

Light for the “Not-Yet-Believers” in Ukraine

Affected by ongoing military conflict for several years, Ukraine is home to thousands of people without a home. Veteran missionary Linda Gray brings light to a dismal situation. She disciples Ukrainian Christians and helps them meet the physical and spiritual needs of the displaced persons she has given the hope-filled nickname “not-yet-believers.” This month, children will have opportunities to follow Linda’s lead and learn how they can serve those who have been suddenly pulled from their homes and routines.

BIBLE FOCUS

July’s featured Bible story is the account of a father desperately seeking Jesus’ healing for his severely afflicted son (Matthew 17:14–21). Jesus compassionately healed the boy and used the experience to teach His disciples about mountain-moving faith. Look through the headings of a study Bible with your child. Allow them to bookmark other stories about Jesus’ miracles with sticky notes. Read them together throughout the month.

To help your child learn this month’s Bible verse (Matthew 17:20–21), volley a beach ball or balloon back and forth as you say the verse one word and one volley at a time.

Special Note: Your child may have seizures or know someone who does. This does not mean they are demon-possessed. In the Bible story, Jesus dealt with a demon that was causing seizures in a boy.

MINISTRY FOCUS

Allow your child to accompany you on an errand that requires you to produce and provide identification or documentation. Explain that displaced people may have had to leave home quickly without important papers that help them receive assistance. Mention that missionary Linda Gray and her friends provide basic supplies to displaced Ukrainians, no matter their circumstances.

MISSIONS FOCUS

► Write in Russian

Eastern Ukrainians speak and write in Russian, which uses the Cyrillic [sr-ih-luhk] alphabet. This alphabet is visually quite different from the English alphabet. Use an online translation tool to translate the name of a homebound adult into Russian. Encourage your child to copy the translated name on the front of a blank greeting card and personalize it for the recipient.

► Foster Friends

As a family, participate in a missions or awareness project that assists Christian foster families. Help your child gather small, child-friendly treats to stuff in a backpack or bag for a newly-placed foster child.

► Pray in the USA

A group of Ukrainian Christians gathers every morning to pray for peace in their country. Make a red, white, and blue decoration for your lawn, door, or front porch. As you do, talk with your child about ways your family can pray for your country. Do so regularly throughout the month.

Use this resource to reinforce what your child is learning every month in missions.

NOTES FROM YOUR CHILD’S LEADERS

