tak, Salamat Sa Iyo, Danke, Grazie, Go Raibh Maith Agat, Tack, Terima Kasih, Takk, Dank U.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Schiffman".

Michael Schiffman

Chevra USA is very grateful to First Fruits of Zion for covering the cost of printing and mailing the Chevra Report, thereby ensuring all your donations go directly to helping people in need.