

EBF Ukraine Appeal

The overseas project we will be supporting this Christmas is the European Baptist Federation (EBF) appeal for centres of Heat and Hope for Ukraine.

The EBF brings together Baptist work in 52 countries in Europe the Middle East and beyond. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February, EBF has been tireless in its work for Baptist Christians in Ukraine and in the neighbouring countries, such as Poland, Moldova, Romania, and Hungary where many displaced people have found refuge.

Many Christians remain in Ukraine. One of the leaders writes 'Since February, our churches have turned into dorms, canteens, heating points and places of spiritual renewal....Now hundreds of new people respect, love and join the Church.

As winter sets in and as Ukrainians look to the reality of a long-term war response, our prayers and gifts are still needed to sustain the Kingdom work of supporting those in need.

Your donations will help to purchase food, hygiene items, medicine, generators, gasoline, blankets, pillows, and necessary items for the Internally Displaced People and refugees who have fled the country. These donations will help continue to run shelters and housing accommodations in many Baptist churches in the region through the difficult winter months.

Judith Brazier

YMCA

As many of you are aware, I work at the YMCA in Coventry as a Chaplain to staff and residents. Christmas is often a very difficult time of year for residents, because of complicated relationships, the usual stresses and strains of life, magnified because of isolation from family, in addition to which the current cost of living. It's hard to summarise the residents' experiences and lives, and the difficulties they face, but we do what we can as staff to help them to grow and change.

I am so grateful for the generous donations that many of you gave last year, and for those who have given this year, that we can provide each resident with a small gift. I am still struck by how excited one of our resident's was last year to receive socks in his parcel!

We are also hoping to put together something for them as a Christmas celebration.

I am also grateful that QR has chosen to support the residents here for our Christmas appeal. Please know that anything you give to the YMCA, or to the EBF, will be really appreciated.

Please do pray that I am able to show something of Jesus' love and hope to them over this Christmas period, knowing what you give has a part to play in that.

God bless, *Liz Martin*