NOVO
Make New

Dear Friends & Ministry Partners, July 2026

"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:18).

Jesus quoted this verse as the second greatest commandment, just behind loving God. Sounds simple enough, but how do I respond when put to the test? Max Myronenko in Cherkasy, Ukraine, knows what it's like. The night before Max was to launch a new Novo church plant, ***Unity Church***, a Russian rocket exploded outside his home and riddled shrapnel throughout the house.

Max Myronenko's Testimonial

On Saturday evening we were preparing for the opening of our new church, and our children were sleeping in their rooms. When the first explosion happened, our young daughter woke up and Lana went to her. We heard a drone flying and an explosion occurred right in front of us - the walls shook and the windows broke. The drone fell in the neighboring yard, twenty meters from our house. The warhead exploded sending hot metal shrapnel through our house. Pieces of metal pierced the ceilings and walls of our bedrooms, passing through the wall a few centimeters above the heads of our children. Pieces of paint and plaster covered their faces. A hot fragment fell next to our sleeping daughter and burned her bedding and body. We heard everyone's screams at once. We were shaking, the children were crying and couldn't stop, the blood on their faces was frightening. I saw a fire through the broken window; it stank of burnt fabric and plastic.

Frightened, Lana started to put the children back to bed, but we heard another drone, so we hid in the bathroom, all of us crying out to God, the children praying and crying in a chorus. I ran barefoot through the broken glass. We got dressed, gave everyone shoes to avoid cutting their feet, and we went to the shelter.

We realized the great role of our church and our lives were saved for the continuation of the Great Commission. In the morning, we felt a rise of emotions and strength in our lives. Unity Church became the meaning of this salvation for us. Despite our emotional instability, fatigue and terrible memories, we feel life and happiness and gratitude to Christ for our salvation. We are indescribably grateful to the Lord, and now we have an even greater goal to tell everyone about Him. We are a living testimony of the Living Risen Christ.

First meeting of Unity Church, Cherkasy

Max launched the first Unity Church service that next morning. I'm not sure if I could have done it. More difficult still, how does someone not desire vengeance after such a life-threatening attack on one's family? Shamefully, I find myself too often bearing a grudge toward others for much less.

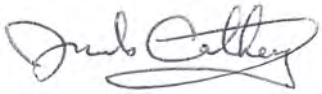
As you read this, we are at the Novo 4-year global conference. Melinda is presenting a workshop. For me, as Director of the largest Novo division, Empowering Leaders, it's a monumental time to evaluate the past and cast vision for the next four years to come. It was four years ago at conference where the Russian and Ukrainian staff met for some significant Leviticus 19:18 neighborly healing amid war; Russian repentance extended, Ukrainian forgiveness granted, love and unity restored.

Ukrainian & Russian Novo staff in 2022

Lord, you tell me that my neighborhood extends far beyond the person next door to include everyone. Grant me the grace to forgo a grudge and to extend love and unity to those who have wronged me!

I thank all of you who remember me in prayer and partner with me in ministry through your finances!

May Love & Unity Abound,



Mark Cathey
Director, Empowering Leaders Division, Novo
651-800-5667 (Phone)
mark.cathey@novo.org (Email)
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Mark & Melinda, Andre & Nadya Furmanov 2022

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