



The Christmas letter

This is now our first newsletter and there is so much to report, but let's start with the most important information: **Jesus, the Savior is here!** *His will is for all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* 1 Timothy 2:4

Since this is God's clearly declared will, he sent his Son. Jesus died for our sins on the greatest Friday in history. He rose again and has been pursuing this one goal ever since: "that all people may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth!"



The Christmas service in Kherson, 0,63 miles from the Russian frontline.

A miracle at Christmas

The year before last, I heard God's voice very clearly: „You will celebrate Christmas in Ukraine.“ I prayed and thought, „How can we prepare a special Christmas for the many people in need?“ The idea of large gatherings seemed out of the question, because we would be putting the people in the war zone in danger. Then came the news: "Kherson has been liberated!" The first convoys drove into the city and blew up because the roads were mined. But our coordinator, a young man from Germany, drove with our team praying through this horrific scenario of corpses and wreckage with the mission to bring Christmas to the survivors who had been trapped for months.

First Friday Outreach Newsletter: December 2024

We found 300 Christians who believed that God had sent us and that they should not leave the city. Together with them, we prepared a Christmas service for the remaining 15,000 inhabitants while the bombs were hitting, our car windows were shattered by the blast waves and we lay on the vibrating floor in the cellar at night. The city was deserted. The large shopping center was eerily empty. Only 2 cashiers and a security guard on site. We prepared everything to give the people in the community a wonderful Christmas with presents, a professional choir and a Christmas market. In Dnipro, we bought Christmas cookies by the truckload, Christmas decorations, every candle we could get, Christmas trees, decorations, fairy lights. On the first day, when the church was finally decorated and everything was ready, we didn't see anyone coming. It was 8.30 a.m. and the church was still empty.

These 300 Christians had spent days handing out tickets all over the city, with times and registration for all the services, so that everyone could come just once. The services were to take place every two hours. The first Christmas service was scheduled for 9 am. I was nervous and prayed.

Suddenly, people were coming from all directions. At 9 o'clock the church was full. These people, who had no home, perhaps no family, who



15,000 residents were still in the city. Everyone received a gift and the Christmas message.



In each loaf of bread comes a Ukrainian booklet with the message of eternal life.

had experienced months of deprivation or torture, who had never expected to experience Christmas in Kherson, now filled the church. As the professional choir sang in several voices, the room filled with peace and warmth. We took turns with the sermon. Jesus and the Christmas story were shown on a large screen. Hope filled the room. People accepted Jesus with tears. While I was preaching on the second day, bombs hit the church grounds again. The window blew out, people jumped up and tried to flee screaming. But where to? I prayed.



More than 200 rockets hit the ground around the building during our Christmas services. God protects us.

Then, with an inexplicable peace, the Spirit of God came tangibly. People came back, sat down again, and after I said "Amen", applause broke out. The joy and presence of God could be felt in the midst of the war. The Russian army was 1 km away and bombarded us. It was like the Old Testament. Psalm 91 live in the year 2022.

As a bird spreads its wings over its young, so he will always protect you and be close to you.

His faithfulness surrounds you like a strong shield. You need have no fear of the dangers of the night or the insidious attacks by day. If a thousand fall dead beside you, even if ten thousand die around you - you will not be affected! Ps 91, 4.5.7



The people listened to the Christmas story, prayed and sang with us. Many had tears running down their faces.

In the end, around 7,000 people gave their lives to Jesus in nine church services, some of them directly under fire. We brought the remaining residents bread and gifts with a booklet of the Christmas message and Bibles in Ukrainian. Around 200 rockets hit the 1200-seat church. Nobody was injured. No bomb hit. Thank you Jesus!

But where to? I prayed.

Jesus came into this world to save the people in our neighborhood, our city, our friends and relatives. Even the stranger. That is Christmas!

Let God use you this Christmas season to become part of the fulfillment of His plan and His will. So many people feel lonely at this time of year.



Each child receives a nice chocolate box and a children's Bible, the parents a box of food.

Evangelism during the Christmas season

When we had the crazy idea of dressing up as Santas in 2008, there were about 100 of us in Berlin. Then it started. I can already pray with the first people on the streetcar. I get off at Alexanderplatz.

In front of me is a Vietnamese woman with her little daughter. The daughter looks at me expectantly. Thank goodness we had brought a few presents for children. I gave her a coloring book with Bible stories, a small chocolate Santa Claus and a little Christmas book for her mom.

I say: "Do you know the meaning of Christmas?" She says: "Yes, Jesus came into this world". I ask:

"How do you know that?" She tells me that she dreamt about Jesus in Vietnam. I was amazed: she was really prepared! Shortly afterwards, she and her daughter gave their lives to Jesus! The world out there is waiting for us.



Friday Outreach und Friday Response

This time of love, harmony, family is also a time of missing family or never experiencing acceptance, love and harmony for many.

In 2018, we started Friday Outreach in Wiesbaden after the Lord showed me that there must be a fixed date for evangelism. In a vision, I saw Jesus hanging on the cross and shouting: "It is finished! I saw the day of the week Friday and then through the eyes of Jesus from the cross to the present day. What do we do on Fridays? Sit on the sofa and watch Netflix? Attend another church event or just wait for the next Sunday service? **What is God's mission and what Jesus did worth to us?**

What is Friday Outreach?

We meet every Friday at a fixed location (meeting point).

We pray, train for evangelism, go out in teams of two to tell people about Jesus and meet their needs. At the end we meet again to witness and give God the glory.

Making Fridays a fixed day of evangelism because of what Jesus did for us on Fridays - that burned itself into me. I wanted to go out into the world with this vision, but God kept saying: Start in Germany!

So after Wiesbaden, Frankfurt was added, we

started the Meeting Point Göttingen, Hanover, Mainz, Braunschweig and so it went on. We currently have over 40 Meeting Points in Germany.

Evangelism is often an event that comes and goes. Friday Outreach stays. This year we went to London and to the Olympic Games in Paris. Hundreds of Christians were at work there. You could hear the gospel everywhere. Then the Olympics were over, but over 50 people remained in the Friday Outreach group to carry on and hold up the torch of evangelism.



Our "Evangelympics" team at the Olympics in Paris

The mission of Friday Outreach is to firmly establish evangelism in the body of Christ. The goal is to have Friday Outreach in every city and to spread this vision globally. A multiplying, worldwide movement. Each newly launched Meeting Point reaches 1,000 – 10,000 people per year who might never come to church.

Please pray for us and this movement, that the message of salvation will be heard and seen again, on the streets, in old people's homes and hospitals. Everywhere where people are. We have testimonies every week of people who have been waiting for us, drug addicts are getting free, people are getting their lives right with God, being delivered and healed and we are training Christians every week to share the gospel in a way that the need is met and people can understand and receive it.

A few weeks ago, we founded Friday Response gGmbH as an aid organization so that we can continue to help people in disaster areas. When a disaster strikes, you need a team on the ground that knows exactly what to do, what is needed and coordinates the operations. We want to prepare ourselves for this so that we can meet these



Here in action in Ukraine: From evangelization and training to outreach and relief work to hospitals and emergency shelters.

people and their needs in a very practical way with you as our partners. Every member of Friday Outreach and Friday Response should be prepared to meet the need with deeds and not just words.



In front of the Outreach Center on Kaiserstrasse in Frankfurt, shortly before the outreach.

Thank you for your prayers. You are helping us to bring God's love and salvation to this dark world.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our financial supporters. We are still in the process of building a team, a website and an app, and are therefore all the more grateful for everyone who stands by our side. Thank you very much!

I wish you a blessed holiday season and a healthy, wonderful, peaceful New Year!

*Your Stephan
and the entire
Friday Outreach Team*



Projects / Dates

- 01. – 04.05.2025: Church Convention Hanover
- 20. – 26.10.2025: Leaders and newcomers meeting with practical outreach training

Become a partner!

Would you like to support our work on a one-off or monthly basis?
Then scan the adjacent QR code!
Thank you very much!

