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Canopy of Prayer



Dear Praying Friends in Europe!

A Spiritual and Practical Perspective from Lithuania in the Baltic Region

Introduction to Lithuania

Lithuania is in north-eastern Europe and borders Poland, Latvia, Belarus and Russia. It is the southernmost of the three Baltic countries; the others are Latvia and Estonia. The population is around 3 million and the main language spoken is Lithuanian. The majority of Lithuanians (74%) belong to the Roman Catholic Church and there are also many evangelical and charismatic churches.

From 14th to 18th centuries, Lithuania was a large and prosperous country and formed a union with Poland. Then for almost 300 years it was occupied by the Russian empire, Nazi Germany and the USSR, with a brief period of independence from 1918 to 1940. During Nazi rule, almost all Lithuanian Jews were annihilated, with the assistance of many Lithuanian collaborators. In March 1990, Lithuania was the first Soviet republic to break away and restore its independence.

Today, Lithuania is a developed country with a high income and an advanced economy, ranking very high in the Human Development Index. It also ranks highly in digital infrastructure, press freedom and happiness. It has an important place in the EU and NATO.

To give us a perspective from Lithuania, I asked Sigita, Kristina, Tadas and Jeff a few questions about their country. I met them all in Lithuania in June 2024 when we read the whole Bible out loud at the geographical centre of Europe. Tadas is a musician and worshipper, Kristina works in a prison, Sigita and Jeff work with the Agapé ministry. From their answers I have edited the following points and prayer requests. You can see their love for their country, their awareness of the regional situation, and their love for the Lord.

Which countries are Lithuania's closest friends?

From Sigita, Tadas, Jeff and Kristina: The countries closest to Lithuania culturally and politically are: Latvia, Estonia and Poland. We are united by a common history, cultural worldview and political vision. When the war in Ukraine started, Lithuania was one of the countries that supported Ukraine the most and Lithuanians still deeply sympathize with their brothers and sisters there and try to help in whatever way they can. Political friendship with Germany is strengthened because of a German army brigade stationed here. I would also add Israel, because part of the Body of Christ in Lithuania stands and prays for Israel and maintains relationships with Messianic Jews there. Finally, very precious is the fact that Iceland was the first country to acknowledge our independence!

What are you most proud of about Lithuania?

Sigita says, "I admire and am proud of the strength, endurance, hard work and courage of the Lithuanian nation to not give up, even realizing that we are a small country."

From Tadas: "Personally, I am most proud that from the 14th to the 19th centuries, the country was very open to Jews and Jewish life flourished here. However, during World War II, 95% of them were killed, the highest percentage in Europe, and it remains a great wound in our nation's history".

Kristina is proud to be part of a nation that speaks one of the oldest languages in the Europe.

From Jeff: "Lithuanians are taught from a young age that they need to help others. Also, Lithuania is a quiet and beautiful place to live, with beautiful forests and coastline".



What is your biggest concern and your biggest prayer for Lithuania?

From Tadas: "That the Body of Christ will rise in love, unity, and God's power, and all divisions be removed. Also, currently Lithuania has a very unstable political situation, so may more politicians come to know the Lord and begin to serve Him."

Sigita: "Lithuania needs a new spiritual awakening. Our nation is experiencing great grievances, political instability, hostile attempts to divide the nation, and a gap between the generations that grew up in different historical periods. I am also worried that the divide between our nation and the Russian and Belarusian ethnic minorities will not grow. I come from a mixed family myself, so this affects me, too."

Jeff: "We are thankful for the spiritual openness here. Fullness of life is not only found in career and making money, but in knowing God Himself."

Kristina: "I pray for protection of the borders and sky from provocations and attacks, e.g. Vilnius airport was closed three times this week because of balloons flying in from Belarus. I pray for the health and protection of our President Gitanas Nausėda, because I feel that he is the one who keeps it more or less stable and is open for dialogue. Above all, that all people would come to know Christ as their Saviour."

Finally, is there anything you would like to say to Christians in the rest of Europe?

Tadas wants you to know that Lithuania is among the top five singing nations, with its famous Song Festivals, when choirs from all over Lithuania and the world gather in Vilnius to sing. From Sigita: "To Christians in Western Europe I want to say: Be very attentive when you hear about events in the Eastern part of Europe, don't give in to speculation and hatred, don't be naive in distinguishing good from evil, do not fall asleep, but widen your view of what the Lord wants to open to you." Kristina says: "What I keep reminding myself is that the victory belongs to God who commands all things, and knows everything, that we do not need to rush, but stay at His feet until He commands us to go." And we finish with Jeff's words: "Let's continue to pray and ask God for big things in Europe. He is our Hope and truly the One who can cause revival in peoples' hearts." Amen!

Now that we have heard their hearts, let us now pray for our brothers and sisters in Lithuania and the wider region. Many of these points apply also to Latvia and Estonia.

Prayer Points

1. For integrity and stability in the government and among politicians. Pray for Christian politicians to have a wide influence and witness. Pray for President Nausėda.
2. For our brothers and sisters in all churches. May they receive God's love, unity and power and have a powerful effect on their country. No more spiritual poverty!
3. For Lithuania and the other Baltic nations to hold together as small nations; free from outside interference; all generations being united; and speakers of all languages feeling respected and secure.



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