



RIGGINS RIGHTS MANAGEMENT

A Mosaic of Inspirational Content

PRESS RELEASE: THE UKRAINE SITUATION AND THE CHRISTIAN PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

February 27, 2022

Riggins Rights Management and many Christian publishers license books to Protestant, Catholic, and general market publishers in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Christian Publishers Association is a member of ECPA. As an industry, we need to lift our Christian publishing colleagues in special prayer as we pray for the country's situation and all Ukrainian people.

Our European and Nordic Rights Director, Nadiyka Gerbish, lives in Ukraine with her family. As a patriot, a best-selling Ukrainian author, church ministry leader, and caretaker of older family members, she originally planned to stay in Ukraine. After the war began, her family insisted she and her young daughter leave the country. The government has enacted martial law, and men must stay to help fight. So, Nadiyka's husband remained and will take care of the family unable to travel and serve in the war, if called. By God's grace and protection, Nadiyka was able to get on the train and after a long 21-hour ride she arrived safely in Poland. She will be an advocate outside of Ukraine for a while helping refugees and continuing her work for Riggins Rights Management.

We have heard from a few publishing partners with updates on their country's situation. Andriy Kravchenko from Ezdra Publishing House (an ECPA Member) states, "We have a big order to bind Bibles for Svichado Publishing House. We have prepared for the worst scenario during the last two months and bought all materials needed to fulfill the order. We stockpiled coal for heating and 400 liters of diesel in case the electricity cuts off."

Some publishers are sheltering in their home cities, some temporarily moved closer to the Western border, and others have left the country. Sadly, there are a few we cannot reach.

The news is filled with stories of average people taking up arms, people sheltering when they hear air sirens, bombed buildings, troop invasions, and people fleeing. It is a horrible time in history.

But they also share some successes. Andriy also reports that over 5,300 Russian troops are destroyed to date. There are other losses: 29 aircraft including two with the Russian paratroopers, 29 helicopters, 191 tanks, 816 armored vehicles, 74 howitzers, and one BUK air defense system. This is amazing when you compare the country and military sizes. They are "David's" against "Goliath". One of Ezdra's staff members, Misha, is being sent to the front lines to fight and needs prayer for his safety.

Some people ask, why does Ukraine matter? My first response is that because the PEOPLE of Ukraine matter. The UN estimates the July 1, 2022 population at 43,192,122 lives. Here are a few facts about Ukraine's importance to the world's economy and supply chain.

- Ukraine holds the top two spots in Europe for recoverable reserves of uranium ores and titanium ore reserves.

- Ukraine holds 3rd place in Europe (13th place in the world) in shale gas reserves (22 trillion cubic meters).
- Ukraine is an important agricultural country: Ukraine can meet the food needs of 600 million people.
- Ukraine is an important industrialized country: They are 1st in Europe in ammonia production; Europe's 2nd's and the world's 4th largest natural gas pipeline system; 3rd largest in Europe and 8th largest in the world in terms of installed capacity of nuclear power plants; and 3rd place in Europe and 11th in the world in terms of rail network length (21,700 km).

Gather with us in prayer!

- Pray for God's protection over Nadiyka's family that remains in Ukraine.
- Pray for protection for all our Christian publishing partners, their families, and their teams. The Christian publishing and distribution channels are severely impacted, so pray for them as some try to operate in war conditions, as well as their later recovery.
- Pray for the emotional and spiritual strength of all Christians and the Ukrainian church. They will be the salt and light for the Ukrainian people.
- Pray for the wisdom and safety of the Ukrainian President and Commander-in-Chief Volodymyr Zelenskyy.
- Pray for the Ukrainian soldiers (and citizens bearing arms) to have strength and wisdom as they fight and strategize how to defeat Russia. Pray that they will be a "David" to Russia's "Goliath."
- Pray for Poland and other countries as they manage the influx of tens of thousands of refugees. And pray for the refugees!
- Pray that Putin will be stopped before invading other countries in his quest to revive the Soviet Union.
- Pray that the NATO countries will provide the proper support for Ukraine, starting with sheltering Ukraine from the sky.
- Pray for Christian publishing friends in neighboring Belarus, Poland, and Russia who are impacted by the war indirectly.

How else can you help? Many charitable organizations and churches in Ukraine need assistance, as well as refugee organizations. Organizations such as Samaritan's purse are organizing relief in Poland and other areas. Riggins Rights Management has also set up a fundraiser for internally displaced refugees in Ukraine. (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Help-Ukraine-Refugees-in-Ukraine>). Nadiyka's church and her husband are helping in-country refugees that are fleeing war-impacted areas. They need supplies for basic needs of food, blankets, diapers, medicine, etc. Your donations will help care for their physical needs and support them emotionally and spiritually. If there are enough donations, we will also expand to other refugee ministries within Ukraine's borders.

Thank you for the prayers and support for Ukraine and its people.

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