

Ukraine

We have maintained contact with our many partners in Ukraine throughout the pandemic and praise God that despite the many difficulties we have seen that God is at work. We praise God for the opportunity to support them financially, through Zoom contacts and prayer.

Agape House in Lutsk which provides support and therapy for severely disabled people in an absolutely wonderful Christian atmosphere had to close for a few weeks due to Covid-19. The team of therapists and support workers travelled to homes to provide help and gave every family food parcels. This included travelling 6 hours to Kyiv the capital as some of the patients live there. Many of those who are disabled need to spend considerable sums on money on medicine and medical products and the team found many were not able to fund food and medicine. When they live in the Centre or attend as day patients, food is provided. The Trust was able to help meet this need. We also helped financially with two other Covid related issues by providing funds for a retreat for all the patients and also support the needs of those who staff the centre. The pandemic regulations resulted in all the patients being confined to the four walls of the room in which they lived and that resulted in depression and related problems. When they are using the centre, wellbeing activities are a key component of the therapy processes. The retreat allowed many to recharge their batteries. The spiritual component of the retreat helped many recharge their spiritual batteries. Please pray for this vital ministry which has resulted not only in many of the severely disabled people coming to Christ but their families as well.

All the Church buildings were closed initially as here in the UK and in some areas that is still the case. However, in local areas where the incidents of Covid-19 are low they can resume activities. In Lutsk, most activities were recommenced and so far, all has gone well. Paul Thomas and Roger Brind had a long Zoom conversation with one of the church leaders recently and we are looking for further developments of our service there in the future.

We had to postpone the Medical and Educational Conference planned for April 2020. We are staying in touch with the organisers on the Ukrainian side and they are very keen that as soon as it is safe, we should hold the conference. We believe this has great potential as a witness to our faith and to support professional development in Ukraine.

The Donbass Region – this is the area under the control of Russia. We stay in contact with believers there regularly and they continue their work for the Lord despite all the restrictions placed on them. Please pray for them. We cannot mention their names or where they live, because as one of them said, “The regulations are worse now than under communism.” However, the Lord is at work and so are His people.

Please pray for the ministry of Agape House and their needs at this time. Pray especially for the staff who face additional pressures. Pray for guidance for us as we plan to reorganise the Medical and Educational Conference. Please pray for believers in both the Donbass and Crimea who are under great pressure.



New transport for disabled people in the Agape House.



Meeting with Ukrainian friends who attend the conference

Find us on 

UK Charity
Registration
1076936

Further information about the work of the Philadelphia Trust is available.

www.philadelphia-trust.org

If you would like to know more, please email

info@philadelphia-trust.org

Philadelphia Trust Annual Report 2020



Prayer Letter

“In God, whose word I praise— in God I trust and am not afraid” Psalm 56:4.

In Psalm 56 we see David had great confidence in God. The Psalm reveals it was one of the darkest days in his history. However, we learn that not only did he trust in God, but he had confidence in Him. This should be our experience as we work through all the problems caused by Covid-19. Life has changed and will probably never be the same again, **but our God has not changed.** The Psalmist assures us, “God, who is enthroned from of old, does not change.” This has been our confidence as we have tackled all that we have had to face in 2020. As we were banned from travelling it would have been easy to do nothing, but praise God doors were opened and we were able to go through them. Please pray that we will be given wisdom as we step out into the Post-Covid-19 World and at the same time we would value prayer for blessing on the work we have been able to do in the past year.

Romania

Romania was the last place any our team visited before lockdown. Roger Brind was there in January for the annual conference for elders and church leaders from the Hungarian Assemblies in Romania held in Valea Drăganului, near Cluj Napoca. A visit to Makfalva for teaching and evangelism and teaching and training in the Kairos Mission School in Suceava. Little did he think this would be the last visit of the year.



Drăgan

The leader’s conference was well attended. It was a very intense period of study and discussions. It was encouraging to see the way that the leadership among the Hungarian Assemblies encourage the next generation of leaders by involving them.

The invitation to visit the Kairos Mission School in Suceava came as a result of the Central and Eastern European Consultation organised by the Trust and GLO in 2018. Roger taught the students for two days and had discussions with the leadership there about further input and plans were made for the future! These still wait to be fulfilled. It was great to see the intense programme that the students are involved in and the way the teaching sessions are opened up to local believers, including church leaders.

Please pray for wisdom in our development of plans for the future. We have kept in close contact since the lockdown began and know that many of the brothers and sisters with whom we work have suffered from this terrible virus. We would urge prayer for them – especially Karoly and Magdalena Szöcs and Karoly’s father Simon who have been very unwell with Covid-19 but are now on the road to recovery.

Lockdown

The announcement on 23rd March that effectively closed travel down changed many of our plans. Our ambitious project of running a Medical and Education Conference to benefit medical and educational professionals and present our faith had to be postponed. A great deal of effort had been put into the planning which we commit into God's hands for the future.

Our planned physical involvement in camps, English Language outreaches and our International Bible Teaching Conference was also cancelled but we were involved from a distance in a number of ways.

Poland

The camps in Palowice continued but with reduced numbers. Extra health precautions were taken in line with local regulations. Derek and Margaret Ford still provided the teaching materials, and the Philadelphia Trust supported this outreach work by providing bursaries for 10 children from needy backgrounds. Most of the leaders this year were past campers, many of whom were saved when attending previous camps. Workers from the US and UK were unable to attend. A number of children professed faith in Christ and Marian Pawlas, one of the church leaders from Palowice who leads the work with the children, has subsequently followed up what was done in the summer by visiting churches to encourage the new converts and their church leaders.



Bible Teaching via Zoom to South of Poland

Please pray for the continued follow up of the camp work and the teaching programme on Zoom. Pray also for a planned winter camp in Palowice that God will lead and guide and keep everyone involved safe.

Hungary

The village of Dömös, where the Bible Centre is situated, came out of lockdown in May and so the annual outreach using English was able to go ahead, with the Hungarians taking a much bigger role than in the past. The Philadelphia Trust/GLO team were able to assist using Zoom in the UK and were involved in daily bible teaching, prayer, storytelling, singing and the English lessons. It was great to see two of the young men of the team, leading the devotions on two days. The outreach was a really positive experience and good contacts were made.



Team meeting via Zoom – Dömös team in Centre, UK participants in Swansea, Newcastle, Forest of Dean and Cardiff

The International Bible Teaching Conference, in August had to be cancelled because although the Bible Centre could still run programmes, travel from most European countries was forbidden or involved lengthy quarantine. But we were able to hold a one day online event with Sam Gibson and Roger speaking. All felt it had been a worthwhile experience. We plan to hold a similar online event in January and because we are now much more experienced in using Zoom, we will be able to involve some Central and Eastern Europeans in delivering the programme.

The Covid pandemic has put considerable financial pressures on the Bible Centre and we are glad that we have been able to pass on considerable sums of money to them to assist with general running expenses, a project to set up a drop in café and to acquire a paid version of Zoom which is vital to run meetings of more than 40 minutes.



One of the four study groups with the UK team on screen

Campers in Dömös



Pray for the ministry of the Bible Centre and the key workers there that the Lord will protect them in the limited activities they are able to run in the Centre. Pray for the financial pressures they are under because of lack of residential use of the Centre. Pray for all who were contacted through the outreach in the summer.

Czechia

Sázava, where we have run a remarkable English Outreach involving all age groups for some years, was like Dömös generally free of Covid during the summer and they found it difficult to understand why we could not travel. However, things have become worse there and now a number of our Czech contacts have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Please pray for them.

We have been able to support a Zoom organised meeting for English learners. Initially this was for youth but has now developed into a day programme once a month that all ages can join. One really blessed feature is one of the key leaders is teenage girl who came to faith 3 years ago. So, we now have an all the year-round input, and that will allow us to plan follow up more effectively in the future.

Pray for the monthly "English Club" and opportunities it affords to present the Gospel. Pray for those suffering from Covid-19.

Future Plans

We recognise that following the Corona Virus pandemic we need to prayerfully consider how we serve. Things will never be the same. We would value your prayers for our discussions.

We are planning to hold both our Annual Bible Teaching Conference in August and our teams that use English as an outreach tool and also responding to invitations to visit for Bible Teaching. Please pray for guidance.