

MINDY HENSON RELIANT MISSION UKRAINE



Mindy by the Red Sea

Mindy Henson and her husband, David, moved to Kyiv, Ukraine, in 1998. Their vision was to love and share Jesus Christ with those they met, to make disciples, and to help others grow in their faith. HPC started support for the Hensons in 2009. They began their ministry teaching English clubs and holding small group Bible studies. They helped plant a church in Kiev—Spring of Hope Church. As the Ukrainian believers moved into leadership roles, the Hensons stepped back to provide guidance and encouragement. They went on to plant two more churches in Ukraine. The Hensons found a new way to serve during the tumultuous winter of 2004-2005. That year many Ukrainians were protesting a fraudulent Presidential election and began demonstrating in Kiev's Independence Square. Together with Spring of Hope church members, David and Mindy took food, water, winter clothing, and religious tracts to assist the soldiers and protesters.

During the next 10 years, the Hensons continued with their ministry of sharing the word of Christ in their Kiev apartment and in the outlying towns. They led teams of believers to demonstrate God's love by renovating and building badly needed additions onto houses. In 2014 the Russians annexed Crimea and new fighting broke out. The Hensons and their friends expanded the humanitarian assistance into areas of the war zone as they sent, and sometimes personally took, basic supplies to the military who were fighting against the Russians or were hospitalized due to their injuries.

In 2018, David suddenly passed away due to complications following surgery. Despite her grieving heart, Mindy continued her ministry to women and children, and to the Spring of Hope Church. Because David was so loved, a fund was established to fulfill his dream—to build a house for a refugee family. Donations were so generous, that a house was completed in 2019 and enough month was left over to build a second home!

When the Ukrainian war escalated in 2022, Mindy's sending organization, Reliant Ministries, requested that she and other missionaries evacuate Kyiv. Mindy returned to the States to live in Missouri, where she set up a ministry office. She joined the Ukraine Relief Fund, becoming part of a team that sends money, coordinates projects, and has on-line communications with Ukrainians displaced by the war. For more information about this project, you can visit <https://reliant.org/ukraine.relief.fund>.

Mindy made a 3-week visit to Ukraine in March of 2023. She reconnected with dear friends in Kyiv, visited David's gravesite, and sorted through possessions from their apartment. She traveled to see people in villages that Reliant Ministries had been helping. She witnessed loss and grief in every home. As she prayed and shed tears with many, she realized that David's death had given her a place 'with those who mourn.' She offered them the same comfort that the Holy Spirit had revealed to her

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The Hensons served in the Ukraine with our former missionaries Shirley (Fawcett) and Lide Durant. Eleanor Fawcett, Shirley's mother, (now deceased) was a member of HPC.