



## Western Europe Prayer Diary

April & May 2022

### Devotional

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

*Psalm 46:1*

We live in difficult times, and no one knows what will happen in the next few weeks, months or sometimes even in the next hour.

As Christians we are privileged people. We can know and experience that in all this uncertainty *God is our refuge and strength.*

There is something unique about this place of refuge. It's not anything that exists in this world. It's not found in people, political peace, vaccines or a good economy. **God is our refuge and strength!**

Everything in this world can be destroyed or can collapse at any time. God will never give way together with it, because HE is not part of this world, therefore our place of refuge and our source of strength, cannot collapse either.

God also is *a very present help in trouble.* I'm so glad that the psalm does not say, He is a faraway help, or the help of the good old days of the past, but a very **present** help. In Spurgeon's words: "He is more present than friend or relative can be, yea, more nearly present than even trouble itself."

However, it's one thing to say this and trust in God when you are in a safe place, but it's another thing when you are in the centre of trouble. Only the Holy Spirit can create, stir up and keep the kind of faith in us that trusts the Lord when we are in trouble. Let's ask God to do this in us so that we find ongoing comfort in the truth that God is our refuge and strength.

Gerd Walter Buskies

### April 2022

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#### 1. Ukraine

Pray for our Ukrainian workers, that the Lord may protect them and help them. Pray for those who have lost their homes and all their belongings and have become refugees in their own country. Pray for those who have left their country, that the Lord will clearly direct them and show them when they can return. Pray that even in these circumstances children will be reached and that they might have receptive hearts for the gospel.

#### 2. Andrew & Beulah McMullan, Assistants to the Area Director, SW Europe

Pray for Stephen Garrett and Andrew as they are currently with the workers in Greece that God will bless their time together and give safety in travel.

### **3. Germany**

Please pray for Benjamin Sudermann who has accepted the challenge to prepare 10,000 gospel packs for churches and organisations. Pray that they will end up in the hands of children in the Ukraine, and that many lives will be spiritually changed.

### **4. Linda Corry, Director of Training ministries, Europe**

Pray for the Western European Education Advisory Group meetings planned online today and tomorrow. We need God's wisdom as we discuss and plan CEF training ministries in this part of Europe.

### **5. Lithuania**

Pray for the reaching of more local and refugee children with the Gospel at Easter time. Pray that reading Do You Wonder Why? booklets will lead children to Jesus, and they will trust Him as their Saviour and Lord.

### **6. Switzerland**

Thank the Lord for the German magazine "Ideenplus". We have about 220 subscribers who use lessons for their Sunday schools and outreach to children. Please pray for the team who develops the magazine - God's help, wisdom and strength for this important task is needed.

### **7. Latvia**

Please pray for our ministry among the refugee children. Every Wednesday afternoon and Friday we have Clubs for children from Ukraine. Pray for more volunteers to help work among these children.

### **8. Great Britain**

Pray that the workers conference weekend would be a refreshing and encouraging time for the whole team as we gather face to face at Kings Park, Northampton for Bible teaching from Jon Drane, seminars from Mark Arnold on Reaching Children with Additional Needs and meeting Vilijam Valentini, Director of IT for CEF Europe.

### **9. Spain**

We are close to our Easter camp. We have 60 children signed up and a good group of workers and volunteers. Please pray that the Word of God acts in the lives of these children.

### **10. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director**

Today I am preaching again in the Gütli/Switzerland, a local church and Christian camp centre. Thank you for your prayers.

### **11. Portugal**

Please remember the Bible Knowledge Camp in Vendas Novas, from April 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first camp to be held there in the past 2 years. Also pray for the Bible Knowledge Camp to be held on Terceira in the Azores.

### **12. Denmark**

Please pray that God will use and bless a Building event with LEGO in Copenhagen today.

### **13. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director**

Today I have an opportunity to present the ministry of CEF Europe at the Beatenberg Bible School. Please pray that the Lord will call some into the work of CEF Switzerland.

#### **14. Norwegian Lapland**

We plan to have Easter specials before Easter. Pray that many children will come to hear the Easter message.

#### **15. Ireland**

Please pray for our Easter Conference from today until the 18th. Pray that God will call new workers to our vacant areas and counties.

#### **16. Stephen & Grace Chambers, Area Directors, NW Europe**

Pray for an assistant to help us as Area Directors in NW Europe. This will help us to really press on in the target countries especially.

#### **17. Stephen & Pam Garrett, Area Directors, SW Europe**

Please pray for wisdom to know how best to motivate and support the South West Europe countries to become involved in the Hope for Ukraine Project.

#### **18. Vilijam Valentini, Director IT Dept, Europe**

Praise God for the development of the platforms to better communicate the ministry needs of CEF in Ukraine. <https://cefeurope.com/hope>

#### **19. Finland**

Ask God to protect the name of CEF in our country, as there is opposition that seeks to destroy this ministry that has been around for almost 50 years. We need wisdom to know what to do and what not to do, but also to listen, if there is something that we should learn. Please pray that God Himself would clearly stop those who try to hinder the use of CEF literature in the Finnish Lutheran churches.

#### **20. Belgium & Luxembourg**

Praise God for the peaceful and unified General Assembly held in March.

#### **21. Chris & Lynn Holt, Member Care Europe**

Pray that God will help Chris & Lynn refine the draft Member Care Code of Practice so that it will become a useful and practical guide to help strengthen the workers throughout Europe and to glorify God as more children are reached with the Gospel.

#### **22. Greece**

Please pray for the redevelopment of the CEF camp centre. We need to rebuild the 3 housing facilities, and turn the old camp house into a dining hall. Please pray for the needed funds to come in, and for the completion of the first phase of the project in time for the summer camps.

#### **23. Sweden**

Today there will be an "Equipped" conference in Gothenburg. Please pray that God will help the team, and speak into the lives of children who come to the children's program.

#### **24. Estonia**

Please ask God to bless our HOPE Good News Clubs for refugee children from Ukraine in Estonia.

#### **25. Iulian Mangalagiu, Assistant European Regional Director**

Please pray for wisdom to know how to organise the responsibilities at our European offices in Romania and Switzerland. We also pray for more workers who can help at the office in Romania.

## **26. The Netherlands**

We are thankful for the help Illya and Liuba Zadoianchuck from the CEF Ukrainian team have offered in order to help us reach refugee boys and girls. Pray to the Lord for His leading, protection and provision in their mission in the Netherlands.

## **27. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director**

Today the European Conference begins at Schönblick in Schwäbisch Gmünd. Please pray for these days and especially for Iulian Mangalagiu. Pray that the Lord will bless him richly as he takes over the regional leadership on May 1.

## **28. Italy**

Pray for a young couple known to the work of CEF Italy, who have expressed an interest in coming to work full-time in the ministry. Ask God to guide their footsteps and to give them assurance of His calling.

## **29. Bogdan Bassara, International Literature Director**

Please continue to pray for Sarah Wagner as she is continuing to get treatment for cancer. Thank the Lord for Sarah Dias, an animator and illustrator that has joined the Multimedia Department for a practical time of training.

## **30. Austria**

Praise God and please also pray for the new GNC started near Vienna, Austria by a volunteer we have been keeping in contact with. Pray now as some Ukrainian children arrive too.

## **May 2022**

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### **1. Ukraine**

Pray for the *Hope for Ukraine* project. Pray that we will manage to send 100,000 gospel packs to children in Ukraine or at the border region. Pray for 5 million *Do you wonder why booklets* being printed and distributed over the next 12-18 months. Pray especially that the Lord will use this to glorify His name and bring children and whole families to a living faith in Christ.

### **2. Finland**

Please pray for our five literature ladies: Helena, Sari, Marjo, Elina and Taina. As many of us have another full-time job and many other things going on as well, we need to focus our efforts wisely. May is always busy time for our school teachers (Marjo, Sari), so ask God to give them extra energy and vision for what they do.

### **3. Spain**

Please continue to pray for more students for the Portuguese/Spanish CMLC this summer.

### **4. Norwegian Lapland**

We will be planning for 'normal' camps this year. Please pray we will get a cook and young helpers for both camps at the end of June and beginning of July.

### **5. Iulian Mangalagiu, European Regional Director:**

We praise the Lord for providing the finances needed for the project **Hope for Ukraine** so far. Pray with us that God will use His word to turn many children to him in 2022. Europe needs a REVIVAL!

## **6. Germany**

We are planning for a CMLC in the autumn this year. Pray that it will be possible to conduct it face to face, and that the Lord will send 20 participants to this training.

## **7. Estonia**

Praise the Lord for our wondersurf/[avastajad.net](http://avastajad.net) website for children, where they can share their worries and prayer requests.

## **8. Iceland**

Please pray for planning of camp ministry in Iceland this summer. Pray for the leaders and finance needed.

## **9. Stephen & Grace Chambers, Area Directors, NW Europe**

Please pray for planned trips: Norwegian Lapland, Sweden, Romania for CMLC training and Germany. Pray for wisdom regarding trips to Iceland and Austria, and for new contacts of God's choosing to be made.

## **10. Latvia**

Please pray about our preparation for summer ministry and that we will get clear information from the government about what kind of ministry will be possible this summer. We still have some restrictions because of the Covid situation in the country.

## **11. Great Britain**

Pray that we will have an encouraging online Zoom meeting with the workers this afternoon and especially as we meet with Andrea Reger, an intern from Germany to discuss the programme for her visit to Britain in August and September.

## **12. Lithuania**

Pray for volunteers, especially teens, for summer ministries (day camps, residential camps and 5-day clubs). Pray that we will train them effectively to reach children with the Gospel and to be a good example for the children. We pray that God would raise up new workers from these young people.

## **13. Belgium & Luxembourg**

Remember Marco & Jose Baan as they take on the interim leadership of Belgium & Luxembourg for the next 3-5 years, as well as leading the work in the Netherlands.

## **14. Stephen & Pam Garrett, Area Directors, SW Europe**

Ask God to give Stephen time during these weeks to prepare his classes for the CMLC intensive training course in Portugal this summer. Some of his subjects are subjects which he has never taught before.

## **15. Portugal**

Ask God to give much wisdom and strength to Jovanka as she is focusing on the re-opening of the local area in the North of Portugal.

## **16. The Netherlands**

CityKids: the next focus city is Zwijndrecht. A city with a lot of social problems and challenges. Pray that the Lord will bless the work in this area of the country. Over the coming months we will have a period of promotion and training of Christians.

**17. Chris & Lynn Holt, Member Care Europe**

Pray that God will bless Chris & Lynn as they attend a Quiet Day Retreat at High Leigh Conference Centre today with other Member Care providers.

**18. Sweden**

Pray for that God will send more workers for the harvest among the children of Sweden.

**19. Switzerland**

Thank the Lord for a specific women's prayer group who are praying diligently every week. We are thankful for all the help received by volunteers - i.e. in book keeping, mass mailing and practical help (dispatching materials).

**20. Bogdan Bassara, International Literature Director**

Pray for the Hope for Ukraine project and the distribution of 5 million copies of "*Do you wonder why?*" booklet mainly to Ukrainian children, but also to others across Europe.

**21. Greece**

Covid restrictions and other minor setbacks in the ministry are often the cause of impatience or losing our motivation. Please pray that our wonderful team of workers will have a renewed vision and motivation that flows from God and His calling.

**22. Vilijam Valentini, Director IT Dept, Europe**

Pray for good ideas on how to redesign and develop the CEF Europe web pages so they can communicate in the right way the vision and goals of CEF, and the importance of reaching girls and boys with the Gospel

**23. Andrew & Beulah McMullan, Assistants to the Area Director, SW Europe.**

We praise God for the opportunity to share at deputation meetings this month about the work in South-West Europe. Please pray that God will speak into lives and burden them to pray for the work and also support the many financial needs within the area.

**24. Linda Corry, Director of Training ministries, Europe**

As we begin to move certain CMLC subjects to our online training platform we have a need for writers who can take our current CMLC content and adapt it for an online, self-learning environment. Pray specifically with us for this need and that God will guide the 'right' people to the education department to meet this need.

**25. Philip & Denise Annett, Leadership Development Dept, Europe**

Please do pray that our new leadership development website will be a great source of blessing, help and encouragement to our European leaders.

**26. Denmark**

Please pray for a big event from today until the 29<sup>th</sup>, in a major suburb in Copenhagen where all churches and organizations join forces to reach adults and children. CEF will participate with a Building event with LEGO and with a "story telling booth".

**27. Italy**

Please pray for the General Assembly meeting to be held over this weekend, especially as the mandate of the present Board ends and it's present members consider whether they should stand for another term.

**28. Ireland**

Today we are running a Children's Ministry Conference. Pray for all those who will attend, that it will be a benefit and help as they teach children.

**29. Stephen & Pam Garrett, Area Directors, SW Europe**

Please remember us as we try to carve out some time to consider our ministry strategy for the area, and as we define a clear role for the Area Director and Assistants.

**30. Spain**

Please pray for Andy, the son of our worker Araba in Madrid, and for the whole family. He is in very delicate health and the doctors don't give any solutions, nor do they want to continue more treatments with him.

**31. Greece**

Please pray for new workers. There are a couple of excellent volunteers whom we would like to see joining the ministry as full-time workers. Pray with us that the Lord will call them into the ministry of CEF, and also provide for their financial support.

