

Many friends and family from the USA have reached out to us today to ask about our safety. Thank you for caring for us and for checking in. We do live 60 miles from the Belarussian border and 75 from the Ukrainian, but I want to reassure you that we are safe. For now, we plan to continue staying and ministering here in Siedlce, Poland. We don't know how our life and ministry will be affected in the days and weeks ahead, but it seems certain that we will soon experience new gospel opportunities and possibly new challenges.

Although I am not an expert on political issues, I want to be honest about what I see happening to our east. The Russian Federation led by Vladimir Putin is behaving like a common criminal assaulting a neighboring country attempting to take by force and manipulation what does not belong to them. My heart is heavy for the Ukrainian people - please pray for the Ukrainian husbands and fathers trying to find a safe place for their wives and children today, trying to purchase fuel so they can drive to safety, trying to purchase enough food for the days ahead. May God keep them safe; may He grant Ukraine freedom from tyrants, give western leaders wisdom, and allow the Ukrainian people to enjoy the blessing of living in a country ruled by a government elected by the people. Most importantly, may God use the Church in Ukraine to shine as a light in darkness, and may these uncertain times be used by the Holy Spirit to soften hard hearts and point people to the Prince of Peace.

Jesus told us we would experience trouble in this world. But tyrants like Putin will not rule forever. One day Jesus will return and will rule in perfect righteousness.

Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray.

Early this morning I was contacted by a youth group from a Russian Orthodox church who are attempting to cross the border into Poland. Some of the 25 people do not have passports so they do not know if they will be allowed into Poland. However, if they make it across the border they need a place to go. They asked me if they can come to Siedlce and of course, I told them yes.

We have no idea how this will work. We don't even have a spare bedroom in our apartment. They could stay at our church, but there is no bathtub or shower. And of course, we do not even know if they will make it into Poland or not.

This group of 25 young people is just one story of thousands today who are looking for a safe place to live.

We will keep you updated when I have more information.

Ben Layer