



Humanitarian Aid Response Teams
International Relief



Greetings!

During this challenging time, we want to extend our thoughts and best wishes to you and all of HART's faithful supporters. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world in ways we couldn't have imagined just a couple of weeks ago.

But in the midst of so much uncertainty, we're very thankful for you and are praying for you and your family. During a recent Skype conversation with our Ukraine Director, Kostya Voloshyn, he asked us to pass this message along to you...



"Please tell all of HART supporters in Canada and the USA that our partner churches and ministries across Ukraine and Moldova, who have been blessed by **your generosity** over the years, are lifting you up in prayer right now. Not only are churches praying for you - but also children in Orphanages you are supporting, and even our Christian brothers in prisons! Please keep us in your prayers too." **Kostya**

How will COVID-19 impact Ukraine & Moldova?

Many of you have been inquiring about this and we appreciate your concern. Unfortunately, COVID-19 will be more devastating for these countries because of their less-developed healthcare systems.

Currently, Ukraine has gone into a nationwide lock-down to stop the spread of the coronavirus. The only businesses allowed to stay open are grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations. Everything else is closed including schools.

Anecdotal evidence suggests the virus could be much worse than is being reported. We've heard of hospitals full of patients who have the "flu." However, with a lack proper testing equipment, it can't be verified that these cases are indeed COVID-19.

Please pray for Ukraine & Moldova, HART's staff in Ukraine, our entire network of churches and ministries that we partner with, and our case-workers who are on the front lines of our programs in the field. Pray for the thousands of children, families and elderly that are being helped by HART's ministry annually.

At HART, we plan to be part of the solution. So, during the next several months of this crisis our main focus will be on providing relief aid and medical care to our network of partnerships in Eastern Europe. Your faithful prayers and support for these programs will give hope and help to those in greatest need.

Is HART still holding its spring Auction Events?

Unfortunately not. For the first time in 18 years, we've had to cancel our spring auctions in Edmonton and Calgary. As many of you know, all proceeds from these events go toward providing summer camp experiences for over 10,000 underprivileged kids in Eastern Europe.

Initially, we were disheartened at the thought of having to say "no" to thousands of kids desperately wanting to go to summer camps. But after much thought and prayer, we've come up with an interesting alternative.

What is HART'S plan 'B'? ** A VIRTUAL AUCTION **

Whereas our regular auction events were geographically restricted to people in Alberta, an online auction gives our supporters from all across Canada an opportunity to participate!

Right now we are still in the planning stages, but broadly speaking we envision an online event that will include several of the fun features of our typical live auction events. For example it will include competitive bidding for interesting auction items - many from Ukraine; wonderful Treasure Chest prizes for participants to win; and dollar-for-dollar donation matching.

Greetings! in the upcoming weeks we will provide you with a complete package of detailed information, including times and dates, and how each aspect of the auction will work. We hope you'll be able to join us for our 2020 Virtual Auction!

PLEASE NOTE: HOW FUNDS WILL BE USED

All funds raised through the Virtual Auction will be used for camp programs this summer. However, if the Government of Ukraine bars children from attending summer camps in 2020, HART will carry these funds over until the summer of 2021. Alternatively, should COVID-19 morph into something quite serious in Ukraine, our default position will be to use our resources for the underlying critical needs for these kids and their families, which will be medical care and relief aid.

Certain thoughts for uncertain times

Apostle Paul had some words of counsel to us that seem appropriate for these times: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7).

We should note that just prior to this familiar quotation, Paul utters a very short phrase that is crucial to Paul's confidence: "The Lord is near."

Yes, the coronavirus is coming to your town or city. But the Lord is already there. God hasn't been taken by surprise. God is not under-prepared for what's coming. And God will achieve good purposes through this difficult time. May we all then be truly faith-full so we can be faithful: standing strong and doing all the good we can during these uncertain times. For we know God is near and He is in control.

How to make donations?

Thank you in advance for your support of HART during these trying times. Given the fact that our office hours are somewhat limited now, here are some helpful tips when making donations.

CHECKS: Snail-mail still works! Mail to our address below.

CALL: Call the office to give us the particulars of your donation and the project(s) you wish to support. If you get the answering machine please leave a message. We will get back to you!

EMAIL: Email the office with a convenient time for us to call you back for the pertinent donation information.

ON-LINE: Donating online is fast and easy.

- Go to our website
- Choose a program/project to support