OF PRAYER

March #168-2024 Author Karl Shifflett Volunteer Mykolaiv Ukraine, USMC Veteran

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Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

1986 I was in the US Marine Corps when I became a Christian. God called me to Ukraine on February 28, 2022. These verses have anchored my service.

- Psalm 91:5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; Nor for the arrow that flieth by day.
- Proverbs 19:21 You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.
- Proverbs 29:25 Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

In 2022, I lived and served in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. We endured almost daily day and night missile and rocket strikes. Shockwaves hit my apartment so many times. On May 30, 2022, I got a concussion, advancing through 203mm artillery fire to help soldiers and civilians.

Masha, our Pastor's wife, told me, "Karl, many people visit Mykolaiv, but you are the only one who stayed and helped."

In February 2023, a love for Kherson was born. I asked my Pastor to take me to Kherson; 3 days later, we conducted evangelism. I visited Kherson 9 times after this. In June 2023, I moved there after the enemy blew up the Kakhovka Dam, causing catastrophic flooding; I joined a team that cleaned flooded homes.

God called me to be a witness, encouragement, friend, volunteer, and brother to many. Kherson, a frontline city that was under enemy occupation for 9 months and since, endures daily artillery, bomb, rocket, drone, and missile attacks.

For me, it is all about love. Love brought me to Mykolaiv. Love drove me to do the things I did there—love for those who have not met our Jesus and our Father.

Friends, you can't do ministry without showing up, without being part of someone's life. God's love constrains or compels me (2 Corinthians 5:14) to serve.

Acts 18:10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.



Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Matthew 9:37 The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Before you think that I am somehow special, read Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

God's Word declares our labor to be "reasonable service." It is what God expects and enables us to do. My Pastor teaches us to find our place of service in the Kingdom of God and commit to serve.

Where has God called you? Mother, father, hospital, homeless, prison, food distribution, support group, volunteer, helps, administration, Bible or Sunday school teacher, military chaplain, etc.

No role is more important than another. God gives the assignments. He provides resources and anointing, and Jesus prays for you (Hebrews 7:25). We have all been given gifts (1 Peter 4:10) to carry out the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).

Reckless abandonment to the purpose of God will not be easy. Thankfully, you won't be subjected to hour-long artillery bombardments or having your apartment hit by enemy rockets. However, you will need endless patience, love, and commitment. One day, you will hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23).

Prayer Points:

- For the war to end and all of Ukraine to be free
- Volunteers to fearlessly serve Ukraine
- Prayer and finances for ministries in Ukraine
- For your calling to serve where God has you





Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Let us take time this Easter to reflect on the living hope we have because of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

We, as intercessors for Europe, are often confronted with difficult, complex and sometimes seemingly hopeless situations to pray over. Let us remind ourselves of God's great mercy towards us and be encouraged to press on in prayer for our continent.

Canopy will take a break over Easter but we in the editorial team send you our best wishes for a joyful and blessed Easter.

Further Prayer:-

- 1. A new president of the European Council will be elected this year; pray for a man or woman of integrity and great wisdom to be selected at this critical moment for Europe.
- 2. The 2024 World Happiness Report shows a downward trend in life evaluations by young adults and adolescents, especially in Western Europe. Pray that many would have a lifechanging encounter with Jesus, the bringer of hope.

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