

Dear Family and Friends,

February 28, 2014

I am happy to be able to provide answers-to-prayer, an update, after sending an emergency prayer request last week for the extremely critical situation in the Ukraine. While there were dozens of civilians being shot specifically through the head, by government snipers, and momentous developments for the country moved by the hour, our prayers were needed like when Israel was fighting the Amalekites and Moses was praying for them (with help of Aaron and Hur Exodus 17:11). God has done marvelous things, but the situation is still fragile, still tense and in need of continuous prayers, during the effort to redesign the country's functioning.

Thanks for your prayers.

The violent and dictator like authority fell and fled. They left the hurt and wounded people, (who defied the sniper bullets), in a power vacuum, but astonished and thankful. (Praise the Lord).

Thanks for your prayers.

The situation remains fairly calm, without looting, chaos and anarchy. Protestors are defending government property and patrolling the streets for safety, (even protecting the discredited police) while a new interim government is being formed. (Praise the Lord).

Beyond our prayers, . . . !!!

A devoted Christian, respected elder in the 'Word of Life Center' church in Kiev (part of the Ukrainian Baptist Union, which are our partners), is elected interim President of the Ukraine!!! Please pray for Oleksandr Turchynov, (almost like 'Alex Tarzyn-ov') for 'wisdom from above' in this extreme difficult situation, as painful unpopular decisions for the country need to be made.

Thanks for your prayers, . . . !!

As I mentioned in the request letter, Christians/ Baptists, were involved, locals, with relief, aid, medical assistance etc. to the extend that TV channels/ media recognized their help and quoted Scripture on national broadcast.

- May God continue to work in the hearts of those who heard/ witnessed this.

Thanks you for praying for Dennis, who was thrown in prison while photographing mobilizing riot-police. Instead of 2 weeks standard detention, likely indefinitely prolonged, . . . instead, . . . :

- Within 24 hrs. after sending the prayer request to you, he was released and reunited with his wife and 3 year old daughter!! (praise the Lord!).

However, his expensive camera equipment was not returned to him. Dennis colleagues at IFES are collecting money for a new camera for him.

Thanks again for your prayers,

Please keep praying for peaceful progress in the situation; From an external perspective, the Russian government (with high interest in controlling the Ukraine) is not helping to ease the tensions, by sending military activity along Ukraine's borders, and keeping up inflaming rhetoric in favor of the fled president is not calming. Russian flags have been raised on public buildings in segregating Russian dominated provinces, especially the autonomous Crimea-area. With similar arguing or moves for intervention in 1956 Budapest, 1968 Prague, 1979 Afghanistan, 1999 Belgrade airport take-over, and 2008 Georgia (following sudden military maneuvers along its borders), an outcome without bloodshed remains a serious matter of prayer.

From an internal perspective, a nation raised in an environment of widespread corruption, will have a hard time containing it, and moving away from it. With very high unemployment, and poverty, and with the nation facing bankruptcy without swift significant foreign aid, the problems the new government faces are momentous. The newly elected prime minister warned for the unpopular steps the government needs to take, called his new interim government a 'suicide government' to highlight the multileveled desperate situation. In this light we may really pray that Oleksandr Turchynov, President and Baptist-Elder may have wisdom from above, and bring Glory to God through his work and relationship with Jesus. (suggestion: to pray for him by his full name).

With Christ there is hope, so that hate, segregation, fear and anger can be overcome, first by the leaders and then by the whole nation. Someone asked me how to evaluate and interpret all these events from a Biblical perspective, and what our response can be.

Let me share some Scriptures, that show God's working (and then add three attachments):

Psalms 24:1 The Earth is the Lord's and Everything in it, The world and all who live in it.

Psalms 2: 1-2, 9-11 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord, and against his Anointed One. You will rule them with an iron scepter you will dash them to pieces like pottery. Therefore, you kings, be wise be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Haggai 2:6 I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts.

Ezekiel 31:16 I made the nations tremble at the sound of its fall when I brought it down to the grave with those who go down to the pit.

Ezekiel 21:26b,27 It will not be as it was: The Lowly will be exalted and the exalted will be brought low. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it I will make it a ruin! It will not be restored until he comes to whom it rightfully belongs; to him I will give it.

Judges 9:23 God send a spirit of lies between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem, who acted treacherously against Abimelech. . . . (Judges 9: 23 - 57).

Isaiah 64:2b, The Lord "will cause the nations to quake before you"

Satan offers Jesus all Kingdoms (Mat.4:8), though his dominion was subject to God's sovereignty (Job 1:12, 2:6). The systems (realm of authority) which earthly governments use for ruling and governing are coercion, law, punishment, instead of Jesus' Kingdom/ reign of transformation and change of heart.

Please see the attachment (link to our website) of one file, with 3 articles from Christian press/ authors:
1), BBT; British Baptist Times regarding the confessing Christian President Oleksandr,
2), EBF; regarding relief involvement of Christians during the demonstrations and clashes.
3), IMP; about Ukrainian indigenous missionaries doing great work in the EBF-IMP, in which program International Ministries supports several indigenous missionaries in the EBF area.

3 articles in one file: www.kalkmaneuropa.org/EBF_Prayer_Requests/Answer_to_Prayers_attachments.pdf

Also, see a president's profile at BBC link: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26316268>

Greetings from Prague
The Lord Bless You,
Pieter & Nora Kalkman.