

LeaderImpact Podcast Ep. 8 Andrew Denysov

Lisa Peters

Welcome to a special LeaderImpact Podcast. Today we are taking you to the Ukraine. LeaderImpact is a community of leaders with a network in over 350 cities around the world dedicated to optimizing our personal, professional, and spiritual lives to have impact. We engage with leaders who are living this out.

I'm your host Lisa Peters and our guest today is Andrew Denysov. Andrew is co-founder and CEO of Tech Vision Global whose software has been used for McDonald's, Walgreens, and 7-11. Although Tech Vision is headquartered in Tennessee, Andrew has chosen to work with software developers in Lviv, Ukraine. Andrew is committed to being a kingdom builder and this is demonstrated in his volunteer work in providing technical support to the You Version Bible app as well as supporting the church online platform for Life Church and being part of the Global Leadership Network for the Global Leadership Summit. Andrew was also a leader and senior pastor assistant at Hosanna Church in Lviv where he attends with his wife and 2 young children.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Andrew's life along with everyone in Ukraine has changed and new priorities have become their focus. Andrew is providing leadership along with others from Hosanna Church in the procurement and distribution of essential medical supplies along with providing shelter and assistance to internally displaced people. His strong leadership skills have well prepared him for the many logistics involved and getting supplies to those who need. The church has used up its resources and the pooled personal resources are also being depleted. Impact Bridges Group, a Canadian registered not-for-profit based in Ottawa, is working with Hosanna and others to provide financial support to ensure medical supplies are made available to those in need. Join us now for a special conversation with Andrew about the war in Ukraine and living out your purpose in uncertain times. Thanks for joining us Andrew.

Andrew Denysov

Thank you for handing me Lisa here. Thank you.

Lisa Peters

Well yesterday we tried to get together and unfortunately you were having some power and internet issues. How has that been resolved or was that just something went down? Can you explain that?

Andrew Denysov

Hello from great Ukraine. And unfortunately as you mentioned Lisa yesterday probably first time of the whole period of the war we had power and the internet outage. You know when

people try to do godly things the evil want to break those plans. So yeah, so it was because despite we were living in the, like more or less safe area in Ukraine according to the troops and actual war actions, but we every day under the threat of aggressor's missiles. So that's why you know they attacked different. Not yet civilians but, not yet, but you know some kind of industrial buildings. So that's why probably that it was some kind of a problem with electricity and internet connection. So sorry about that.

Lisa Peters

Oh no worry and I'm thankful that you're here today. So, I'm wondering if you can provide us a little bit of an update to what is going on in Ukraine as of today April 7.

Andrew Denysov

Sure, I'd love to. Again and again. Thank you for having me this here on this podcast and the interview because I truly believe that this war, today's war, is a hybrid war. The war of metal and information. So that's why my pleasure will be to provide you this information what's going on over here. So now I live in Ukraine and I'm in Ukraine right now. Technically we're in the war last eight years. This aggression would have, what we have right now, is something that actually started, and I mean you know people predicted that. But honestly inside of our hearts we didn't want to believe that it will happen. So I live in the city of Lviv with my wife and 2 our 2 kids girl and boy 6 and 9. And we are like located around like a one hour drive from the border with Poland. So it's like I said more or less save zone. But so we're far from a war frontline but at the same time our city Lviv is that that transit city where lots of refugees and displaced people go to and through the city to abroad. As you probably might heard that more than 5,000,000 Ukrainians flee from Ukraine and most of them actually were through our city. So yeah, we don't have war-like actions here right now. But last weekend, the previous weekend actually, three missiles came here and they targeted oil depot buildings very close to the airport and other factories etc. So you know there's no distance for missiles nowadays. There is no distance for death, for distractions and it's just terrible. But I want to let you know that really overall the situation here in Ukraine is sad. I want to be out like birds was better with you sad, especially what's happened if you heard in the latest news for Sunday and Monday in the cities two cities in the Kyiv region, the central part of Ukraine, just ten miles or twenty kilometers from the capital of Ukraine.

Lisa Peters

Wow! Thank you Andrew. Tell us a little bit about how you and your family are doing.

Andrew Denysov

We're doing good. (Laughing) We're doing good but every day we have mixed emotions and feelings. Sometimes we're angry sometimes we have fear. And you know Ukrainian males with age of from 18 to 60 are not eligible to leave the country. So only women in kids. So my wife said that from the very first day of the war she said that she won't leave me anyway. And she won't leave the country and she won't go anywhere without me. So we try to keep stable.

You know like emotional conditions over here which is honestly pretty difficult to do. You know because if you spend let's say lots of time on the internet we're in the news. It's difficult because every single day something new pops up. So that's why we try to pray a lot. Try to focus on good, something else, and help people through church, through volunteering. And yeah, it's like our new reality, unfortunately.

Lisa Peters

Now earlier you said you know you're in what you would call a safe zone. How are your kids? Are they are they leaving? Are they going to school? Is everything is normal? Are they playing the video games, watching movies like what are they doing? You know I just want a glimpse of that.

Andrew Denysov

Yeah, thank you for this question. Good question. Because you know our life divided in two before February 24 and after February 24. So you know like I never thought that I never could imagine that the world will be my reality. As a man, as person, as Christian like any roles and especially as dad. So no, we don't have schools in person but just two weeks ago the schools were renewed online because all school buildings were transformed to the centers for refugees and displaced people. Because first few weeks of the war we had just like thousands and thousands even 100,000 people every single day coming to the Lviv. So we had to help them. We as parents were taking care about the emotional conditions of our kids. So we tried to you know, switch them a little bit from what's going on over here because the information and conversations about the war everywhere in the air. Everywhere. In all news, radios, internet, everywhere. I mean on March 17 we celebrated the sixth birthday of my daughter and guess was the top topic of and on the birthday of course the war. But also it's difficult to you know to to switch only to non-war condition. Why? Because even now we're talking right now recording our awesome podcast and I don't know but in any second the air siren can come. You know and I have to according to the according to the law and rules I have to run to the shelter. So it can be anytime. So and we hear that. Of course I won't do that. Because we have the LeaderImpact Podcast recording right now. So I'll probably risk my life to have this recording because I am more than sure that I want this information will be here heard by the rest of the world.

So yeah, so we try to switch them from the war mode to more like kid and children modes. But at the same time as parents, we try to give them understanding where their relative is right now. Who's that because there are really bad people killing our people. Our kids, our women, our families and so they have to know the reality. So we try to give them like with portions but we try to be wise parents as it could be.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, as you speak, I'm a mom. I've got children and my heart is so heavy and I just want to ask about your wife. She chose, to stay which is love. How is she doing?

Andrew Denysov

She's strong. Probably one of the strongest women I have met. And you know she's actually and yeah, so like you know... Today's 42nd I guess day of the war. So there are there were different periods. Of course first few days was were probably the busiest, the most difficult days and also it weeks in our lives. So of course first of all, she was worried about the kids about me, you know and about parents. We have parents here as well and she has 2 brothers and of course all them are here. And you know what's interesting that we have many friends in Europe and different countries of the Europe. We have good friends in the United States. So and lots of them say Hey just run because you have to take care and provide safety for the kids, which is right and we understand this right? But at the same time, her heart was, like you know, caring and because she has me and I couldn't and still can't leave the country. So she's like you know between two fires, two choices and we speak about that. Talk about it every single day and pray about the wisdom everything single day for her and for the peace inside of her brain and heart. And she's going through the really difficult period of time. But at the same time she's strong. So she's my support. And of course, of course, of course every single day I ask her Hey if we can some time just take kids and go to other country just to spend the time there and because you know analysts say that it's going to be tough next 10 to 14 days because Russia wants to show trophy or achievements before May 9 especially.

You know what May 9 is? If not I'll tell for the listeners. This is the victory day and the victory day that actually you know Russia or Soviet Union won the war with Nazi Germany but that was totally different in our story. So she's helping. That's why she's switching to helping like the church, volunteers and having communication with Impact Bridge about the humanitarian aid. So she's involved. Involved in helping me with the business as well. And yeah, so that's why we're going through this difficult war time together and she declines leave the country. But we almost came up to the decision that probably we have to in some like few weeks and we probably send them to the United States.

Lisa Peters

Wow! Thanks for sharing that. That's yeah I'm a parent. I wanted to get into your role of CEO of your software company. But my last but before we move to that I wanted to ask you what is the most important thing we should know about you and your country? If there was an overall message?

Andrew Denysov

This is a good question because you know we're smart I mean about the country. Okay, so we're smart, peaceful people that love. Who love to create, build, and innovate but no, war steal and kill. We have to protect ourselves nowadays. But in my dream and that's why that's why I had many, many opportunities to live in the United States but I choose to live here in Ukraine to grow our people, lead our people, and create workplaces over here. And of course I travel to the United States lots of time. But now I choose to live here in this country because

this is my motherland. God gave me awesome people over here. Like I said smart innovative, peaceful and I really want to make a difference over here.

Lisa Peters

Wow! Good all right. Well before we get into your role at Hosanna Church in Ukraine, you are the founder and CEO of a software company headquartered in Tennessee and you travel back and forth to Ukraine. You consciously chose to live and work with the software developers in Ukraine so tell us a little bit about that decision.

Andrew Denysov

It's all about vision. That's why I called my company the Tech Vision Global because I mean our vision is to provide, to help our clients implement their business visions and with a tech component but with the teams globally. And what's interesting that our teams now we evolved from the just Ukrainian-based engineers to global. So we have even now engineers in Africa as well. Why? It was interesting because we're talking about leadership right? So LeaderImpact. Last nine years I'm involved being with my wife we involved in the Global Leadership Summit over here in Ukraine. Probably heard about Willow Creek Church and the Global Leadership Summit last 25 or 26 years. Then I heard about so energetic and awesome people from Africa as well. And I said hey you're awesome I want to do something with you as well, right. So that's why I decided to think globally, but my main vision and the core of my vision was to create workplaces over here in Ukraine because this country every time struggling with you know, building economies.

This is the war right now. But the last decade even we had few... okay in 2004 we have revolution. In 2013 we had revolution. Okay, after that in Oh before that in 2008 and 9 it was like financial crisis, global financial crisis. Of course it was in Ukraine as well. After that we had you know like after the revolution we had oh yeah, it was the pandemic as well. So you know like every 2, 3, 5 years we have something over here. And for example, when I started my study in my university when it was student in 2004 and one very smart and very wise, actually, old professor said hey congratulations. I want to tell you what important thing and it was on the very first lesson, he said when you graduated the university all of you will be unemployed. And I said to myself. Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, hold on. My parents sent me to the university to study university not to be unemployed but to be employed to find a job etc. But the reality in Ukraine is that it's just you know we're building our country. And every time something actually distracts us from all this and he was right. When I graduate university I was unemployed. So I had to start my business and to create the workplaces for me and for my friends. Of course like this company is the probably fifth version of the business which were like you know ups and downs. But with a passion to technologies I created the Tech Vision with pure focus on North America. We have also clients from Europe as well. But of course we joined lots of good engineers around us in Ukraine, in Lviv. And you know try to deliver a great service. And I'll always repeat that we're not the best. No one is the best. But we try to do our

best to make it happen. And that's why clients love us because still working with us and even grow with us because we try to be transparent, honest and do our best so to do a great job.

Lisa Peters

Well, you do a great job. I am a huge fan of the You Version Bible app that you were part of. It is a great app. My next question, because you talked a little bit about you are global and your TechVision Global. You have software developers everywhere including Africa. What do you see as the role of global business leaders playing in the war?

Andrew Denysov

The role is very important because we have vulnerabilities here in Ukraine for example, during the war and before the war as well. Of course during the war it's the vulnerability is much, much stronger, right? So the global leaders are those type of persons that have to react very quickly on problems that they see on their radars. For example, my friends from Canada especially Impact Bridge and LeaderImpact, they contacted me probably the very first day and they say hey if you need any possible help shoot us a message. Let us know. And I said okay, okay, the first help what we need is please pray. This is the top request that we have. But after that they suggested help with funds, humanitarian aid, medicines etc. So that's the role. But after that they say Hey, simultaneously what about other help? I said guys I mean you're helping us a lot but as entrepreneur I said please keep doing the business with Ukraine. I know that it may sound ridiculous and stupid now because we're in the war, but when I have a chance, when you feel and you think that for your businesses and your organizations, you'll have a chance to make a business with recurring entrepreneurs, invest into Ukraine, help Ukraine in anything you need or after when the peace will come, and it will come, and we pray that it will come very soon. Please come here. Look at this beautiful country. Talk to this beautiful people. Drink this awesome coffee in city of Lviv. Probably the best coffee in this world because I'm the true fan of coffee. Talk to us and just spread the word about this beautiful country. That's how global leaders can help nowadays.

Lisa Peters

Okay. So I think I lost connection there for a bit. I think it might have been on my end but I want to move to a little bit about a conversation I understood about this, the cyber-war. And, I know that if there are two sides to a cyber-war and from what I understand it will result in mutually destruction and if what I'm reading, it's like no one wants to take that big, big step. So we're doing these little things. So I Just want to talk to you about cyber-war because this is new to me Do you fear cyber-war? You're a software developer.

Andrew Denysov

You know, why I love tech guys over here in the Ukraine. My tech fellows because they are very sharp and quick and smart. But I want to tell you at the same time, Lisa that and our listeners, that we don't want war emotional nor informational nor even in the cyber-war. No type of war we want. Why because it's bad. It's a war. It doesn't create. It doesn't create a value right? So

we want to create a value. But unfortunately we had to make this step. Why because aggressors started to kill our people. So with sanctions and with I mean this is our weapon. This is I'm just want to show the keyboard right? Computer keyboard this is our weapon. This our brains our weapon. We had to make this step unfortunately to, yeah to destroy some of the Russian bank websites, different organizational websites. Why and but first of all to spread the right information to Russian people about what's going on are here because they were like you know and they were isolated with information and they consciously decided to be isolated because they truly believed, maybe still believe, that's not a war. They like bring the peace to Russian-speaking people over here to Ukraine. It just literally a lie you know. And we had to do that to spread the truth and unfortunately protect our country by you know, attacking the different tech companies and websites over there. So we had to do that. But I want to emphasize again and again to listeners that we don't want this war even cyber-war. It's not what we do. We love to create, innovate and bring the value.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, I was on, and you can correct me, but you know in regards to cyber-attacks. There was , an article came out and said in February 2022 the websites of the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers and ministries of foreign affairs infrastructure and education were disrupted in the days before the Russian troops invade Ukraine. On February 15 attacks knocked websites belonging to the Ukrainian defense ministry and two of the country's largest banks offline. There was an information attack and this sounds so simple, but Ukrainian citizens received spam messages claiming that the ATMs we're not working. That creates a fear and just this rush of just a fear.

Andrew Denysov

It's right. I mean it's true. It was it was. And later they attack us as well and before even the war. So I just want to say that this is true and this is something that was like... So our reaction is reaction. We didn't initiate that. So we have to protect. And again there are no advantages or disadvantages on the cyber-war or any of the war right? So there's no good in anything good in here. So we have to do that to protect our systems. Our banking system. Even talking about the Impact Bridge the guys we love and respect so much. We receive I mean our church have received the monetary help from abroad. So we have to receive it somehow. Even if it could be you know disrupted probably will be cut off the normal world.

Lisa Peters

One of my questions was you know advantages and disadvantages of a cyber-war, there are none. You've said that we're going to skip that question.

Andrew Denysov

No advantages.

Lisa Peters

So I know that you are part of a team or you know part of a team in Ukraine to disrupt and stop cyber-attacks. I want you to talk a little bit about that because that's how I first heard about you. So tell us a little bit about what you are doing.

Andrew Denysov

So fortunately I was invited by one of my friends who works in the capital of Ukraine and in a government organization who create the digitalization here in Ukraine. And they say hey, and you know that information will spread it very quickly. If you have any resources of course your brains, computers, etc. join and we know what to do and we'll let you know what to do. So I gathered my engineers and my friend's engineers who work in other countries I'm sorry other companies I'm sorry in countries as well. So and we gathered more than 300,000 people. Not all of them are software engineers but the number of software engineers less than 300,000 people over here in Ukraine. But there are different stuff that we can give them what to do. And of course we connected our computers for the D-DOS attacks. You know some also producing the right content, video, etc. So there a huge system of people that create the digital information and play their role in this big, big, unfortunately I'll use again this word cyber-war and cyber-attacks and informational attacks from Ukraine to first of all protect and after that attack unfortunately yeah.

So my role with was at a management level, a leadership level, but also I want to also touch this question as well. That probably second or third day of the war we supported our minister, minister of the digitization here in Ukraine his name is Mykhailo Fedorov of reaching out to for example Elon Musk and we succeed with that to provide the StarLink for Ukraine. Because we predicted like what's happened yesterday with my internet connection. We predicted that. We're happy that it failed by aggressors but they would like to cut us from the rest of the world. First of all with the information, with our internet connection. So we predicted to have the plan b of StarLink. And that was a good plan because of course frontline literally with our internet connection and any of the cell phone connection, etc. So we're super happy with that. And Elon Musk actually provided us with StarLink and now we of course adopted that and of but of course we don't use it at home right now. But for all the modules we sent to the areas when needed.

Lisa Peters

300,000 is a lot of people. How do you control or know what they're doing or I mean someone could go rogue could they not? And just do their thing? They're smart people.

Andrew Denysov

Yeah, you know we work in IT. In IT we can yeah, it's just... Why I love IT people and tech people that we can manage very quickly, structurally even without conversation in person. We just using the chat. Okay so hey boys here's the message hey boys here's the portion of links of let's say Russian banks that we need to attack. You know what to do. Here's the list of IP

addresses and you know what to do. And you know what Lisa, everyone once knows what to do. No extra words. No extra words. So they know what to do. So we don't have like long dialogues in the chats like back and forth back and forth. We have just lots of comments like who we go who we're here to serve and let's get the party started.

Lisa Peters

Let's get the party started. You had referred to yourself in a past Zoom that I'd saw the IT Army of Ukraine that is quite the name.

Andrew Denysov

Yeah, exactly IT Army of Ukraine.

Lisa Peters

One final question before we move to Hosanna Church. How do you keep yourself safe, like are you worried that you could get targeted or any one of your developers?

Andrew Denysov

If I tell you that we don't worry, I lie, so I don't want to lie. We worry, truly. So we are angry as well. When the air sirens can come up at 3:30 am, 2 am, you know 5 times a day. And I'm telling you about the air sirens because it means that missiles are coming. We don't know how much. So we know that we just after that but after few hours we hear the statistics that for example, you know there were 80 missiles and just 8 or 7 of them reached their targets in Lviv, for example. So we understand that we're not in safe. So how are doing all that we try to follow the news. And for example, when we hear the air sirens we need to run to the bomb shelter. It's just crucially important. I can also send you the picture, the photo that we made from our window when the one was the blast and the missiles targeted and reached oil deport. That was terrible. I heard, we heard that sounds.

Talking about the safety of course every single day from Monday to Saturday we have evening prayers in our church. 7 pm Ukraine time till 8 pm Ukraine time, we bow down on our knees and we pray. Honestly, I'm 35 I don't remember, when I was praying on my knees before this. I was like praying standing, sitting, lying on the bed sometimes. Oh God I'm sorry, but you know I'm on my knees. It's something that dozens of people doing that every single day because we pray for safety.

Lisa Peters

Wow. And that's interesting because when I look at religion around the world there has been a decline around the world and there are less people attending church. So I just you know and now you're talking seven o'clock everybody's going. What are you currently seeing in the churches in Lviv?

Andrew Denysov

You know, we currently seeing more people on the prayers than on the Sunday services. Now we have lots of people on the Sunday services as well. We are just over booked with people. Of course we had to even transform our main auditorium and church buildings into the centers for their refugees and displaced people as well. But you know I need to tell you that people now more open to God in Jesus and good news than ever before. Why, because they're afraid. And we would love to bring them hope and light and faith and help them first of all even in this way as well. So religion, yes I mean there are still people that just decline. They said hey I don't need God and I don't want to listen to you. Even despite they coming to the church and accepting like humanitarian aid or any other type of support. And we do that you know we tried to our example is Jesus. He was you know feeding people first of all, and after that talking about gospel. He was healing and then, but we tried to be the answer to people to any of their needs. But of course our goal is to bring them the spiritual food.

Lisa Peters

And when you talk of spiritual food I think of when people see a Christian they see this light. They see this faith. How do you have such hope and I understand you gave a sermon last, maybe a Sunday ago, two Sundays ago, about contagious hope and I just want you to talk a little bit more about that.

Andrew Denysov

Yeah thank you for asking about this because, one of my gifts that I consider that God gave me is to teach. To preach actually. I didn't know that I can to preach but my pastor said hey man you have to preach. Okay, so let's preach. I'm just kidding. Yeah I've been preaching my church since 2012. But you know when you work with people you talk you teach so probably yeah. And you know when this time with war came up, I realized that it was like three weeks ago, I guess three Sundays ago, so that exactly in that part of the war, that period of time, I noticed that really people were losing their hope Lisa. Because from all sides there were troops, missiles. It was like that the most difficult period when everyone was shocked, scary, and under the threat of war. And I realized that I'm starting to lose the hope. You know God, why are doing this? lots of people were asking them.

So I prayed a lot and every single week I have fast with my wife. Thursdays, today as well. So we're fasting. Sorry if I'm telling you aloud but we're doing that. And the contagious hope that was something that I was going to bring three things to the people who are listening to that sermon because first of all, it was addressed to the Christians. Because as a Christians I truly believe that when the world gets darker, the light has to shine brighter. And we as Christian followers, as someone who bring Christ, when people will look at us what do they see? They see fear? They see panic? They see what? They have to see hope, love, and light. So that's why I brought three things that I call that we live as Christians we live by faith not by fear. Second, we are sacrificial but not selfish. And we shine the light but we do not hide it. So these three things and we are like those type of people that we have to do that. And every time try to love

to motivate people, inspire people and even when I need the motivation inspiration as well. But this is what actually I consider that God gave me this as a gift because I truly believe that as a Christians and leaders we have to be game changers in this world.

Lisa Peters

As you gave that sermon the thought came to my mind, what do you have hope for?

Andrew Denysov

(Pause) It will be the answer very right answer first but it's very true answer Lisa. Nowadays I have hope for God. For every single day I wake up and I dive deep into time with him, reading his word. Thinking a lot praying a lot and my hope is God. And then I went (go) into business after that. He's my hope. He's my leader here. I tried to be that I ask him give me eyes to see and ears to hear people who need any help, any help. Work, good word you know smile. The energy. Anything, anything. And he's my source of hope and that's why he's my hope. Oh and yes and God can bring the peace, so we hope that he'll bring the peace to my country.

Lisa Peters

It's interesting, you end with that God will bring us peace because I think there's a lot of people out there saying how could God do this? If he exists, how could he let this happen? And there's a lot of anger there and what has been your response to those people.

Andrew Denysov

Probably this is the most popular question nowadays here in Ukraine. Truly and especially, Lisa, today's Thursday right? Last four days when you probably you might you might see the news from cities ??? and Bucha I mentioned in the beginning of our conversation. If God exists, why it was this all happened right? You know I truly believe in 2 things. First I truly, truly and deeply believe that God has his perfect plan. And sometimes and very often, maybe even, it's difficult to see that this is his plan because he's kind, his love. But why lots of death over here right? We just need to rely on him and trust him. Because, for example, COVID pandemic. Do you remember in the beginning of 2020, I mean March, April 2020 when the pandemic when the COVID hits we were isolated. We were like just working online. We couldn't do that like normal stuff what we did. And I was praying for God and I said hey God but I mean it's not something that happened like whoa. You didn't know that and COVID hits right? So you didn't know what were happening in China with, I don't know where that COVID came right. Or with Russia that they were planning this war few years before for years before. But what I know for sure that he's planned for COVID for example, maybe not.

But I think that for example, as actual experience in our church, that we transformed a church to reach people not just physically but digitally. Like I'm very good friend of Life Church like YouVersion. This is the product of Life Church and I'm inspired by Life Church as well. And they said and if we cannot reach people physically, we will reach them digitally. And I want to tell you that during the COVID time, yes I know that after that I saw that after that. But in the

beginning it was so difficult to see that we reached X to X times more people that they could come physically to our church. We have cool examples of our youth ministry. So physically, they were targeted they were expecting to reach like dozens of people. But digitally they reached thousands of people the same with our church. So that's why we invested lots of money, in efforts and energy and time to upgrade our digital reach. And now we're building the website, you know the media stuff, etc, etc.

The same with the war. Honestly, I don't know why God's the got a this war in his plan. I don't know yet probably in few years I'll know the answer maybe sooner. But I know that he has a plan. But also we were like talking with my wife about the same question today and you know she said that it's to show that evil exists in this world and that's why we need God. And fortunately this is the price. But we have to that's why we have to long Jesus, long to heaven. But understand that the evil exists that the hell exists, what will you choose?

Lisa Peters

Yeah I always find it amazing when I read things that are so related, and I am doing a study a 30 day study on Proverbs, and I read this this morning because the question was, does God hate? And in Proverbs 6 Verses 16. There are 6 things the Lord hates. And then I'll just skip ahead to The hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil. God does hate. He loves but don't think he's not strong enough to conquer all.

Andrew Denysov

Yeah, and exactly. And unfortunately we live in the imperfect world. We live in the world where evil exists. So that's why it's something where we have to prove his love because he proved his love on the cross with Jesus blood.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, do you have any churches or other Christian organizations in Russia that have reached out to help you at all?

Andrew Denysov

They if they reached out to help you? No, no one reached us we have we have but none of them reached us. Unfortunately.

Lisa Peters

So I've got like 4 questions left. What do we as listeners need to start talking about?

Andrew Denysov

Like may I be very transparent with you Lisa?

Lisa Peters

Yes.

Andrew Denysov

So I want to use this chance to talk on this interview and I want to say that Russia is lying. They are aggressors. They kill. This is genocide and Putin wants to kill Ukrainians and if he can do that he will go further to other countries. Of course we won't let him do that. But answering your questions start talking spreading this info about the plans about what's really going on here. Fortunately, we have all of us had this access to the information so please spread this talk about this because this evil thing won't stop.

Lisa Peters

Yeah Wow. And what do we need to stop talking about?

Andrew Denysov

(Laughing) I'm not that person to tell you what you should stop doing or talking about. Why, because you know your context better than and me. So I'm just your servant, your friend so you know better what to do, what not to do. I don't know the answer on this question. Unfortunately.

Lisa Peters

Thank you Andrew so I usually end my podcast with 2 final questions and I want you to know that this question really bothered me to ask you this. So I will try to get through this. LeaderImpact is dedicated to leaders having a lasting impact and you are truly living this out as we've heard. So as you continue to move through your own journey have you considered what you want your faith legacy to be when you leave this world?

Andrew Denysov

(Pause) The word legacy, capture me because captures me because you know have I'm 35 and like never before I think can be very close to the death. Especially when I saw that smoke just two miles for your kilometers from my building, from my residential house with lots of civilians. Fortunately, no one died. But I mean, I understand we all die sooner or later. I'll die sooner or later. So I started to think about legacy now like never before. So my legacy is first of all as a dad is a father, invest into my kids because they will continue to do what I do right? So I want to as a legacy I want to bring really good people to this world right? So who could keep changing the world as well and making the difference.

For second is as a leader I want to invest lots of me and lots of God's values to those people to spread God, goodness, good deeds and again fortunately I think that we live in fantastic time period of time of the world. Hey I could probably you know twenty years ago or thirty years ago I just if I could live there and be in the same condition I couldn't even imagine that I could talk to Lisa who is on the opposite side of the globe and record the podcast. So my legacy will be that is to leave as much as really good value and values for the people. And that's why I love LeaderImpact. And I'm a loyal listener to all your podcasts. Why, because you bring

leaders Christian leadership values to this world. What really changed the world in real game changing and it's not about business. It's not about money. It's not about something but it's about like something that really makes that legacy that makes sense the most people.

So this this is what I'm what I'm thinking the most. But of course you know we have to be the answer to other people questions and needs like I said. So that's why one of my passion is to create workplaces because, while I forgot to tell you that one of the reasons why I created the start of the business, this business was because I saw the need of the lack of the workplaces. And my passion is to connect my people salaries to and you know like salaries to more stable economies. And you know what that plan now work very good. So people have their salaries. They can feed their families. Protect their families. Bought things for their families they need. And when someone of offers them like higher salaries, other companies so I say all this combination of good deeds, Christian values, and food let's say you know or sell it all good workplaces it says hey we don't want to leave Andrew we want to want work with him. This is the best gift for me could be and this is the legacy that I want to leave. I don't know how much how many years I will live. Maybe 35, again maybe 5, maybe one, maybe a few days, maybe 100. I don't know. That's not my question to decide. It's this is God's question.

But I have a very special person in my life. He's my mentor. And my mentor said that we have to accept every day as a gift. And we have to live our live as you know like the last day in our lives. So this is this is my strategy. This is my tactic and everyday plan.

Lisa Peters

Thank you Andrew this is this has been a great hour so far my last question for you and I ask everybody this, is what brings you joy?

Andrew Denysov

What brings me joy Lisa? Oh first when I wake up in the morning I thank God that's hey I woke up. That's the joy I'm alive! I'm alive! And I can jump from my bed and run to this world and you know change this world. I kiss my wife. It kiss my kids. This is the joy. I open my Bible, my YouVersion Bible app and I realized that 500,000,000 downloads that people that downloaded that now reading this and something is changing their life. So you know and this is under the gut. You know so people, my family, God and that I have this beautiful day. This is the joy. So yeah, so the joy is to bring the value and bring happiness and smile and light to our lives. This is the joy with actually I enjoy every single day doing this because again I don't know what's going to be tomorrow. Maybe tomorrow never comes. I hope it comes but so I have this day and I want to bring the joy to people around me, right now.

Lisa Peters

Oh, Andrew! Your faith, your strength, your will to fight is really beyond words for me. Thank you for sharing. So I appreciate you taking the time to share with us. I have one further thing to do, but before I do, do you have anything else to say before we close? Is there any I just

want to open that up if there's something I've missed asking something you'd like to share with all of us?

Andrew Denysov

Probably one thing. Thank you. I'm so honored to be invited to this interview. Thank you so much, Lisa. Thank you so much, LeaderImpact. Thank you so much everyone who involved into this because it's a great honor for me to have this conversation and spread the word about God, Ukraine, our people. And please come to Ukraine. Please you know join do everything that you can with Ukraine because we're awesome people. Thanks you so much.

Lisa Peters

Well I'm coming because now I have you and your wife and your kids. So before we leave you Andrew our LeaderImpact national prayer igniters met last Friday and these were our prayers for Ukraine and I'm going to read them for you:

- For the opening of corridors both for evacuation and humanitarian aid around cities under attack in Ukraine
- Many people in these cities are without heat and electricity.
- We pray for the many churches that have opened their doors to neighbors offering food and shelter.
- We pray for protection of many children and parents who will spend another night in bomb shelters, metro stations, or on roads.
- To safer places and to all have to all the brave volunteers risking their lives to evacuate people.
- We pray for logistics of getting funds and humanitarian aid to churches and refugee camps. So they can continue to have food, medicine, and other supplies.
- Pray for the many pastors leading their people at this critical time of decision and risk. They carry a heavy burden.
- We pray for the many believers who will have to bear arms against a professional army as the war continues and
- We pray for the Lord to cause the opposing army to lose the will to fight, be afraid, be confused or use other methods to stop the war
- For the many volunteers who are setting up camps for refugees so that they will have necessary funds places for accommodations and physical strength to serve
- We pray for the many believers to stay strong continue trusting the lord and ought to give into panic fear and desperation.

We will be your pray prayer army Andrew so thank you.

Andrew Denysov

The best army ever. Thank you so much Lisa. Thank you so much everyone I am just I moved with this.

Lisa Peters

Well this ends our podcast with Andrew and we ask all our listeners to continue to pray for Andrew and his family, his community, and all the people of Ukraine. So God bless you Andrew and your country. Now if you're part of LeaderImpact. You can always discuss or share this podcast with your group. And if you're not yet in a LeaderImpact group. We would love to have you. Check out the groups available in Canada at leaderimpact.ca and if you're listening from anywhere else in the world check out our leaderimpact.com and get in touch with us by email at info@leaderimpact.ca and we will connect you. Please leave us a comment, give us a rating or review as this will help other global leaders find our podcast. Thank you for engaging with us and remember impact starts with you.