

GLOBAL CALL TO PRAYER

Russia, Ukraine and Belarus



February 24-March 24, 2023



Speaking Hope to the World

The pre-dawn quiet was shattered on Feb. 24, 2022, when Russian missiles slammed into the neighboring country of Ukraine and military convoys began to invade from the north and from the east.

In the year since, thousands on both sides have been killed and wounded. Once-thriving communities became piles of rubble. Longtime residents became refugees. Families were split apart as many women and children fled to other countries and men were conscripted into military service.

However, our ministry partners at TWR Ukraine and our ministry friends in Belarus and Russia have reports of light in the darkness. Attendance at some churches has almost doubled since the war began. Hundreds of Roma people in Ukraine have come to faith in Christ. People have responded in the multiple thousands to TWR Ukraine's videos and social media posts. The Spirit of God is at work.

In times such as these, it is all the more important that we turn to God. His Word says: *"Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"* (Psalm 46:10).

With no signs that the war will end soon, we're calling on the TWR family and beyond to devote time to prayer for this region over the next month. We'll offer specific prayer prompts for each workday from now through March 24. Each day will be devoted to a particular topic, with two or three praises and petitions introduced. Let us exalt our God together as we bring our petitions and praises to his throne.





FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

A Year of War

- It is appropriate to mourn before the Lord over casualties of this war. U.S. and European officials estimate the number of dead and wounded Russian soldiers is approaching 200,000 and place the number of Ukrainian military casualties at around 100,000. As of Feb. 5, more than 18,000 Ukrainian civilians had been killed or wounded, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Cry out to God on the behalf of the millions of Ukrainians who are refugees in other countries and the millions who are internally displaced.
- Praise God! Despite great peril, all of the members of the TWR Ukraine team survived a year of war, and their Kyiv facilities have been untouched by missile strikes.
- Pray against increased military action and ask God to restore peace to the region.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

TWR Ukraine

Our partners at TWR Ukraine shared these requests:

- We ask God to stop this war and save Ukraine.
- We pray for the military who are on the front lines, that God will bless and protect them. We pray for the wounded, for the families of those who have lost loved ones and for those who are in captivity.
- We ask that God would open the hearts of our people to accept the gospel and that we would witness revival.
- As TWR Ukraine we ask for God's wisdom and strength to be as effective and helpful as possible for God and for the people in this time of war.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Staff and Partner Care

- Praise God for protecting and blessing the staff at TWR Ukraine as well as our ministry contacts in Russia and Belarus through the long months of this war.
- As military activity increases this spring, our partners and friends will continue to be placed in dangerous and stressful situations. Call to God to continue to protect these precious brothers and sisters.
- Pray on behalf of Maria, TWR's ministry coordinator for Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, as she carries the heavy burden of connecting with and caring for those serving in these places.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Content Creation

- Praise God that TWR Ukraine was able to respond to the crisis of war by creating a wealth of programs that spoke to people's needs and pointed to God as the only source of hope in times of trouble.
- Ask God to give this team continued creativity and energy as they continue to provide fresh programs.
- Ask for God's protection as the team sometimes travels close to the front lines to document how God is at work in these places.



THURSDAY, MARCH 2

TWR Listeners

Listeners are responding to the life-transforming truth from TWR Ukraine during a season of war. As we share the following excerpts, please give praise and prayer as you feel led:

- Vadim: *“We are in a place of imprisonment. We have a prayer room where we meet on weekends and have worship services. Two brothers have been baptized; two not yet. We have 10-15 people coming to the service.”*
- Victor: *“We thank God for your ministry! It inspires and strengthens the faith. I found out that you can send a radio; please send five for our elderly people. I would like to help in spreading the gospel.”*
- Elena: *“Bless you, Lord, for the Word, for your support – when it is dark around and the truth of God sounds from the receiver.”*



FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Rebuilding the Ukrainian Church

- Praise God for heightened spiritual awareness and church growth since the start of the war. TWR Ukraine's director, Alexander Chmut, has reported increased numbers in many of the churches he has visited.
- Churches have been affected by the war – members conscripted into military services, others leaving for safer places, buildings damaged or destroyed by shelling and infrastructure damage affecting what they can do. Pray for them as they rebuild.
- Please pray specifically for Irpin Bible Seminary, near Kyiv, which sustained catastrophic damage in a missile attack. The TWR Ukraine team took part in the initial cleanup.
- Pray for churches in Russia and Belarus as they are caught in the tension between supporting their brothers and sisters in Ukraine and the decisions of their governments.



MONDAY, MARCH 6

Refugee Ministry

- Praise God that in April TWR was able to establish a 24/7 livestream service of Christian music and inspiration for war refugees. The service is ongoing and can be accessed [here](#).
- Please cry out to God on behalf of the millions of people who have become refugees as a result of the war. Ask God, *who is our refuge and strength* (Psalm 46:1), to be a refuge for them.
- Pray for the 750,000 Ukrainian refugees in Russia, and support the Russian church in prayer as it ministers to them.



TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Belarus

Our ministry friends in Belarus are developing a variety of platforms as they seek to further reach the people of their country with the gospel during these troubled times. Please pray for:

- Continued effective outreach through medium-wave radio (AM), micro SD cards and CDs.
- The programs available in cities through streaming or downloading content from the internet.
- An ongoing effort to develop a mobile app that would complement their current reach and bring the timeless gospel message to a new audience in Belarus and beyond.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

National Leaders

The apostle Paul tells us: *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1).*

In that light, spend some time today praying for the leaders of the involved nations:

- President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine
- President Vladimir Putin of Russia
- President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus
- Other world leaders who need wisdom and insight regarding this war, including President Joe Biden of the United States; Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of the United Kingdom; Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany; President Emmanuel Macron of France; and President Ursula von der Leyen of the European Union’s executive commission.



THURSDAY, MARCH 9

TWR Listeners

Listeners are responding to the life-transforming truth from TWR Ukraine during a season of war. As we share the following excerpts, please give praise and prayer as you feel led:

- Galina: *"I don't know how you manage to record the programs when the power supply is out of order. May God bless, keep and have mercy on you for your work that is so necessary for us, the listeners. The days pass in constant prayers for our soldiers, our leadership, our churches and our radio."*
- Raisa: *"Thank you for continuing to broadcast even in these difficult times. You remind us of trust in God, of his love and care for his people; comfort us, that we not weaken spiritually."*
- Tatiana: *"Radio broadcasts are very spiritually empowering. I especially like the analysis of God's Word. ... I learned many valuable lessons about family relationships. Testimonies of people really touch the heart."*
- Frida: *"I love your radio programs and the Word of God, especially now during the fiery trials in our country. ... I am alone, but my God is with me in my prayers, the Word and your broadcasts."*



FRIDAY, MARCH 10

On the Air

- Praise God that TWR was able to adapt to some setbacks and provide additional coverage in Ukraine and Russia through a second AM frequency and reworking the pattern from one of its transmitters.
- Pray for continued strong coverage via transmitters in Estonia, Central Asia and Moldova.

Ukraine-Russia Crisis Fund

Because of the war in Ukraine, TWR needs to make changes to our broadcast infrastructure and program scheduling in Eastern Europe. The Ukrainian...

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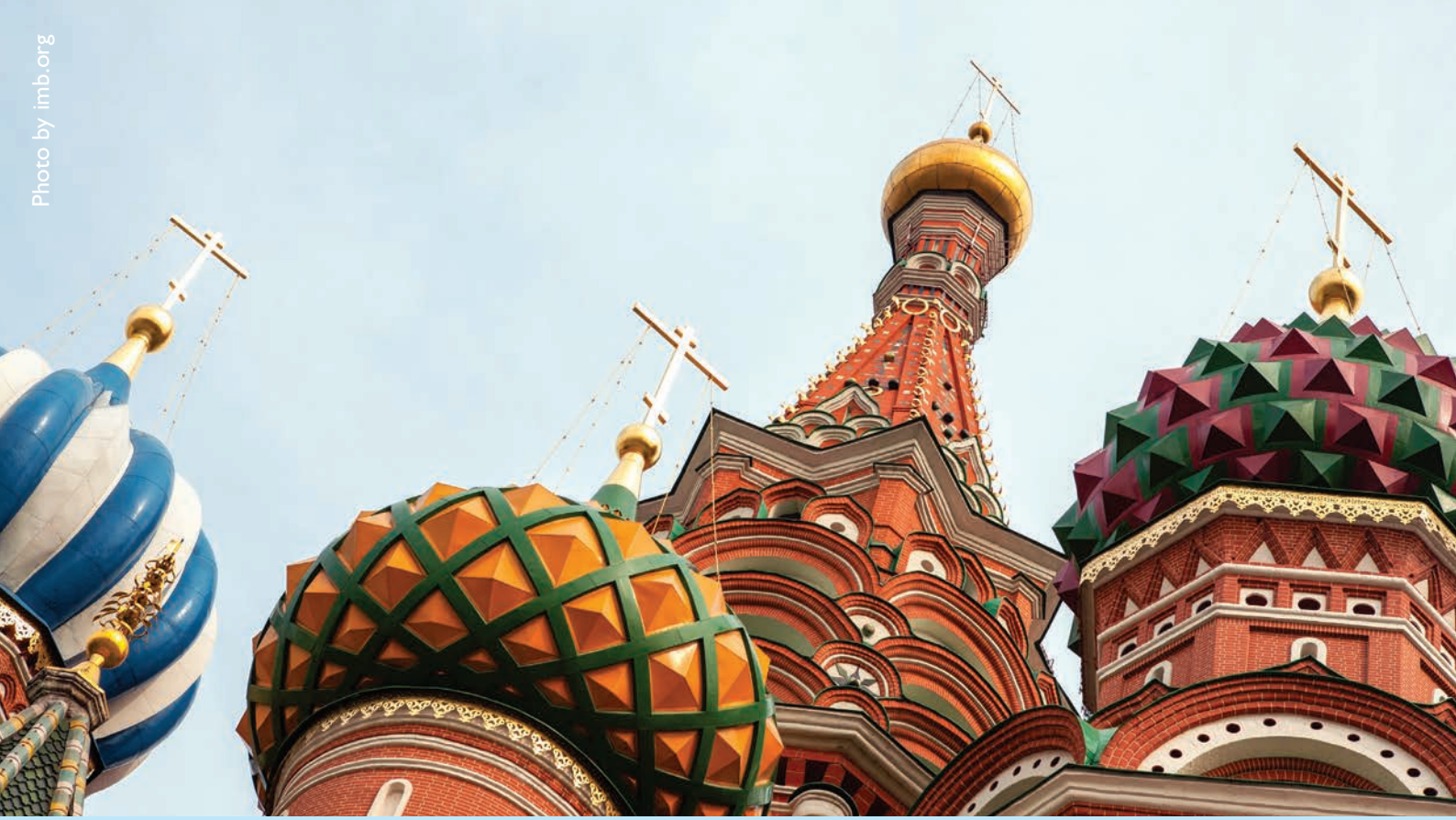


MONDAY, MARCH 13

The Crisis Fund

TWR responded to the special needs created by the war with the [Ukraine-Russia Crisis Fund](#), and our friends responded generously. Praise God for what has been done through this fund, including:

- Reworking a transmitter pattern so that radio signals could be sent to more of Russia and Ukraine.
- Buying more reliable internet connections and an uninterruptible power supply for TWR Ukraine – key in the face of their country's damaged infrastructure.
- Providing for immediate needs of staff members, such as a technician and his family whose town was destroyed and arrived in western Ukraine without any belongings.



TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Russia

- Pray that our ministry friends in Russia may have wisdom, courage, strength and foresight in times of uncertainty, fear and tension.
- Ask for God's protection for those who might be conscripted into military service.
- Ask for God's help as our ministry friends seek to continue to speak spiritual truth and to not be led into political or governmental issues.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Device Distribution

- Thank God for the distribution of 1,000 power banks to Ukrainian refugees in a cooperative effort between TWR and Operation Mobilization (OM). The device makes it possible to recharge cellphones. Each holds QR codes with information for TWR and for OM.
- Praise God that TWR Ukraine receives a huge response when it advertises solar radio receivers and that it is able to meet the demand. Solar receivers are being distributed even to prisons and to the front lines of the war. Pray that this effort will yield much fruit.



THURSDAY, MARCH 16

TWR Listeners

Listeners are responding to the life-transforming truth from TWR Ukraine during a season of war. As we share the following excerpts, please give praise and prayer as you feel led:

- Tatiana: *"I love your program You Are Mine with such touching testimonies. I cry with you and rejoice and praise our heavenly Father for his love. We don't understand much here, but we have a holy hope for eternity, for meeting the people dearest to us. Thank you for helping me through my valley of weeping. I feel I am not alone."*
- Natalia: *"What wisdom! I have been growing spiritually with you since childhood. As a little girl (about 10 years old) I listened to your Voice of Eternal Love. And now my children listen to Trans World Radio CDs. Bless you, keep on serving, we really need you."*



FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Families

- Alexander Chmut reports: *“The crisis that families are facing in Ukraine is very serious right now. Many families are still divided and so are believers. Many brothers are now at the front, and wives are often abroad, which has very negative consequences.”* Please cry out to the Father on behalf of Ukrainian families.
- Pray for Alexander Chmut as he ministers to families. He recently conducted a couples workshop in the city of Rivne with about 300 people registered.



MONDAY, MARCH 20

The Roma People

- The Roma are the largest people group in Europe and among the most downtrodden. As many as 400,000 Roma live in Ukraine – or did before the war began. Please pray on behalf of the Roma, who have been affected by the war just as everyone else has been.
- In August, reports emerged of a spiritual awakening among the Roma, with news that several hundred Roma in Ukraine had been baptized. Give praise to God for this mighty work, and pray for continued spiritual growth among the Roma.
- Relief agencies and journalists report that Roma refugees from Ukraine face particularly harsh conditions. Pray that these dear people, who are precious in the sight of God, would be treated with dignity and kindness.



TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Humanitarian Aid

- The number of Ukrainians in need of humanitarian aid rose from 3 million at the start of 2022 to nearly 18 million a few months later, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Please pray to God on behalf of the millions of Ukrainians living in impoverished conditions and for the relief agencies seeking to help them.
- Alexander Chmut and the TWR Ukraine team have made humanitarian aid a part of their work as they travel to various war-ravaged areas. “At the sight of humanitarian aid, there is an immediate queue,” Chmut wrote. “Information about this spreads instantly.” Please pray in support of their efforts.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Vitaly Maryash

Vitaly Maryash, a pastor and dean of Kyiv Theological Seminary, spent many hours in the TWR Ukraine studios recording *Bible Study Together* programs. Last summer, he was called to the army and sent to the front lines.

- Cry out to our heavenly Father to keep Vitaly Maryash safe while serving in the military and to bring him back to continue his kingdom work.
- Vitaly is representative of so many from across Ukraine and Russia who have found themselves in the front lines of this war. Ask for God's hand of protection on them and pray that many will turn to Jesus during this season of war.



THURSDAY, MARCH 23

TWR Listeners

Refugees are responding to the life-transforming truth from TWR during a season of war. As we share the following excerpts, please give praise and prayer as you feel led:

- A refugee from Ukraine in Poland: *“I entered adulthood rolling down the wide road, straight to self-destruction. I listened to [Thru the Bible] because my parents listened all the time, too. But I was rebellious, smoking THC marijuana and using methamphetamine. I am addicted forever. But the Lord Jesus kept knocking on my heart through these programs. The war and my escape to Poland convinced me of two things. First of all, in war, human truth dies first. Secondly, the best decision you can make in your life is to entrust your life to God. Today, I know what I missed so far. God has shown me his grace and luckily the worst time is behind me. I discovered that with him I was able to cope with a life without drugs. ... Everything became new to me.”*
- A refugee from Ukraine in Poland: *“My daughter has big problems adapting to Poland. We would love to go back to Ukraine, but we don’t have anyone anymore. The house is destroyed. The family seems to be dead or giving no signal. Nobody calls back and replies. My daughter is already in high school and knows little Polish. There is only one child of evangelical faith in her school, and the two of them feel better. But it is very difficult. ... We try to listen to your Polish broadcasts to learn the language faster. The important thing for us is that these are biblical programs.”*



FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Thank you

Thank you for joining in this special prayer effort over the past month. The challenges are great, but God is greater than the challenges. *“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save”* (Isaiah 59:1). As we conclude, we invite you to pray over some of the major themes we’ve explored:

- Pray for an end to this war.
- Pray for the leaders of the nations involved in this conflict, that God might speak to their hearts.
- Pray for the millions of people who have become refugees as a result of the war.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones in the conflict, for those who have been wounded and for those who are in places of danger.
- Pray for Alexander Chmut and the team at TWR Ukraine, and for our ministry friends in Belarus and Russia.
- Pray that a continued spiritual awakening will move across this region and that God would be glorified.