

May #172-2024

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Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

Reading the Bible Out Loud at the Geographical Centre of Europe 25-29 June 2024

The law of the Lord is perfect, *reviving the soul.*

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, *making wise the simple.*

The precepts of the Lord are right, *giving joy to the heart.*

The commands of the Lord are radiant, *giving light to the eyes.*

The fear of the Lord is pure, *enduring for ever.*

The ordinances of the Lord are sure *and altogether righteous.*

Psalm 9: 7-9 (NIV)

These verses are so rich in meaning and variety, giving a three-dimensional picture of how wonderful God's Word is to us and how important it is to our lives.

I love the Godfrey Birtill song "The love of Love's word" which includes the words:

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of the Lord stands forever!

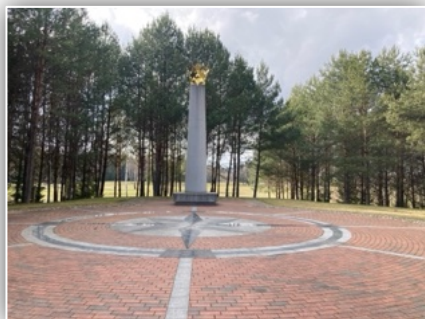
The earth trembles and the mountains shake, but the Word of the Lord stands forever!

The Word of the Lord truly does stand forever. The Word of the Lord, the Bible, has been so central to Europe and we as a continent have been so foolish to reject it. That's why we are excited about a new assignment from God to go to the geographical centre of Europe and read His Word out loud from beginning to end. It is also challenging, but He has been helping us to put the event together. So 25-29 June we will gather just outside Vilnius, Lithuania to read the Bible from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. This site has been calculated to be the geographical centre of our continent and there is a monument there to mark it. Everyone will read a section in their own language and we expect it to take four days to read the whole Bible, reading day and night.

The idea came from Werner Woiwode and his team in Switzerland. Last year they read the whole Bible out loud at the geographical centre of Switzerland, on a mountain called the Älggialp. People came from all over the country to read chapters in Italian, French or German. Werner said it was very powerful and they felt the presence of God so strongly. Afterwards, they all felt we should now do it for Europe. So Werner and I visited Lithuania to talk to churches about the idea and got a great response. We fixed the dates and are now in the middle of planning and promoting the event.



15-20 people are coming from other countries so far and we are working out accommodation and transport. We will stay in hotels in Vilnius and the Geographical Centre of Europe site is 20km outside the city, so we are working out how to bring everyone at different hours to the site. Also, we are working with several Vilnius churches, the Bible Society of Lithuania, the Christian radio station XFM and Agapé Lithuania. So we trust that many local believers and church groups will come and take part. 😊



Above all, we want this to be spiritually powerful. As Werner Woiwode says, this is not simply a nice idea or a cool event, but it is really from the Heart of God. He told them to do it in Switzerland; He told us to do it in Lithuania for Europe; it is from His Heart. So we hope and pray that it fulfils His intentions and is useful for what He wants to do in Europe. Maybe it will unlock a new power in our continent?

Please pray with us:

- The practical arrangements – relationship with the authorities, accommodation & transport
- That we have enough people all the time, day and night, to keep reading the Bible
- That it will be like a sacrificial offering to God and pleasing to Him
- May it be powerful for Europe and powerful for Lithuania. We need to proclaim that the Bible is still central to Europe's future!

Lastly, maybe you could do the same thing in your church, your city, your country? 😊

Israel

The International Court of Justice has passed judgement on Israel's conduct of the war in the Gaza Strip and ordered a halt to the offensive. Israel will not heed such an order, a spokesman saying "We will maintain our right to protect our citizens and go after Hamas in Gaza."

Also, the US President has expressed his concern that countries formerly friendly towards Israel (Ireland, Norway & Spain) have said they are prepared to recognise a unilaterally declared Palestinian state.

Let's continue to stand with Israel and pray for God's protection and the security of this nation which is becoming increasingly isolated.

Further Prayer:-

1. Pray for Slovakia: for the Prime Minister, Robert Fico, still in a serious condition after being shot, and that the divisions in that country will not cause civil unrest.
2. Pray for the safety of all politicians, especially those campaigning ahead of the European elections taking place between **6th-9th June 2024**, and for the successful candidates to have a servant heart as they start their mandate.

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