



The Shirkmans

Jordan, Niki, Raegan, Everett, Griffin & Adler
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War has come to Europe. In light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we've spent many hours in prayer for Ukraine, its people, and for the 127 Ukrainian Cru staff whose lives, along with the lives of the other 41 million people in Ukraine, have been turned upside down since the end of February. We feel safe in Slovenia, and we are about 500 miles from the most western part of Ukraine, with Hungary between us and Ukraine.

Our team has been preparing for the last few weeks to host and serve refugees, but many Ukrainians have chosen to stay as close as they can to their home country, remaining in countries like Moldova, Poland, and Hungary instead of moving farther west in Europe.

The war became even more real to us this past week when Niki had a chance to talk with a Ukrainian woman named Zhenja (SHAYN-yuh) who fled to Slovenia with her 5-year-old daughter. Niki heard Zhenja speaking English with the dance teacher for our daughter Raegan's dance class. Niki then introduced herself and they spent the next hour chatting as they waited for the class to end.

Zhenja shared about her decision to leave the capital Kyiv 10 days after the initial invasion. She told Niki, "I hope to return to Ukraine as soon as possible. My father and mother wanted to stay in Ukraine, and I'm talking with them every day to see if they are ok. I just wish there was some way to know when this is going to end."

Niki asked Zhenja if she had any spiritual beliefs and she said, "I pray to God, but it doesn't feel like it's working. Maybe I'm not doing it right or praying enough." Please pray that we can continue to minister to her and her daughter and also help other refugees as they arrive in Slovenia. In the midst of fear and uncertainty, we are continuing to seek and proclaim Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and asking that his peace may draw in and cover those affected by this war.

Jordan + Niki



If you'd like to be informed of the prayer needs of Ukraine, Cru has a website that is regularly updated at: sites.google.com/cru.org/UkrainePrayerRequests/home/pray/prayer-requests

Prayers + Praises

There are 127 Ukrainian Cru staff members. So far, 44 of them have fled the country and 83 remain in the country. Pray for safety for all of them, that God would meet all of their needs, and that they can continue to minister to those around them, wherever they may be. Pray especially for the families that have made the difficult decision to split up due to mandatory orders for men ages 18-60 to remain in the country to help with the war efforts.

Pray for Zhenja and her daughter. Pray that we could care for them and minister to them as they settle in Slovenia for the time being. Pray the Lord would draw them to himself.

Pray for energy and perseverance for Cru staff serving in neighboring countries like Moldova, Hungary, and Poland. Many teams there have shifted their focus to caring for refugees and some are splitting around-the-clock shifts to run temporary housing for refugees and meet immediate needs.

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