



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

The church in Europe and Russia must not be divided spiritually!

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! ... For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life for evermore. (Psalm 133:1 & 3b, NIV)

We know from this psalm and others, and from the teaching of Jesus and Paul, that there is a direct spiritual connection between unity and blessing. When God's people are in unity, then God sends blessings on them. Conversely, we should expect that when there is disunity between believers, they are not blessed.

I would like to look at how this spiritual truth applies to believers in Russia and Europe. I have only a small understanding of the church in Russia, but I have a good friend in Moscow who is a leader in ministry and intercession. From her I know that Russia has many faithful believers who are genuinely seeking the Kingdom of God and are praying for the end of this war. So we and they must maintain unity as much as possible, even when we do not know each other. We can still bless and pray for each other.

Why is this especially important at this time? Because the subject of a possible war between Europe and Russia is being talked about increasingly, including by political leaders.

Experience from the Balkans

Venco Nakov from North Macedonia, one of the leaders of the Balkan Call, teaches about this. He explains 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." See his [Canopy of Prayer letter, June 2023](#).

He saw this in the 1990's in the Balkans, when the Orthodox and Protestant churches split into national churches, then the nations developed rivalries and wars started. He saw it also happen between Russia and Ukraine and now he sees it beginning between Europe and Russia. Some of our leaders are talking about the possibility of war in the next few years and fear is starting to increase.

So what should we do?

It is right that Europe now starts to be responsible for its own defence and no longer relies on the USA. So defence budgets do have to rise and Europe does have to develop new military capabilities that previously the USA provided for us.



But we must not assume that war with Russia is inevitable. It is not inevitable, and we the church have a key role in taking our countries in a better direction. We must refuse to hate and refuse fear. We must be careful what we believe about Russia, because there are a lot of lies being spread, on both sides. Of course, the Russian military is being very cruel in Ukraine, but there is more to Russia than this war. It has also contributed good things to the world and there are a lot of ordinary Russians who simply want to live their lives in peace. So let us make a definite decision not to see Russia as a future enemy, but instead to bless and pray for it. And in particular, let us bless our Russian brothers and sisters who are also blessing us. Let us keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).

Then we can expect blessing from our heavenly Father, and the greatest blessing will be revival in Russia and Europe! God's plans are to prosper us and not to harm us, plans not to allow war in Europe and Russia but to give us hope and a future and revival! (from Jeremiah 29:11)

So we can make a difference and must take this seriously.

Regional prayer networks are developing across Europe

It is very encouraging to see how different regional prayer networks have developed across Europe. Within these networks, the intercessors are blessing each other, repenting and forgiving each other, and praying together about strongholds that affect them all. I would like to mention a few here:

- The Balkan Call
- Four Chambers of the Heart, in central Europe
- Nordic Prayer Network
- Germany–UK Prayer Bridge

The Balkan Call is a wonderful ministry of prayer and reconciliation involving believers from across the Balkan countries and beyond. They asked the question: "Lord, what will it take to see complete transformation and change in the Balkan region?" God answered that the church and believers must stop cursing one another and instead should humble themselves, repent and forgive one another, thereby practicing the ministry of reconciliation within the household of God. Since 2016, they have been meeting regularly to do this, and the next Balkan Call is in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 23-25 October 2025, see balkancall.org.

The Four Chambers of the Heart is made up of intercessors from Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia and Austria. Looking on the map, we see this is a good name as they are grouped together in the centre of Europe. God has already brought healing between their nations on a spiritual level, and has led them to pray about unholy things that affect them all. He gave them a strategy to be a mirror reflecting God's glory, with worship and prayer for the nations. "Things are speeding up I feel!", says Norbert Ban of Hungary.

The Nordic countries have been closely connected spiritually for many decades, with regular Nordic prayer conferences and prophetic gatherings.

The Germany – United Kingdom Prayer Bridge is a spiritual bridge between our two countries. Since 2019, we have been meeting regularly to reconcile through Christ, to bless each other's countries and to pray for each other. There is no competition between us, just a desire to serve God together for Europe. We believe that this has an effect on the political sphere, so we are very encouraged by the new treaty signed recently by Germany and the UK.

All these regional networks and ministries are bonding the countries together in the Spirit, and weakening the legacy of conflict, hate and bloodshed. So that is very encouraging, **but we must urgently include Russia and Belarus in these connections as much as possible**. We the church have more power than we realise. When we bless, governments come together. When we curse, our countries can go to war.

To finish, here is an encouragement: Recently a group of Ukrainian & Russian pastors and intercessors have started meeting online to listen to God together. There has already been some repentance and forgiveness. **Pray for this to continue and grow and contribute to the end of the war.**

Pray:

1. Pray for our Russian Christian brothers and sisters. They are saved by Jesus' precious blood, just like we are. Celebrate what the Lord has done for us all through the cross and pray for the Kingdom of God to come in Russia
2. Pray that our political leaders will be wise as they build up their militaries yet talk and work for peace
3. May we the Body of Christ come together in love and blessing across Russia and Europe. May we exercise our authority to keep our continent together in peace and to see God's revival come here!

Global Call for Justice and Peace for Ukraine

With a desperate cry concerning the humanitarian and spiritual catastrophe unfolding in Ukraine as a result of the Russian Federation's aggressive war, an appeal has been made by the All Ukraine Council of Churches and Religious Organisations (AUCCRO):

"We call upon people of faith in democratic nations, and all individuals of goodwill, to raise a united voice for truth and justice. We urge you to use every available means of influence to bring an end to this horrific war and to ensure that the criminal actions of the aggressor are justly condemned, in accordance with Higher Justice."

One proposal is that **Sunday 24 August, Ukrainian Independence Day**, should be observed globally by faith communities, with sermons, prayer vigils, concerts, children's activities, a minute's silence (perhaps at noon) for the war victims followed by a minute's 'clamour for a just peace' with church bells, pots and pans, car horns...

Also, the **Ukrainian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast** will be taking place in Kyiv on 25 August. Pray that this would be a real encouragement to Ukraine's battle-weary leaders.

Let's pray that these events, plus many other initiatives, will be an encouragement to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and remind them that they are not alone as we join them in praying for their freedom, for justice, dignity and peace.



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