

# Pastor in Ukraine War Zone Gives First-Hand Perspective

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**Host: David Wheaton** 00:08

Pastor in Ukraine War Zone Gives First-Hand Perspective.

That is the topic we'll discuss today right here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host.

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I'm just going to give a minute or two update before we get into the preview for today's program. Many of you who are regular listeners will know that my wife, Brodie, took a very bad fall in September of 2021 and fractured her heel leading to a surgery and a long recovery. I told you I'd give you an update. Well, here's the update: she has made a lot of improvement! We thank the Lord for that. She's not walking with crutches anymore. She's resuming normal activities. She's still walking with a limp, but this is one of those injuries that it takes about a year to recover from. And so I think it will take many more months to know how much function she actually gets back. Lord willing, it'll be all the way to or at least close to 100%. So thank you for asking how she's doing and your prayers for her.

Secondly, you may remember that a couple months ago, we launched in Los Angeles on KKLA 99.5 FM, and this was a real step of faith for our ministry. Those of you who understand how Christian radio works is that we as a radio program pay for the airtime to broadcast on stations and networks or apps or other places where this program airs. And Los Angeles is one of the biggest if not the biggest market in the country. This is a very expensive market. And so we just want to let listeners know who might want to be involved in supporting The Christian Worldview to air on KKLA. Even if you don't live in Los Angeles, we would really appreciate you're considering supporting us in this new endeavor. And if you'd like to do that, just go to our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) and click on Donate. There's a drop down for "KKLA" that

you can support. You can be a one-time donation, you can be a recurring donation, you can become a Christian Worldview Partner. Or you can always call us at 1-888-646-2233.

Not trying to twist anyone's arm. We always like cheerful givers. But we do want to make our needs known. And we do have a fiduciary responsibility as a ministry to make sure that we're not spending more than we are bringing in, in support. So thank you for considering that.

Okay, let's get to our topic for the day. Pastor in Ukraine War Zone is going to give us a first-hand perspective from Kyiv. It's been over a month and Ukraine continues to fight back against the military invasion by Vladimir Putin's Russian forces. The human toll is high. Thousands of people have been killed on both sides, with homes and other non military buildings destroyed. Cities like Mariupol have been decimated by Russian military bombardment, causing millions of refugees flooding out of Ukraine. Meanwhile, the debate rages in Europe and America about what to do. Is more intervention called for beyond supplying arms and the technological support that the Ukrainians are getting right now, such as enforcing a no-fly zone over the country, which really means direct combat with Russian forces, or should the West just stay out of it, reasoning that the United States in particular has little strategic interest in Ukraine? Now, even in an age of countless information sources, it's difficult to know why Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine and what is taking place. That is why we are looking forward to talking to an American pastor who has ministered in Ukraine for 30 years, and has chosen to stay with his congregation in the capital city of Kyiv, in the midst of this war. Pastor Greg, and we're withholding his last name and church for security reasons, joins us today to give us a firsthand on the ground perspective. Let's get straight to the interview with Pastor Greg in Kyiv.

Greg, thank you for joining us all the way from Kyiv in Ukraine today on The Christian Worldview Radio Program. Just tell us first how long you have been in Ukraine. What do you do there? And why are you staying in that city despite the war going on with Russia right now?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 05:07**

First thank you for having me on. It's a privilege to be with you and on your show. We've been here for almost 30 years, this August will be 30 years, that we've had the privilege of serving our Lord here in Ukraine.

So we came in after about a year or so of language study. The evangelical church community here really needed a full-time seminary. They had some training programs here and there, but they really needed a full-time seminary program to train their pastors who basically didn't have any training during the Soviet era. It's been an amazing time, just to be able to be a part of that, in a sense, that aspect of ministry in Ukraine, as far as training men for ministry, or actually training men who are already in ministry to better or accurately handle God's Word.

The second part of our ministry has been in the area of church planting. We've been a part of two church plants over the years. The people are wonderful people, people that love relationships, encouraging one another, they love God's Word, they hold God's Word in the highest respect, as authoritative in their life. So it's been really a pleasure to be in pastoral ministry as well here.

You asked why stay with the war. As a pastor, I feel that you know, the pastor needs to be with his sheep, especially when the sheep are going through probably the most difficult time in their life. Everything is uprooted. There's literally life and death situations going on in their life. The pastor needs to be with his sheep to lead, guide, care for them. And that's why I decided and I did it with my wife as well. We both sat down and talked about it, we prayed about it. And we really decided that, you know, that is exactly what God wanted for us was to stay and to shepherd our people here. So one of the family that just came a few days ago is one of our faculty members. And he was in the city of Chernigov. Most of you probably have heard about Chernigov. Pretty much non-stop shelling by the Russians, pretty much from day one. And the Lord provided an opening, in a sense of corridor for them to get out. And they were able to get out and to come here and they're here with us right now. So we thank the Lord, we thank the Lord for what we're able to do.

**Host: David Wheaton 07:40**

Greg with us, and we're withholding his last name here for security reasons, coming to us from Kyiv, in Ukraine. He's a pastor there and also started a seminary in Ukraine to train men to pastor and to minister in that country. What is it like where you are in Kyiv right now? Are you seeing Russian forces? How are you spending your days during this war?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 08:05**

We have not seen Russian troops in Kyiv. We thank the Lord for that. We do have shelling. Matter of fact, as we're talking I can hear the shelling. It's all defensive shelling or outgoing shelling not incoming shelling. By God's grace, the Ukrainian army has been able to hold Kyiv secure, you might say. In that sense, there have been some rockets, some missiles that have made their way in, but by God's grace, we haven't had to suffer that.

Like I just mentioned a minute ago, our faculty member just coming from Chernigov, he's a pastor there as well, incredible, just non-stop shelling. They were in a bomb shelter, basically the basement of their house made into a bomb shelter. His wife's youngest brother was killed by the shelling. He was helping some other people get into a bomb shelter. His wife, who's expecting their first child, he got her in safely and a shell went off near him and took his life. Those kinds of things going on. We've made trips to to the Polish border to receive aid coming in from the west. Places like European Bible Training Center, you know, based in Berlin have been extremely helpful sending aid, basically a couple of vans every other day or so. When

you make trips, you know, there's different things that are going on. You can see troop movements, sometimes you see the aftermath of a battle that is taking place in that particular area. People are suffering traumatic things.

Another family from Chernigov we were able to help with financial gifts that have come from the West. They had a nice home. I saw, you know, a before picture and after picture. You know, it's gone. You know, their home is gone. So that young family, you know, young daughter, there's kind of that earthquake, you know, and there's the shock, you know that it's happened and what's kind of what's going on. But there's a huge wave coming after. People come out of their bomb shelters or their basements or wherever they've been hiding.

Just in Kharkiv alone, you know, there's like 1500 apartment buildings that are destroyed, 50 to 100, you know, schools that have been destroyed, you have hospitals that have been destroyed. You kind of say, I guess, you know, kind of the basics of life. Where do you go to school? Where do you get treatment if you're sick, or you have some kind of injury. The stores, food warehouses have been destroyed. This has affected, obviously, their farming. They've destroyed pharmaceutical storage places, as well as manufacturing. There's a huge infrastructure devastation that's taken place. I mean, it's going to take years, you know, years for them to come back from something like this.

**Host: David Wheaton 11:13**

How are you personally, Greg, you and your family and your church? Do you have enough food and water and just the basic necessities? Where are you getting those in the midst of this situation?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 11:24**

Early on, we decided to move from our home to the seminary church facility, because we wanted to be with our people in the area of our people. Gas was very difficult to get. And we weren't sure where the rockets were going to be falling as well. So we've moved. We're now living, like I said, at the church and seminary. By God's grace, we have limited, I would say limited supplies of food in the regular stores, certain things have been rationed. We've received some aid from, like I mentioned, from the European Bible Training Center and some of our affiliates in Poland as well as Romania.

We have not had outages as far as electricity or water. But other cities have like Brother Igor (?) coming from Chernigov. For three weeks, basically no water, no heat, no electricity. So we have people living in those kinds of situations. Chernigov, Sumy, Kharkov. Obviously you've seen the devastation in Mariupol. So we have brothers and sisters in those areas. Because we've been training men pastors for so many years, really, we have graduates and students literally throughout Ukraine that's given us a network of pastors, churches, church leaders,

through which now we can start moving humanitarian aid, especially to some of these places that are just completely devastated. We've received some refugees from Chernigov and they were just so thankful just to have a hot shower, because they haven't had a hot shower for three weeks. They were just so glad to be able to spend a night in a building that was warm. You know often we take all those things for granted. Go into our house, we flip on the heater or the air conditioner, or whatever, the lights, you know, a hot shower. But it wasn't for them for like I said for three, four weeks, living in those kinds of situations.

**Host: David Wheaton 13:38**

Greg with us today. We're withholding his last name. A Pastor. Started a seminary. Currently coming to us in Kyiv, Ukraine, the middle of that country in a war, being attacked by Putin in Russia right now. We'll get to the geopolitics of the situation in a minute. But what is the receptivity to the gospel like right now over there, when people are in basically survival mode?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 14:04**

God uses difficult times to open people's hearts to the Gospel. As people are in difficult situations, life threatening situations in transit from their city to the border, we come alongside of them and help them to know that there is a God, that God is in control, even though things around them might seem out of control. But there is a God who is in control and can share the gospel with these people. Many of them are extremely open to the Gospel, because that's what they're facing. They're facing life and death. They don't know what the day is going to bring. So they're very focused on eternal things and we have that opportunity to share the gospel with them.

We have some books that we're able to share with them too, depending on kind of where they are. We have Bibles as well. New Testaments that we're able to give to them as well. So we have these kinds of opportunities, obviously, as well as we're giving humanitarian aid, food. That's a tool in a sense, you know, obviously, it's needed for life, but as well, it's a tool. And then God uses that, obviously, to open people's hearts, their attitudes towards us that we're doing something, demonstration of God's love towards them in that way, and we're able to share more specifically, you know, through the gospel of God's love for them.

**Host: David Wheaton 15:35**

Pastor Greg with us today here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program. He's coming to us from Kyiv. He's a pastor there. We're withholding his last name and also the name of the churches for security reasons. If you would like to be part of the support of Pastor Greg and the men he's working with, their ministry over there, there's several support agencies, but we're gonna highlight one that we've actually featured on the program this last fall, you may remember when we did the program on missions and Lifegate Worldwide. Their website is

lifegateworldwide.org. If you go there, you can donate specifically to Pastor Greg and the other folks there who are working in ministry in Ukraine. To do that, lifegateworldwide.org.

**Host: David Wheaton 16:17**

Okay, we need to take a brief pause. Would you like to help The Christian Worldview continue broadcasting on the radio station, website, or app in which you are listening today? You can become a Christian Worldview Partner by calling 1-888-646-2233, visiting TheChristianWorldview.org, or writing to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

**Featured Resource: God vs. Government**

[Tucker Carlson] Pastor James Coates was arrested and sent to prison a couple of weeks ago in Canada. What did he do? He held a church service.”

[Pastor James Coates] “And it isn't the government's responsibility to protect us from a virus. What's their responsibility? To protect our God given rights.

[David Wheaton] Two days after that sermon, Pastor James Coates was arrested and imprisoned. He has now co-authored an important book titled *God vs Government: Taking a Biblical Stand When Christ and Compliance Collide*. *God vs. Government* is a 208-page softcover and retails for \$17.99. You can order a copy for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call 1-888-646-2233 Or write to PO Box 401 Excelsior, MN 55331. That's 1-888-646-2233 or TheChristianWorldview.org.

**David Wheaton: Program Announcement 16:58**

David Wheaton here, host of The Christian Worldview Radio Program. Listeners are often surprised to learn that we as a ministry pay to broadcast on the radio station, website or app on which you are listening today. That expense is recouped through listeners, like you, making a donation or becoming a Christian Worldview Partner.

Our aim is to have each broadcast outlet fully supported by the listeners of that outlet. If you'd like to help us in our mission, to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians, and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, go to TheChristianWorldview.org and click on “Donate”. You can also call toll-free 1-888-646-2233 or write to PO Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. Specify how you listen as that helps us decide whether to continue on a given outlet. And be sure to select one of our resources as a thank you for your support.

**Host: David Wheaton 18:46**

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Visit our website, The ChristianWorldview.org where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print

letter, order resources for adults and children, and support the ministry. Now back to the interview with Pastor Greg in Kyiv, Ukraine.

What is the mood of the Ukrainian people? You're in Kyiv, so you're not everywhere, but you're obviously interacting, communicating with people from different parts of the country. Christians are fleeing some cities, coming to where you are in Kyiv, which is for now holding off the attack. What is the mood of the Ukrainian people? Do they believe they can oust Russia or do they feel like they're in a hopeless situation and they're eventually just going to get taken over?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 19:31**

The people that have stayed are resilient. They're incredible. I think everybody that I've talked to believe they're going to win the war. I kind of picture it this way. You know, if somebody breaks into your house, you're going to do everything you can, use everything you can, you know, to get those people out of your house. And that's the same kind of attitude. They've invaded their land, it's their land, it's their house. They're going to do whatever it's gonna take to to preserve their land, their home, so they're able to be here and live here.

**Host: David Wheaton 20:06**

Now there's, of course, in any war, there's always a propaganda machine on both sides and all sides. Because both sides want to present things that are going to help their cause. I mean, the first rule of war is deception. You want to deceive the enemy. We get a lot of news reports, varying news reports that are influenced by one side or the other. You told us about some of the condition of other cities in Ukraine, Mariupol and other cities that are really really in difficult shape, apartment buildings, non military places are totally decimated, and so forth. How do you think this is going to end up? What are you hearing that Russian President Putin wants or will settle for?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 20:51**

I think he basically wants what is called a Donbas in the Lugansk area. They kind of had half of it up to the beginning of the war. I think they want all of that territory. I have no idea if the Ukrainian government is going to agree to something like that. But I think that's what he wants. At this point, I think it's become very clear to him that his troops aren't the troops he thought he has, and that Ukrainians are more resilient and tactically pretty with it when it comes to fighting, especially for their land. I don't think he expected the response that he got from the Ukrainians.

**Host: David Wheaton 21:35**

I've been hearing, they've been taking some pretty tremendous losses, not only of their highest military commanders, but countless numbers of their troops and their military weaponry and so forth.

Pastor Greg is joining us from Kyiv, Ukraine today, pastor of an unnamed church there. And we're talking about the situation going on. Now, there have been a lot of contradictory perspectives that we hear in the media in the West. And I'm just going to ask you to clarify the best way you know how to hear from what you're hearing on the ground. And these sometimes are perspectives on those on the right politically here. I think there's a division. Some on the right in America, you know, are very, like the neo-cons, you know, "Let's get in there, let's push back Russia, let's do a no fly zone and so forth. Let's get involved in this conflict, this war."

So on one side you have those who said Ukraine's a democracy, we need to protect this democracy, versus others will say, Well, Ukraine is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. This is a place where the Bidens you know, Hunter Biden, you know, money laundering, and the Clintons have been involved. That there's biological laboratories there, secret biological laboratories in the United States are there. George Soros, a man who wants the downfall of America works against everything traditional America, although living in America. Tell us more about Ukraine. Is it a democracy? Or is it this sort of super corrupt country that we shouldn't want to support anything that, you know, George Soros and the Bidens are for?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 23:07**

Well, I guess I would ask, you know, what country is not corrupt? Because you just named, you know, a bunch of people from the United States. I'm sure we could name a bunch of people in every country of the world. As far as corruption, it's just I mean, that's the state of the human heart. But when we look at a country, at least from my perspective, you look at the people, you look at the common person, you know, the person that goes to work, has a family, comes home. To me, that's the country, that's the people and the people here are very loving people, a very giving people, they love to be with each other, encourage each other. That's what I look at when I'm looking at the country.

Is it a democracy? It's a democracy as far as I can tell. They've had, again, as far as I can tell, legitimate elections. The current president, I think, was legitimately elected. They've had, as you know, probably a couple of revolutions or whatever you want to call them, to kick out leaders that the people didn't want. Now, you had literally hundreds of 1000s of people demonstrating so that's not just, you know, a select elite, in a sense, group of people wanting the government to be a certain way or a certain person in charge. I think it's more democratic than our neighbor. If we want to look at it that way.

**Host: David Wheaton 24:32**

And you mean Russia when you say that? Your neighbor, Russia.



**Guest: Pastor Greg 24:34**

Yeah, that's what I mean. Yeah, I think it's more democratic than Russia. I'm impressed with the current president. A lot of people have made fun of him. He was a comedian you know, so you know, whatever, you know, his lifestyle, etc, etc. Just looking at it from in sense of distance, you know, because I don't know the guy personally, to take on what was once viewed as the second best military in the world and to hold them at bay and to inflict significant damage to the army and to keep his country intact, to keep his people encouraged, to speak to multiple governing bodies throughout the world and to receive standing ovations and to be acclaimed, you know, for his speeches as far as being some of the best that they've ever heard, I think says something about the man.

He's more than just a comedian. You know, I think he really loves Ukraine. He could have left, right? The United States offered to take him out and he could have done whatever from a safe place. But he chose to stay in Kyiv. That's the gold ring. That's what they wanted. But he chose to stay. And I think that says a lot about the man. And he's, every day he's encouraging. He's not ,you know, he's not hiding in a room behind some monitors. He's not sitting behind, you know, some long table, talking to people. He's out there. He's visiting soldiers that have been wounded in the hospital, is walking on the streets, talking with people, encouraging his people. So to me, that speaks volumes about a man. He loves his country. He loves his people. And he's there, all the way to the end. If his life's taken, okay, life's taken. But to me that says a lot about a man.

**Host: David Wheaton 24:39**

It does to me as well. There's obviously been a big division on who he is, you know, some people as you just mentioned, are considering him this courageous hero like Winston Churchill, and where others are seeing him as, well, he's banned opposition parties in the country, he's a globalist, World Economic Forum. And he may be that, he may have some of those inclinations, I guess. But what we know is he's staying in the country, he's trying to defend his homeland from an unprovoked, at least a militarily unprovoked invasion of Putin and Russia. It seems to me that people should have the right or at least should have the right of self determination for their own country if they don't want to be taken over. So at least at that minimal level, we can applaud him and respect him for that.

**Host: David Wheaton 27:16**

One big discussion going on here in America is how much this country should be involved militarily. I would have to guess that this country and other Western nations are involved in very significant ways behind the scenes. We know their weapons, Western weapons, are coming in helping the Ukrainians and so forth. But more overt military involvement like implementing a no fly zone, which basically means that you have Western or European or American planes, getting into air to air combat, if challenged by Russian airplanes. That's an open live fire war

situation. You're an American, and you're in Kyiv. Do you think the US military should be intervening openly and actively in Ukraine or just be supporting as they are from the outside?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 28:01**

I view it this way. What are our morals? That's where I start. They've talked about okay, well, if he crosses the line, the "Red Line", well then, define what that "Red Line" is. So, I would define the "Red Line" as indiscriminate bombing of civilians, indiscriminate bombing of hospitals, indiscriminate bombing of schools, indiscriminate bombing of food storage, medical storage, that's my "Red Line". If the country goes and starts doing those kinds of things, their intent, as I would understand it, is to totally annihilate those people.

I think an example of that, you can see is Mariupol. Russia would have their explanation for those things. I know people that live there. So I know the truth. I know people that live in Kharkov. I know people who matter of fact, Igor, in his own yard, had a cluster bomb. Well, you're not supposed to be using cluster bombs. In my thinking have they crossed the "Red Line"? In my thinking they've crossed the "Red Line", they crossed it a long time ago.

In some sense, I'm ashamed that, you know, the United States hasn't done more. That's, you know, obviously my personal opinion on that, but just for me personally, morally, you have the power to stop something. And yet you don't use that against innocent people, against mothers who are expecting children, children who are in a hospital, children who are struggling with cancer. Probably should stop there because. . .

**Host: David Wheaton 29:56**

I completely understand and respect that sentiment and I think those who are urging more restraint are thinking, this is Russia, it's a nuclear power, would this elicit or would this, you know, start a chain of events to start World War III? And so, I think, I completely respect what you're saying.

But both of us know, there's also the other side of it, too. What does that mean? Do we want our sons and daughters coming over and fighting on the ground against Russia and Ukraine? And these are very difficult questions to answer. Strategic interest of Ukraine to America or to Europe and so forth. All these things are things that need to be calculated and understood. But your answer is helpful to consider and to know what's going on there as we think about the situation in Ukraine. Pastor Greg joins us right from Kyiv, right now, where this war is taking place.

If you'd like to support his ministry there, you can go to one of the support agencies that's helping them with ministry and humanitarian aid, everything else, LifeGateWorldwide.org. You remember them, they were featured on the program in the fall of 2021. You can select a drop

down for “help in Ukraine”, it’ll go directly to them. And they’re an excellent organization that aid gets to them.

Okay, brief pause here. I’m David Wheaton and you’re listening to The Christian Worldview. Help us sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ by becoming a Christian Worldview Partner. Call 1-888-646-2233, visit [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or write to Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

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**Featured Resource: Enemies Within: The Church 32:38**

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**Host: David Wheaton 33:44**

Thanks for joining us on The Christian Worldview. I’m David Wheaton.

Just a reminder that today's program and past programs are archived at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. Transcripts and Short Takes are also available. Now back to the interview with Pastor Greg in Kyiv, Ukraine.

We hear in America, as well, some people on the right in America say that there's a large contingent of some called the Azov Battalion. This is like a neo-Nazi regiment in the military, the Ukrainian military. This element of it is not something that should be supported. What do you know about that? That topic seems to come up quite a bit. Vladimir Putin even used this as a justification for invading Ukraine. That, you know, the white supremacist, Neo-Nazis, part of the Ukrainian military. Do you know anything about that?

**Guest: Pastor Greg 34:38**

I have no idea. Never seen them. We've had over 2000 students over the years, not one of them has ever mentioned anything about Neo-Nazis. Come on. I mean, the President is Jewish. Of course, every country probably has, you know, "Neo-Nazis or White Supremacists," or whatever. But nothing that you would come here and say, oh, yeah, they're Neo-Nazis, you know, running around here. I've never encountered that.

**Host: David Wheaton 35:06**

Yeah. Thank you for answering some of these things that get filtered over to America that we see. And actually alternative media a lot, too, where you read some of these things about who Zelensky is and is Ukraine a real democracy? Should the US intervene? These are discussions that may not be taking place. They probably are not because you and others over there are just trying to make it through another day. And you know, we're over here, it's a theoretical situation is going on, when the bottom line is Ukraine is under assault, and just fighting for its survival.

Let's close today, Greg, by asking how we as listeners today can be praying for you and believers there, and how we can help you? Are there ways that we've talked about, donating through LifeGateWorldwide.org, that obviously is one way. Give us some parting words about what we can be praying for you and just some final words that you would like American listeners to know.

**Guest: Pastor Greg 36:08**

Great! Thank you for the opportunity to do that. Maybe just, yeah, another word for Lifegate. I know Steve Lonetti, I've known him for a few decades now and have worked with him. Great brother, great work. They're doing great things, they're helping us, they've already helped us a lot through financial giving, providing humanitarian aid for our brothers and sisters here, and for people just in general here in Ukraine. So yeah, if you feel led to do that, please give through LifegateWorldwide.org. Would appreciate that very much.

We look at the whole gamut in a sense. So you know, maybe starting in Western Europe, just prayer as well for the church in Western Europe. You have close to 4 million Ukrainians that have left Ukraine, spilling into all different countries throughout Western Europe, but the church there in Western Europe has done a phenomenal, phenomenal job reaching out to the refugees. Continued prayer for them, for the churches there. As time goes on it gets a little harder to keep ministering to people in this way. Some people are very thankful for the churches and the ministry to them, some people aren't. Some people are very bitter, because they've had to leave their home and everything that's dear to them. So that bitterness comes out towards the person that's trying to help them. So those kinds of things.

And obviously, the proclamation of the gospel, reception of the gospel, able to, you know, print and get good materials, we're working on that, just that we'd be able to expedite that more, be able to get out good materials to these different churches throughout Western Europe, many different countries and be able to get that material out. As we move closer, you know, to the border, obviously, you know, there's all kinds of, there's good things that are going on, but as well, there could be bad things that are going on, and you know, at a border. Obviously, for protection for the people, the refugees, that those who are working on the border would be able to reach out and be able to help them quickly so they're not taken advantage of. People would use common sense and not put themselves into a situation that could be harmful for them, really. As the aid and the things come over the border, as well there's, there's a lot of rigid distribution of that going on. So we need drivers, you know, to be able to drive the aid, get the aid to the cities, to the people that need it from the border areas. So that would be another big prayer request. Just for drivers, for vehicles, for the safety of those people that are driving and bringing the aid.

And then of course, you know, the local churches in the cities, the pastors. I just had a meeting with some of my guys, they're all pastors, but now that they're refugees, and one of them is, you know, feeding 400 people in a school, the refugees, trying to feed 100 orphans from Kharkiv, you know, and that just becomes wearing day in day out on pastors and other people at the church.

So pray for the pastors in the churches, that God would just give them that unusual strength, that the Lord can give. That grace that the Lord just pours out. That the pastor's would not depend on their own strength, but the strength of the Lord. Obviously, we're praying for peace. But, like I said, like a tsunami, I really think the bigger wave is coming once the shelling stops and people start coming out from the rubble, putting lives back together. People that have lost family members, people that don't even know where family members are, some who are buried in a mass grave, the building that they used to live in is no longer there. Where are they going to live now? So there's just all those kinds of things that need to be helped and worked

through. So just that the Lord would help prepare the evangelical believers here to be able to really step up and address those kinds of things. Because I think the world, as I understand, the world is pretty much focused on this little country of Ukraine. And it's interesting that it has the largest percent of evangelicals in Europe. So I think the Lord has a spotlight on us. And I really, really want to encourage the evangelical believers here to really be able to step up and be a bright light in the world, to the world. What evangelical believers under the power of the Holy Spirit, what they can really do in such a difficult situation.

**Host: David Wheaton 41:04**

Greg, let me just briefly pray with you before we end the interview here. And we know many of our listeners just heard what you said, and they will certainly be doing the same.

*Lord, we thank you for Pastor Greg and for those he's trained and disciplined and shepherded over there in Ukraine for many, many years. It has been decades. And we just pray that the fruit of that would be brought to your glory, in the midst of this really terrible war and crisis right now. And all the things he just mentioned, from humanitarian aid to protection and peace and safety and end of this war, that you will be glorified, that believers will be emboldened there for further proclamation of the gospel and the rest of what he just mentioned that, that you would do these things by your supernatural power, your grace. And so we pray your protection upon Greg and his family, too. His son is going to be coming over there to help and we pray your special protection over them to do your work, where you have placed him, at this this point in history. We just trust you. We pray all this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Pastor Greg 42:12**

Amen.

**Host: David Wheaton 42:13**

Greg, thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview. All of God's best and safety and peace to you.

All right, that was Greg, an American missionary and pastor in Ukraine, in Kyiv. He started a seminary there that trains men to preach and minister in that country.

It was interesting what he said about Ukraine having the largest percentage of Evangelicals in Europe. Now that was about as accurate reporting, as you'll get. He's there. He's interacting with others who are moving around the country, he's delivering humanitarian aid, he's lived there for 30 years. That's going to be a much better picture than you're going to get from a news anchor over here in the US trying to interpret it from an ocean away.

Now, there are many different views on this war and it's easy to quarterback from across the ocean, on our couches and our warm, safe homes with electricity and hot water and food. You have the interventionists whose perspective is, "Putin is evil", or maybe he's even insane. He's like Hitler or Stalin. He's trying to expand to other nations. Once he topples Ukraine, he'll go into other countries. And so there's this moral appeal that if we can do something to stop Putin and Russia, stop the suffering, we should do it.

And that was pastor Greg's position, and it's an understandable one when you're under attack, you want it to stop, even for the sake of your own family. And so interventionists are saying that the US should intervene with some sort of direct engagement, maybe not US soldiers on the ground, but maybe a no-fly zone or technical support. And I think there probably is a lot going on that we're not seeing that the US and Western countries are doing right now to help Ukraine fend off Russia.

Now, as opposed to the interventionists, you have the skeptics on this war, and they'll say this is a diversion from Biden's low-polling presidency. A war is a perfect thing to get the attention off what the President is doing back home. Or they'll say this is a purposeful event to collapse the US economy and the US dollar in order to move us to globalism. After all, George Soros is supporting Ukraine and so we shouldn't.

There are others who talk about the Bio Labs, the biological weapons labs that are in fact true. They *are* over there. We don't know the extent of it or why they're there. But they'll say this war has something to do with that. That Putin invaded because he was fearful of what these Bio Labs were going to do.

You also hear some say that Ukraine is historically Russian, and that Ukraine should just surrender and that would actually save more people's lives if they just gave up.

Another line you will hear is Putin has more traditional values than the globalists in the European Union who have woke values. And Putin actually really wants a resurgence of Christianity through the Russian Orthodox Church. Meanwhile, Putin is divorced and has several children with his mistress. Real moral guy.

Another thing the skeptics will say is that NATO, and the European Union triggered Putin into this war. They were, "Poking the bear," by engaging too much in Ukraine. Ukraine, talked about wanting to become part of the European Union. That was too much for Russia. And the US would feel the same if Russia or China were in Cuba. Well, to that, I would say that Ukraine is an independent state, they have the right to desire to become part of the European Union or NATO if they'd like. Now, they may have to defend themselves to do it, but they have every

right to do that as a sovereign nation, and Cuba has the same right to bring in Russia or China. But again, they may have to defend that decision if the US decides it's a threat to our security.

There's never been any evidence, at least since Hitler in World War II, that NATO or the European Union has any military intentions to taking on Russia. But that maybe is what Putin is thinking. Who knows. I'm not saying all these things I've mentioned are wrong. I'm just saying these are some of the viewpoints that have been brought out during this war.

Another one you'll hear is that Ukraine and Volodymyr Zelensky, their president, this is not a democracy, he bands opposition parties. There's an oligarch, a rich man, that supports him who works in media. Zelensky is a World Economic Forum young leader, he's a globalist. He's got Antichrist-like charisma. He's a propagandist. He used those captured versus killed sailors for his own ends. There's fake pictures going on over there. To which I reply, yeah, probably he is. Every leader, every country is a propagandist for their own country. That's a big part of war.

Another thing you'll hear the skeptics say is that Ukraine is the most corrupt country, and therefore we should keep our pristine hands off it. I think we need to do a little self-examination before we call Ukraine a corrupt country. It was President Joe Biden and his son, who have profited from corrupt deals with Ukraine, they made tons of money with son Hunter, in the company called, Burisma, which was a gas company for which he had no experience to be on their board. Frankly, I'm not sure there's a more corrupting influence in the world right now than our own country of the United States of America.

I mean, do we have free and fair elections? I'm not so sure after the last presidential election. Is political opposition punished? Just think about what has happened to the people who entered the Capitol on January 6, after Biden was elected. Many of them are still in prison, still awaiting their day in court. And you also have to ask what kind of values does President Biden and this administration export? Other radical abortion values and radical homosexual values. Just a couple days ago, here's what President Biden had to say, as he put out a message in support of Transgender Day.

**Audio Soundbite: President Biden 48:17**

To everyone celebrating Transgender Day of Visibility, I want you to know that your President sees you. Jill, Kamala, Doug, our entire administration sees you for who you are. Made in the image of God. Deserving of dignity, respect and support. But we know it's hard when there are those out there who don't see you and don't respect you. This administration is standing up for you against all these hateful bills. And we're committed to advancing transgender equality in the classroom, on the playing field, at work, and our military, and our housing and health care systems everywhere, simply everywhere.



But there's always more work to do to end the epidemic of violence against transgender women of color and girls of color. To ensure transgender seniors can age with dignity, dignity, and to finally pass a bipartisan Equality Act, to help transgender persons around the world live free from discrimination and violence. Above all, to be there with you. To parents of transgender children, affirming your child's identity is one of the most powerful things you can do to keep them safe and healthy. If there any transgender American who's struggling, please know you're not alone. And know this. You're so brave, you belong and we have your back. God bless you all, be brave.

That was a Romans chapter one speech where you're so deprived, that you celebrate that which is completely offensive and sinful before God, with no concern for those souls who are enslaved to sin. Instead of helping them get out of it, you're affirming them in it. What's more wicked than that? That's what this country is exporting now. So whether you're convinced by more of the interventionist arguments, or perhaps on the other side and the skeptics argument, I think there are two bottom line points here:

- 1) Putin and Russia invaded a sovereign nation unprovoked; at least from a military standpoint. Ukraine did not invade Russia, it was the other way around. And Russia is decimating cities and killing 1000's of people over in Ukraine. That's number one.
- 2) The second bottom line is this. That Zelensky and Ukraine have every right to defend themselves and determine their own future, rather than becoming a vassal state, to Russia.

And so I think Western nations should help. Not with our soldiers on the ground or indirect combat with Russia, but in effective ways that will just make it so difficult for Russia to take over the country that they finally just say it's not worth it or not possible. And for those who will say that, that will just lead Ukraine to become part of the European new global world order, that may be true, but it's really like picking your wickedness. Would you rather have repressive globalists or tyrannical nationalists like Putin?

We live in a very evil world. But I know this, if I was a Christian living in Ukraine, I know I would want to be helped, instead of being taken over by Putin and Russia. It's a good thing that God is fully in control, and is moving a war in which it is very difficult to discern what's going to come of it. He's going to turn it for His purposes, and His plans advance forward. So do not fear. Do not be confused. We know that God is ruling on His throne.

And the most important thing is if you do not know Him, if He is not your king, you need to obey His command to repent and believe in the gospel. The gospel is the good news that you as a sinner can be made right with this Holy God, this sovereign of the universe, and that you don't have to pay the penalty for your own sin. And that God sent His Son to pay the penalty

for you on that cross when He bled and died and then rose again victoriously over sin and death, so that through faith in Him, you can be forgiven, and be gifted, eternal life in Heaven. Find out more at our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) by clicking on the page, "What must I do to be saved?"

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So let's be encouraged. We live in a challenging world, but Jesus Christ and His word are the same yesterday, and today and forever. So until next time, "Think biblically, live accordingly, and stand firm!"

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