



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BETTER NEW YEAR FROM THE EUROPEAN WAR-ZONE BY THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

It is 2:57 AM on December 20th 2022 and I am up writing to you, my dear friends. We have had many sleepless nights over this past year here in the North, next to our neighbor, the Evil State. But our pain is next to nothing compared to that of our friends in the Ukraine that have had to leave behind their destroyed homeland and witness unspeakable horrors.

Our invited guests in exile, headed by Alex, UT5UY and his family brought the raw reality of the effects of the war over here for us to see and feel, as their son Daniel, 13 was not able to take it all inside their Kiev bomb shelter. Bringing the family to Finland, our aim was to have Daniel smile again and during the past months we've seen the light of life come back into his eyes as you can see in the above center picture. But the entire story is not written yet. Much remains to be seen. But I would like to say Thank You to so many of you for your help and support for the Ukraine and Alex and his family.

Also, COVID 19 hit me badly in July while travelling in Europe, but despite belonging to the highest of risk groups, luckily it was not yet my time to go. I am so glad to be here to also report the positive events from my "good news" department.

Let's look at that cheerful line-up of our happy grandkids that are set to take over this troubled world from us one day. We are so blessed to re-live our lives with them as long it lasts. They are the ones to decide how to make the best out of the world as we leave it behind for them. But we know that with smiles on their faces they will clean up our fragile planet and find enough clean energy to make their life and world better than what they are inheriting from us.

Look at the faces of Oskari, 16, and Elli, 12, our daughter Petrita's sweet children, top left, their smiles giving us some much-needed hope. And in the top right our soon two-year-old Maximilian, son of Petri, OH2NB, and his face full of wonder as he explores this world of ours. He started to express himself verbally just in time for Christmas and his talk is full of life, excitement and happiness. We must go with them.

Such was the year 2022 and I am set to be more active again in the "better world". There is plenty of room for more positivity around us, isn't there?

Have a wonderful Christmas and a better 2023 and remember the people back in the warzones.

Leena Matti

Leena, OH2BE and Martti, OH2BH

From still the happiest country in the world — because of Santa Claus and so much more.

Come and visit us soon: <https://ranuaresort.com/en/accommodation/arctic-igloos/>

