



BEYOND TOWARD FAITH IN ACTION

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt. —Matthew 2:14

Caring for those who couldn't escape

By Kelsey Hochstetler

Many of the people who have stayed behind in Ukraine's militarized areas are those who cannot run away: the elderly, children, and people with disabilities.

"Certain pastors and their families have made the conscious (and potentially dangerous) decision to remain in the region to serve," said Mary Raber, a worker with Mennonite Mission Network in Ukraine.

Ivan,* one of the few Ukrainian pastors who remain, said, "Our modest ministry continues. As before [the

current conflict], we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the sick, help to rebuild believers' homes ... and we quietly preach the saving gospel of Christ. As it was in Soviet times, we do it in a semi-underground way."

In a recent effort to control religiously-based terrorism, new laws in Russia forbid the sharing of religious ideas anywhere except in a registered religious organization. "Many fear that even holding a Bible study in one's own

home, or explaining one's faith to a co-worker, will now be punishable offenses," said Raber. The laws are expected to be applied also in separatist regions of Ukraine that are supported by Russia.

"It will get harder for us. It is a time of lawlessness and the power of darkness," said Ivan. "But we believe

that hell will not destroy the church of Christ." ■

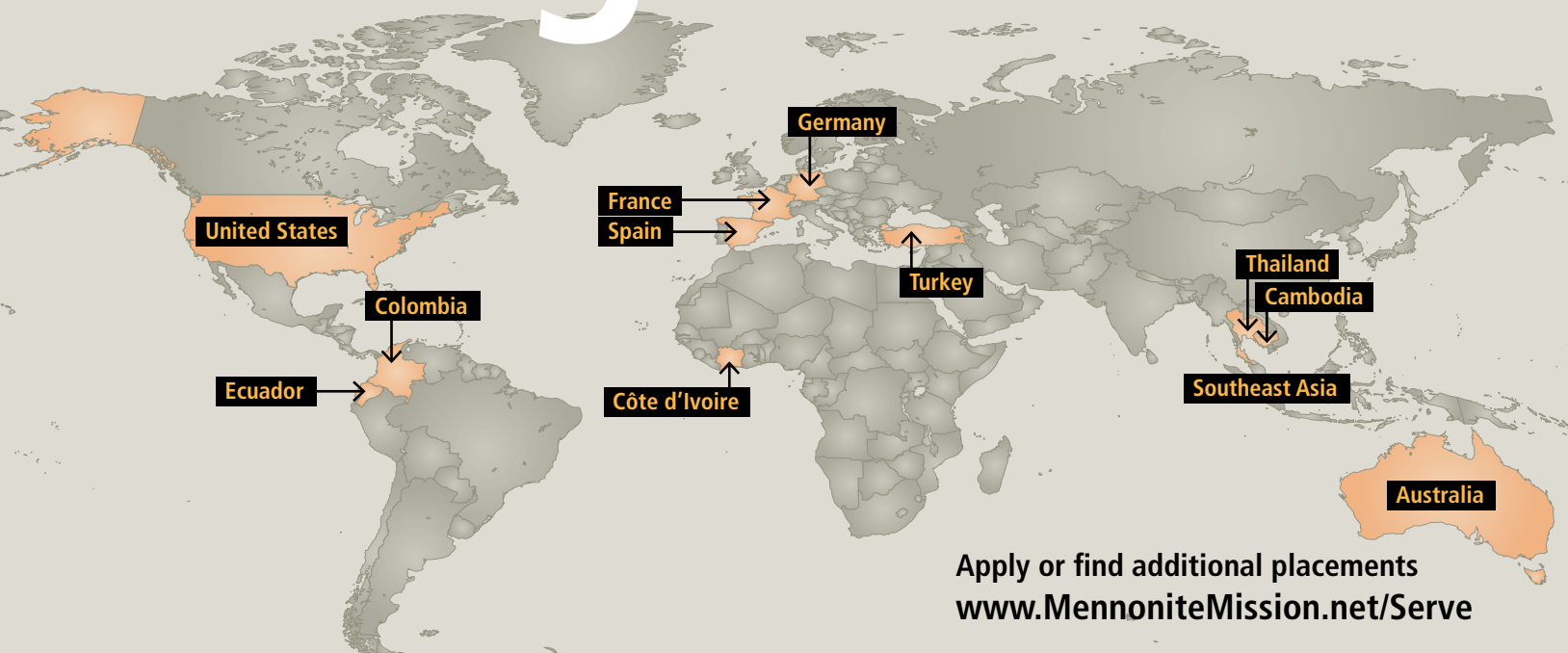
"We quietly preach the saving gospel of Christ."

**Ivan is a pseudonym, used to protect his identity.*

PRAY for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, that they may continue their ministry without fear.

PRAY also for the safety of those who have fled, that they can find a new place to call home.

Refugee work



Apply or find additional placements
www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve

GIVING PROJECTS FOR YOUR CHURCH OR FAMILY

Child soldiers in Côte d'Ivoire

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, civil war was a daily reality five years ago. Children were manipulated to join in the fighting. Now, some of those same child soldiers are learning to heal in the home of Annette and Paco Castillo. They teach children honesty, respect and love—of God and all of creation. And when the children are older, they are taught to make a living.

Provide healing from the wounds of war.
Project #1711—Give peace.

www.MennoniteMission.net/Donate

Photo: The *Jeunes Espoir d'Afrique* community gathers to welcome Steve Wiebe-Johnson, Mission Network's director for Africa. Photo provided by Steve Wiebe-Johnson.



Pastors on the front line

In **Colombia**, the Mennonite Church is on the front lines of peacemaking. They preach and teach peace, and live it out in their work with displaced people. And they also plant new congregations and support ministry in neighboring countries! When you donate to Mission Network, you walk alongside pastors and leaders who are serving in challenging contexts.

Prepare and strengthen Colombian leaders.
Project #1712—Give education.

www.MennoniteMission.net/Donate

Photo: Pastors William Valencia, Daniel Vargas and Martha Lucía Gómez present strategies for holistic church growth and development during a continuing education workshop for pastors in Colombia. Photo by Linda Shelly.



Volunteers serve refugees in the U.S.

In the **United States**, one in six Mennonite Voluntary Service participants work with refugees. They teach English. They help find jobs. They give medical screenings. They help heal the wounds of war. *The soul wounds.*

Help refugees rebuild their lives.
Project #1713—Give a warm welcome.

www.MennoniteMission.net/Donate

Photo: Melinda Regehr works at Jewish Vocational Service assisting newly-arrived refugees who are beginning their adjustment to life in the United States. Photo provided.



Support all Mission Network ministries.
Project #1710—Give to the greatest need.

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We appreciate the trust you place in us to use your gifts as best serves the cause of mission. Your gift will benefit the ministry you designate up to its funding goal and then benefit related ministries.