



# CANOPY OF PRAYER

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Author

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for Balkan Call



## Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

*Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*  
1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

### Balkan Call & Reconciliation

#### Prayer on the Border

On the 6th of May 2023, a group of about thirty people met to pray at the border crossing between Greece and North Macedonia. We came from both sides to pray for reconciliation between our nations and to ask forgiveness for the past. It was wonderful moment. Our flags side by side, together with many

hands and hearts, united to be One. From everyone present, forgiveness was declared for all the blood that had been shed on this land throughout history. Then with great affection we declared brotherhood and blessing on each other's nations and governments.



We moved to a church in the first town in North Macedonia, where others had gathered. After introductions, we worshipped in Macedonian and in Greek. A wonderful Heavenly current goes through one's whole being when we try to worship in the language which we considered the language of our enemies. Then we went deeper: the eldest pastors from both countries washed each other's feet; the flags of both countries (our pride) were laid before the cross; and pastors from both nations served the Lord's Supper as a Kingdom of Priests from this region. Wow, we felt that we broke the wall of hostility and hatred that had stood between our nations for ages, that we had become One in the body and blood of Christ and now had the highest identity: Sons and Daughters of God. Our sister Hilda said, "It was a Heaven on earth experience." So we finished with a delicious Heavenly Feast.

This group of people might look insignificant considering the size of our nations. However, we believe that our prayers made a huge difference in Heaven and now we invite Heaven to make difference in our region!

From Pastor Venco Nakov of North Macedonia, one of the leaders of the Balkan Call

We give thanks to God for a good outcome in the court case involving Pastor Akil Pano in Albania over his objection to calling a mother and a father 'Parent 1 and Parent 2' on official documents. He said, "After a two-year legal battle, freedom of speech and belief won against ban culture and global agendas." He thanked all those who have supported him and his family in this battle. Let us continue to support and pray for those others who are still in the thick of their battles.

Also this week, at the European Court of Human Rights, pro-abortion groups failed in their attempt to challenge the abolition of the abortion of disabled or Downs syndrome babies in Poland because none of the applicants were personally affected. This was a good result, but it is not the end of this fight.

*May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.* John 17:23b (NIV)



The **Balkan Call** network has organised many different reconciliation prayer events, see [www.balkancall.org](http://www.balkancall.org).

Surprisingly and wonderfully, some of these have been followed by reconciliation at national level between governments. This teaches us an important principle, that when Christians come together across our divisions to forgive and reconcile, this brings release in the heavenly realms for reconciliation between their nations. Conversely, when churches divide along nationalist lines, then their nations follow them, which leads to conflict.

For example, when the Orthodox church in the Balkans split into national churches, then the peoples did the same and wars started. Conversely, a few years ago, a group of believers from Greece and North Macedonia met at Lake Prespa on the border, to forgive and reconcile with each other. Shortly afterwards, the Prime Ministers of both countries met at the exact same hotel and agreed to reconcile and resolve a conflict!

So we have a big responsibility to reconcile if we want conflicts to stop. The Balkan Call strategy is to connect the pastors, then the churches, and then the nations will follow. And then the door is opened for the Holy Spirit to move in revival! But we must be willing to put our identity in Christ above our national identities.

The next Balkan Call gathering is in Zagreb Croatia, 24-26 November 2023, and we are all invited! [See the website.](#)

#### Prayer Points

1. Does your country have a disagreement with any other land? Pray blessings on it and in particular on your fellow believers there.
2. Bless the work of the Balkan Call. Pray for protection for the leaders, for the Croatia gathering in November, and for the work to continue and grow in the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. May the reconciliation and love between the believers in the Balkans grow so strong that the cycle of hatred and war is stopped and instead revival comes to the region!

#### Additional Prayer Points:-

1. Pray for the thousands of people affected by the breaching of the Nova Kakhovka dam in Ukraine, those who have been evacuated and those whose lives and livelihoods will be affected for years to come.
2. After the agreement at EU Council level for a way forward in migration policy, let's pray that further progress can be made over this sensitive issue.

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