PRAYERPOINTS

IMB

AUGUST 2022

EUROPEAN PEOPLES

Europe is a unique assortment of diverse people, customs, and beliefs. Its global cities especially blend cultures, including those of unengaged, unreached people groups (UUPGs). When we think of reaching populations in Europe that are more than 98% lost, we must think of creating meaningful access to the gospel in global cities.

"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you."

Psalm 22:27 ESV

DIGITAL GOSPEL OUTREACH MEETS UKRAINIANS AMID CHAOS

As war rages and millions of people run for their lives while millions more hunker down, trying to protect themselves and their families, people need the hope found in the gospel. Particularly now, this hope needs to saturate the land of Ukraine. One of the major ways this is being done is by creating meaningful access to the gospel using digital tools. While Ukrainians either flee the country or take refuge below ground, they take their phones with them, searching for the latest information.

"This gives us a big opportunity to saturate the country with the gospel through digital platforms and walk alongside them as they encounter our gospel resources," said Brant Bauman, a member of IMB's Ukrainian Digital Engagement Response Team.

Two weeks after the conflict erupted, gospel-centered Facebook ads began to flood the devices of millions of Ukrainians, leading them to a website where they can hear the gospel, download the Bible, find gospel-centered trauma care, and contact a Ukrainian believer if they want to know more. Two weeks later, these ads had been seen by over 11 million Ukrainians. Half a million of them viewed the website; 1,500 asked for prayer and to learn more, and 500 downloaded the Bible.

Ukrainian refugees pour across the border to Poland.

While the war continues to rage on, continue to pray for physical peace but even more for the eternal peace and hope found in Jesus to spread across the land.

"We have a unique opportunity to connect with Ukrainians digitally and reach the lost," Brant said. "Pray that the Lord will bless and guide us as we walk alongside their journey to Jesus."

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

In September 2021, you prayed for a new 3-year Bible training program for believers among the 15 million Coffee People of Southeast Asia, of whom 0.17% are evangelical. God answered! Fourteen students recently started their second year while a new group started their first. When one student became hospitalized, she witnessed to the hospital janitor. Praise God they're developing lifestyle evangelism skills.

1 ENGLAND. "Our team is engaging the lost with a whiteboard. We write life questions on it each time we are out in public spaces in Birmingham, England and the surrounding areas. This allows us to get into gospel conversations. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bless each encounter!"

2 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray for Southeast Asian Deaf believers, Ace and Dee, who have struggled this year. Workers and local believers travelled to visit with the couple recently and to pray for Dee's health and their marriage. Pray for them to be more connected to the church community.

3 AMAZON PEOPLES OF THE AMAZON RIVER BASIN. While the Naka people know many Bible stories, many are still trapped in patterns of sin. Pray that they will receive the whole gospel and be transformed in thought and in deed. A team is focusing on clearly communicating what the Bible says about the Christian life.

4 MAPPILA MUSLIMS OF INDIA. South Asia is home to some of the poorest people in the world. Medical care is often inaccessible, leading many people to suffer through their visible injuries. Please lift up the lost and hurting Mappila Muslims of India. Pray for the ultimate healing of their souls.

5 HIGHLAND PEOPLE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. A recent social media effort has been going well. Women have been responding to ads that ask, "How can we pray for you?" Pray for wisdom and discernment for the believers who are answering these messages. Ask the Father to continue drawing Highland People to Himself.

6 ROMANIA. Pray for Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest who have been exposed to the gospel through church services held in Russian and Ukrainian. Ask the Lord to continue to bring forth fruit through the seeds planted in the lives of these adults and children.

7 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM UNENGAGED PEOPLES. The Kui are an indigenous group in northeast Thailand. Many are elephant trainers, so Kui villages are often involved with finding, taming, and selling elephants. Their name comes from a word meaning "those who pay tribute." Pray they will honor and praise God alone.

8 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES. Pray for IMB teams in Sub-Saharan Africa, trying to meet not only an individual's spiritual needs, but also their physical and emotional needs. Recently, a representative from each team attended a Human Needs Summit and learned about ministering to those in need.

9 CZECH REPUBLIC. Electric scooters and skateboards like Onewheel are gaining popularity in Prague. Church planter, Brian McClure, is sharing the gospel of Christ with fellow Onewheel riders. Pray for continued spiritual conversations during recharging stops on longer rides this summer.

10 TAJIKS OF TAJIKISTAN. A young Tajik was asked, "What is something you want to root out of your life?" In response, he drew himself surrounded by a dark cloud and wrote, "depression." Pray for Tajiks who have had to face difficulty and struggle with access to mental health services.

11 YAWO OF NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE. Zeek, a young Yawo man, has started two Bible studies at his secondary boarding school. Please pray that many of the students will be saved and that the Lord will advance the gospel among the nations through these young people.

12 POLAND. "In Southeast Poland we are preparing to open a refugee center. Pray for partnerships with local Ukrainian and Russian speaking believers who can work alongside our team to care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the refugees who cross our paths."

13 CHITTAGONG MUSLIMS OF BANGLADESH. The people of Chittagong tend to put their trust in influential religious people. However, their teachings often emphasize wrong things and don't bring people closer to God. Pray that today's Islamic influencers in Chittagong will turn to Jesus and lead others to Him.

14 DEAF PEOPLES. While Mia is open to the gospel, she is in no hurry to make a decision to follow Christ. She is wrestling with personal problems that may be hindering her from seeing the truth of the gospel and her need for a Savior. Join the Deaf church in praying for her to seek Jesus.

15 HUNGARY. War in Ukraine has greatly impacted Budapest, Hungary, but churches are working together like never before to help the streams of refugees. The gospel is moving in many ways as it goes out to the refugees and as it draws churches into a deeper unity in Christ.

16 **ISRAELI JEWS OF ISRAEL.** God is moving some religious Israeli Jews to be like Nicodemus and go to believers "in the night" to ask serious questions. One man had dreams of Jesus and excitedly asked a believer what they meant. This is not an isolated incident. God is working. Please pray!

17 **CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** Many Turks in Kosovo work hard to maintain their Turkish language, culture, and religion. Their loyalty to Islam is a significant barrier to the gospel. Pray that they will long for fulfillment, encounter truth through media outreach, and put their faith in Jesus.

18 **LATVIA.** Please pray for IMB representatives in Riga, Latvia, who are leading a twice-weekly Bible storying English club called "God Loves the Outcast" for Ukrainian refugee women. Please pray for healing and hope to come from the many conversations that are taking place.

19 **CHINESE IN EUROPE.** Ray, a Chinese pastor in Ukraine, has served food to people sheltering underground in subway stations and cared for orphans. Ask God to uphold and strengthen him as he learns to minister in wartime. May unbelievers see Ray's faithfulness and be drawn to Christ.

20 **MALTA.** The Pinkston family in Malta participate in a local epilepsy association and have many opportunities to pray with people and share about the difficulties of their son's epilepsy. Ask God to use their family's difficulties for good and that many will accept Jesus.

21 **KOLKATA, INDIA.** Two sisters are ready to be baptized but their father is a Hindu priest who strongly opposes them following Jesus and especially taking the step of obedience in baptism. Ask the Holy Spirit to supply all that they need to trust and obey Him because He is worthy.

22 **HOLDING FIRM THEOLOGY IN AFRICA.** Seminaries in Sub-Saharan Africa have reopened! Pray for the seminaries to recover financially. Pray for the students as they begin classes again and for the professors as they teach men and women to rightly handle the word of truth and teach sound doctrine back at home.

23 **SPAIN.** In the Basque region of northern Spain, believers are displaying art, relating to spirituality and current events, along with a QR code to an art website with a gospel message and an invitation to small groups. Pray as it expands into broadcast media and local art exhibits.

24 **DEAF PEOPLES.** Recently, a Deaf center in Asia was able to partially open for events. Workers shared: "We are so thankful to meet more Deaf people around the city! Please pray that the center will be a place of Light, where the Deaf enjoy being at. Pray for people to attend regularly."

25 **SICILY.** Some families on the island of Sicily face extreme poverty. Pray for a recent partnership between IMB and a local church in Palermo to meet needs with packets of non-perishable food. Relationships are developing, and some homes are now open for visits and prayer.

26 **CITY OF SAND, NORTHERN AFRICA.** When Ali came to faith in Jesus, his wife noticed a difference in him. Ali wants his family to know Jesus but fears sharing the gospel with them. Pray that a mature believer will disciple Ali. Ask that Ali will boldly share the gospel with his family and friends.

27 **PEOPLES OF THE BAJIO OF MEXICO.** A team in Mexico aims to start evangelical churches where there are none. The soil is very hard, as minds and hearts are closed to the gospel. May God's light shine through this team. Pray for them to not grow weary. May the people's hearts be softened to the gospel.

28 **GERMANY.** Pray for the Lichtenberg Lions, an American Football Club in Berlin, Germany. Pray that Ryan, an IMB church planter, will have many opportunities to share the gospel, that players will be open to reading the Bible, and that lives will be transformed by the gospel.

29 **IRANIANS IN TURKEY.** As Iranians turn from Islam to Christianity, one of the big life changes is parenting biblically within their culture. It's challenging to break habits formed due to cultural norms. Pray for an Iranian fellowship that recently went through a biblical parenting seminar.

30 **NAGOYA, JAPAN.** Pastors desire to reach out to their communities, but many church members are content to follow tradition and don't want to reach out to their communities. Ask God to sustain weary pastors and draw church members to want God to be glorified in their communities.

31 **GERMANY.** We plant the gospel seed using the Alpha Course, an introduction to what Christians believe. Spring 2021 ended with six people following Jesus in obedience to baptism. What a joy to celebrate with these new believers as they boldly stated their allegiance to Jesus!

IMB REPRESENTATIVES SHARE 'STORIES OF HOPE' WITH SWEDES THROUGH MUSIC

Anissa and Eric Haney perform Stories of Hope in Stockholm, Sweden.

IMB representatives and their partners find creative ways to share the gospel with unchurched and unreached people of secular Sweden. They lead Alpha Courses (seeker Bible studies) and offer coffee and prayer on the streets! Music has also opened doors for them to naturally create community and share Christ by hosting songwriter events and concerts and joining local music opportunities.

Representatives, Anissa and Eric Haney created Stories of Hope, a multimedia production telling stories of Jesus through music. They performed it at the 2021 Stockholm Jazz festival. Their church became an official venue that week, which built bridges in the community and provided a platform to share the gospel with many who had no church or faith background. Pray for Sweden.

800 MILLION PEOPLE

EUROPE

11% OF WORLD'S POPULATION

AFGHANISTAN | SYRIA | SOUTH SUDAN

55% REFUGEES WORLDWIDE

come from three nations: South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria. Of all displaced peoples, **17 PERCENT** of them are being hosted in

EUROPE

LOCAL CHURCH TRAINED TO REACH REFUGEES PASSING THROUGH SOFIA, BULGARIA

Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, appears to be a demographically homogenous city, but there is a lot under the surface that only the Lord fully knows. Sofia is one of the first stops that refugees and migrants encounter after coming out of the Middle East by land. Most are transitory, but they stop in Sofia on their way elsewhere in Europe. IMB representatives in this global city desire to see every people group reached with the gospel, even these often-undetected ones. Their strategy is to train and equip the local church to be on mission with God among all people and to be looking for opportunities to share. "We train them to share the gospel and lead Bible studies in ways that are easily reproducible, even if only for a short time," one representative said. Pray for the lost in Sofia.

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REACHING THE NATIONS, TOGETHER.

Some names may have been changed for security reasons.

BI 12.5M 8/22 P7489-8