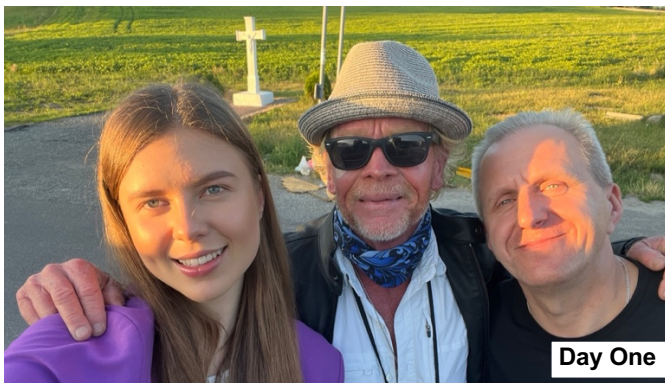


Through my photojournalism, you will ride along with me as we travel more than *three thousand MILES* from the “relatively safe” northern cities of Ukraine to the most dangerous of the villages and small towns along The Zero Line in the furthest southern regions of Ukraine. You will see first-hand how we delivered aid to the Ukrainians who are most impacted by the war and by Russia’s genocide, and what the conditions there were like – and you’ll meet the doctors and nurses manning the small Field Hospital that is located at the western terminus of the Zero Line.

So from beginning to end, I will take you through large urban cities and small rural communities alike, so that you too will understand the tragic element that they all have in common: all of these communities have suffered from devastating acts of violence brought about by the Russian invaders.

So settle-in and prepare yourself for what I experienced as a truly life-changing event, where you will see, hear and feel the good, the bad and sadly, the very worst of humankind – **for this reality is what Ukraine is today.**



Day One

The first native Ukrainian I have ever met (left) Anastasiia Pozhar, an attorney from the Asters Law Firm – and (right) “Rushka” the first native Pole I’ve met, who greeted me at the Warsaw airport and accompanied me to the Ukraine border; Anastasiia continued with me to Lviv, where we were greeted by our first air raid alert, which emptied the streets just before the 11:00 pm curfew.



Day One

This perfectly appropriate scene (as I would soon learn), marks the Polish-Ukraine border, symbolizing the pre-war strengths of these two great nations: their world renown agricultural production and their steadfast faith. I found myself constantly in awe of Ukraine’s vast agricultural regions, which persistently reminded me of the farming landscape of my childhood in America’s Midwest.

f.y.i.

For those of you considering joining us on our next Mission trip (in September), currently due to the war, no Ukrainian airport is open; by default, the best access to Ukraine is through Poland, and numerous flights each day from the U.S. arrive at the Chopin (Warsaw) Airport. From the airport to the Ukraine border, a distance of 250 miles, while some public transportation is offered, the most reliable travel is by hiring a taxi or private car, where the 5-6-hour-drive will cost approximately \$150-200 (but be forewarned, caveats are prolific).