



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

A MINUTE OF SILENCE, A MINUTE TO REMEMBER

9:00 am. The radio plays the rhythmic ticking of seconds for one minute. Life stops for 60 seconds. Ukraine is remembering her victims. People stop what they are doing, take off their hats, stand up and bow their heads. This scene has been playing out in Ukraine since the first day of the war, and with each passing day, more people are mourning their loved ones. Almost every family and community has someone to remember.

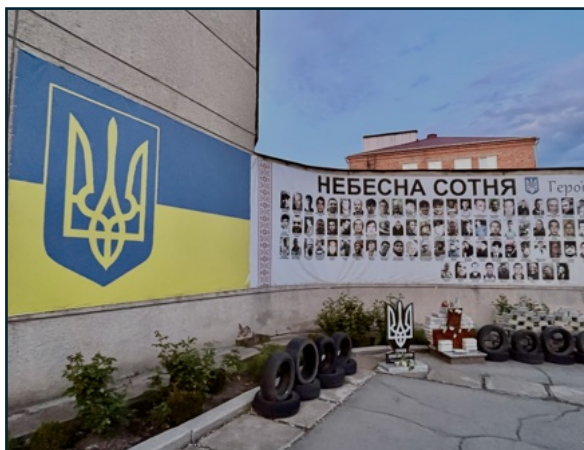
When a fallen soldier is brought home to his/her settlement, the locals kneel on the two sides of the road as they wait for the military convoy carrying the heroic dead to arrive. Traffic comes to a standstill, just as it does during the 9:00 am. commemoration ceremony.

As our vehicle approaches the Eastern Front, portraits of local fallen soldiers can be seen on the so-called 'Heavenly Army' Wall of Fame in every village and town. Bouquets of flowers show that they are not forgotten. A nation mourns its fallen heroes. Victims of a bloody, patriotic war. People who fought and gave the ultimate price for freedom.



While the world's powerful leaders, often senselessly and by force, try to exploit each other and find a solution to the conflict between two brother nations, the Ukrainian and Russian people have to live with the horrors of war. While these powers view this war, which has claimed more lives than any other since the Second World War, as a problem to be solved or a deal to be closed, parents and grandparents are mourning their sons and grandchildren. Whole generations remain on the battlefields of the Eastern Front.

In this article, I want to draw your attention for a minute to the situation of innocent people caught up in the horrors of war. By the grace of God, I have been able to be an eyewitness in Ukraine since the war



began. Every month, I travel to the city of Kherson, close to the front line. We deliver aid from Hungary to the local people, mostly elderly, who have been enduring constant bombardment and drone attacks for two years. They live in basements and shelters and risk their lives every time they venture out onto the streets. Shops and stores are closed, with plywood covering their windows. Only the hospital's emergency room is open, treating victims of drone attacks. There used to be ten aid distribution centres in the city, but only one remains intact; the others have fallen victim to rocket attacks. At the last remaining aid centre, we park our vehicle under a tree and unload the aid at breakneck speed while occasionally hearing distant explosions. The drones could spot us at any moment. Natasha, the head

of the centre, says she has 'encountered' drones three times in the past week alone. The local Baptist congregation is also doing its sacrificial part to provide aid to the population. The church is packed for the daily service. When people are in great distress, they seek God and expect Him to change their fate for the better, above all by bringing the war to an end.

As we slowly leave the city and pass through the military checkpoint, we feel good knowing that we were able to do something. However, our thoughts are with those who remain in the city and have to live with what we experienced for just a few hours, day in, day out.

Please pray

- that a ceasefire agreement will be reached soon, leading to lasting and just peace.
- for the inhabitants of Kherson, those trapped in the besieged city: that God will protect them from drone attacks; that the sick will receive care; and that they will have access to food every day.
- for the aid workers and missionaries who risk their lives to help others.



UK : The Assisted Dying Bill

MPs in the UK Parliament have voted to legalise assisted suicide by a margin of just 23 votes. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "The House of Commons vote is a watershed moment in the history of our country. But Parliament's decision does not change our firm belief in the sanctity of life, which is never just a burden but always a gift from God, given and received."

During the debate, England's Minister for Social Services, Stephen Kinnock, and the initiator of the bill, Labour MP Kim Leadbeater, emphasised that the rights that the bill gives patients and medical staff in assisted suicide should be valued more highly than the opposing values of institutions such as hospices and care homes. The right to assisted suicide will most likely become mandatory for nursing homes and hospices. Pray for the debate and vote in the House of Lords **that personal freedom of decision, which is so central, will be asserted for both sides, including Christian hospices and care homes!**

Further Prayer:-

1. The Iranian regime is trying to make itself look strong, but is putting the whole population at risk. Naturally, this crisis is what everyone in Iran is talking about – at home, at work, in taxis. Please pray for Christians in Iran because it is actually an incredible opportunity to share the Gospel with people as they open up about their fears.
2. Pray for the people of Israel and Gaza, that God will grant them His divine protection and bring peace to this troubled region. Pray for the hostages being held in Gaza. We ask for their safe release and that God comfort them in their distress. Pray for the innocent civilians in Gaza who are suffering.



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