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Canopy special edition EUROPE SHALL BE SAVED – UKRAINE

It's a new time for Europe. Extraordinary things are happening and will happen more and more.

God is on the move and He moves people: masses coming together to celebrate the name of Jesus on the main streets and in the squares.

A new season for Europe is coming: with thousands coming to Jesus, winning political leaders and bringing together churches and denominations into unity in Christ.

One example is Ukraine. Be encouraged!

This year had special significance for Christians of Ukraine. Various evangelical denominations and churches of the country were united for the first time in history to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

In August 2016 President Poroshenko supported the initiative of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations and signed the Decree "On the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Ukraine". The President stressed the importance of the decree, demonstrating that the government would support the faith of evangelical Christians which for many years had been marginalised and persecuted.



President Poroshenko and Pavel Unguryan

Thus, God opened the door for the 500th anniversary celebration which consisted of a series of events throughout 2016 -17, a unique opportunity for all evangelicals to speak publicly about their faith and God's plan for Ukraine. The purpose of the celebration is to demonstrate the unity of people from different nationalities, views, denominations around the name of Jesus Christ and life-saving power of the Gospel.

Throughout the year the evangelical community has demonstrated outstanding mobilization: churches got together for joint prayer meetings and outreach, taught about the impact of the Reformation on Europe in schools and universities, organized car rallies, festivals and numerous conferences and concerts. This movement ignited almost every evangelical group to take the church beyond the walls to people.

On Sunday September 17, Ukraine saw amazing unity of Christians and ordinary Ukrainians coming together for the First Thanksgiving Day at the main street of Kiev. Hundreds of thousands of people gathered to express their gratitude to God and lift up prayers for Ukraine during the evening program near Maidan. The event was broadcast to 9 countries. The last time the streets of Kiev saw such crowds was when people came to protest during the Revolution.

Throughout the day, there were play zones, recreation areas, fairs, exhibitions, presentations, and musical performances on the main street. International guests, politicians, famous stars and religious

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leaders participated in the main Thanksgiving concert which featured the testimony of the world-known speaker Nick Vujicic. Despite being born without legs and arms, Nick became a successful writer, motivational speaker and businessman. Many Ukrainians with disabilities, orphans, including veterans of war from the East of Ukraine attended the event. Thousands of people committed their lives to Jesus during the call for a forgiveness prayer.

In October the Ukrainian Reformation 500 Committee in partnership with European Christian Political Movement held two events in the Council of Europe. The Event “500th Anniversary of Reformation – impact on cultural, social and political life of Europe” and the Strategic Forum "Implementing Political, Social and Cultural Principles of the Reformation on the European Continent" were organized to create awareness of the role of Reformation in Europe and the whole world and analyze its impact as well as to make an action plan on how to promote the principles of Reformation in Europe.

In November delegates from all over Ukraine gathered in the Presidential Palace for the Final Forum on Reformation, “History lessons and challenges for the future” This brought together church ministers as well as key leaders of Christian political elite of Ukraine with the goal to adopt the lessons of Reformation and further advance the impact of the church on society.



A street near Maidan, Kiev

Since the fall of the iron curtain in 1991 when Ukraine gained its independence from Russia, Ukrainians have gone through two Revolutions which took away hundreds of innocent lives. Ukraine has witnessed Russian invasion in the East of Ukraine and the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. It has also suffered hyperinflation while its currency devaluated almost 400 %.

Despite all these tribulations and trials, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our nation and he is showing the people

and leadership of our country that it is impossible to do reforms without reformation, rejection of the atheistic mindset and repentance. Today the evangelical movement in Ukraine is the strongest in Europe while the church is the most trusted institute in society. Ukraine is sending missionaries to Euro-Asian countries and is influencing the development of the country.

Please pray for the God’s grace on Ukraine and the wisdom for our leaders to lead the country in accordance with God’s plan.
Please pray also for God to protect Ukraine from external aggressors so that borders of our nation would once again be secure and people enjoy peaceful sky above their heads.

Pavel Unguryan
Member of Ukrainian Parliament
Coordinator of the Reformation 500 Committee

Thank you Father God for this outstanding example of your grace over Europe.
Let it happen also in many other countries, let it happen in my country.

Introduction and final remarks from Ortwin Schweitzer