

Sunday 22nd November

Hope Now, UK

This Sunday we welcome Hope Now UK and their CEO Jon Budgell. It was 4 years ago that we had a team of Young People from Cherkassy, Ukraine come over and put on a wonderful concert of hymns and Folk songs. They were really inspirational, and had spent months preparing for their tour.

They were here in England to raise money and awareness of the Charity's work in the Ukraine. Hope Now, UK work in Schools, prisons, hospitals and with orphans and widows. Recently Cherkassy has seen an influx of refugees from East Ukraine trying to escape the war and the conflict. Here in the UK the media have been relatively silent on the issue. When I did the football camp a few years ago there were children who had lost fathers on the camp.

The work that Hope Now, UK does is very similar to what we read in Matthew 25: 31 - 46 The Sheep & The Goats when Jesus told the story about two groups of people, one group to the left (The Goats) and one group to the right (The Sheep). The group on the right had been welcoming strangers, giving food and drinking to those that were hungry and thirsty, clothing people, visiting people in prison and helping the sick. The king said to the sheep come and take your inheritance and to the goats, he turned and said "depart from Me". What a challenging piece of scripture!

It's easy to get complacent as a Christian and as a British Citizen. We see lots of adverts and articles in magazines advertising so many different charities and the people they aim to help are often far away in some distant land. We can get caught up in our own problems and issues as well. We need to ask God 'who should we be helping?', 'What should we do with our resources?' One thing I can say is that if you choose to support Hope Now, UK or a charity like it you will not just be doing it to help Ukrainians but you will be doing it for Christ. When we make it to glory and we live with all our brothers and sisters in Christ, in the coming kingdom we may be approached by others who will say thank you your support mattered.