

AUGUST 2023

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19 ESV

PRAYER POINTS

EUROPEAN PEOPLES

Europe, long known as a stronghold for Christianity, is now the most lost continent on earth. Within its boundaries are wars, refugees from wars, and places where the gospel is not able to be freely shared. Despite all these things, God is at work. Churches are being planted and people are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We take heart, knowing and remembering Isaiah 43:19 (ESV), "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

LONDON, THE UNITED KINGDOM

Jesus sent His followers to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20). As the nations gather in cities across Europe, IMB teams embrace this amazing opportunity to partner with local churches in fulfilling the Great Commission. A great example of this is seen in London, a city of 9 million people, where multiculturalism and opportunities to share the hope of Christ with people from all over the world continue to rise. Of the 117,000 people added to the city's population annually, over 97,000 are immigrants.

How do IMB teams embrace this great opportunity to reach the nations? They partner with churches in London and see new churches formed with people from around the world, some of whom are from unreached people groups. One evangelical church in London, which was started in 2020, offers an additional worship service for Farsi-speakers and has already baptized 77 people. This



*Baptism service at an evangelical church in London.
IMB Photo.*

growth isn't only from the effort of trained pastors, but rather the whole congregation. Missions is part of the church's DNA. Not only are immigrants being reached with the gospel, but these new believers then faithfully take God's message back to their home country through online ministry and personal contacts. Join this Farsi-speaking congregation in praying that their homeland will become a place full of disciples that send missionaries to other nations. Pray for the lost in London to desire to know who God really is, encounter a faithful gospel witness, and respond to Jesus in faith.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

In May 2022, we published a special edition of PrayerPoints for Ukraine. Thank you for praying. When refugees from Ukraine poured into Germany, IMB team members opened their home to refugees for a Bible study and used Send Relief funds to help them buy groceries. Praise God that a Ukrainian woman accepted the Lord as her Savior and that the home Bible study has now grown into a church.

1 EUROPE. Pastors Geno and Vano partnered with a local vocational school to create a welding program for men leaving New Life Rehab Center. Pray for this center that seeks to show men God's love and bring them out of addiction.

2 SPAIN. A group of Christians live and work in Madrid, Spain, a highly secular city. Please pray for them as they form a new "Faith & Work" initiative, where they will gather to encourage one another and pray for their workplaces to be transformed by the gospel.

3 BLACK SEA. Pastor George and his wife Lydia hosted a medical outreach in a village near the Black Sea where many internally displaced people live. They met physical needs and shared the gospel. Pray for them as they follow up with villagers and build relationships.

4 MALTA. Last year, kids at Knisja Evangelika Battista in Malta heard from a Nepali member of the church and started praying for Nepali people. Now, a Nepali congregation meets at the church on Sunday afternoons. Pray for this new church to grow strong and healthy.

5 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES. Pray for a new church plant among Ukrainian refugees in Budapest, Hungary. Pray for Baptist representatives to wisely work with local partners to raise up leaders to carry on this important diaspora work far beyond the current war.

6 LATVIA. With the help of a group of volunteers from the U.S., a small church plant in Ādaži, Latvia held a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for their local community. Please pray for this church as they

reach out to the many unchurched families of children who attended VBS.

7 ITALY. Praise the Lord for international students attending a Bible study in northern Italy. Pray for the believing students to grow in their faith and for the unbelieving students who are searching. May they keep attending the Bible study and turn to Christ in faith.

8 FRANCE. IMB team members in Lille, France and their ministry partners are beginning a coffee bike outreach. Pray for wisdom to steward it well for local ministry and with volunteers. Pray that more French believers will join in and grow in their passion for sharing the gospel.

9 POLAND. IMB teams in Poland have started new Bible studies for women. Pray that these Bible studies would lead women to Jesus. Pray for them to know the love of the Father and the support from Christian women in their communities.

10 RUSSIANS. Since Russia invaded Ukraine last February, several hundred thousand Russians have relocated to a neighboring country. Pray for IMB partnerships with local believers to grow into a Russian-speaking church there.

11 GERMANY. Many people in Germany are seeking, but their chance to encounter a gospel witness is slim. Through an IMB team's digital engagement strategies, over 70,000 screens receive biblical ads each month. Ask God to lead seekers to the responders, and into offline discipleship.

12 UKRAINE. Tony, a Ukrainian pastor, brought food and supplies to a local hospital then prayed for the staff. A doctor shared that he was amazed at such a Christian witness. Pray for Tony and his church as they gain influence and serve their community with the love of Christ.

13 CZECH REPUBLIC. In Western Czech Republic, IMB representatives hosted a week of English conversation, game nights, and a painting night at a local high school. Join them in praising God for the gospel conversations that took place, and in asking Him for continued open doors.

14 ENGLAND. Leeds, England has 80,000 university students. Less than 300 of them are involved in campus ministry or a local church. Pray for the IMB team there, heralding the good news. Pray that believing students will mature in Christ, and that lost students will trust in Him.

15 SPAIN. The team in Seville, Spain has been looking for opportunities to reach university students. More than 70,000 students live in the city, and many do not follow Jesus. Pray for God to open doors on the campuses for the team to be able to share hope with more students.

16 HUNGARY. An IMB team in Hungary is connecting with local churches and Christians around the world to engage a new opportunity to reach out to teens with the gospel. Pray with them for effective networking in this global outreach.

17 ITALY. Please pray for church plants in Rome, Italy. The city is bustling with immigrants, refugees, and expats. Please pray for wisdom and open doors as missionaries and local believers reach out to this population. May they find true hope in Christ.

18 GERMANY. Every day at 10:02 (referencing Luke 10:2), IMB team members in Leipzig, Germany ask God to send more laborers to this city, which is very atheist. "We are seeing Him answer our prayers with new potential partners," they said. "God is sending laborers. Pray for Leipzig!"

19 SPAIN. IMB teams in Barcelona, Spain are developing partnerships with evangelical churches. Pray as they work with local partners on ministry opportunities to see the gospel go out among the unreached. Pray that hearts will be transformed.

20 WALES. A new team is being formed to plant a church in a suburb of Cardiff, Wales. Please pray that the proclamation of God's Word will bear much fruit and that God will establish a new, healthy church in Wales.

21 POLAND. The greater Lublin metro area in Poland has over half a million people and only one Baptist church. Pray that the IMB representatives who are preparing to move there will develop strong partnerships with local believers to develop leaders and share the gospel together.

22 HUNGARY. An IMB team in Hungary established a community center called The Forum. Two churches gather there. Join the team in asking God to

provide partners who share the vision of the center being a place where people can encounter Christ.

23 ENGLAND. An IMB team in Leeds, England partnered with U.S. volunteer teams and local churches and ministries this summer to host evangelistic park outreaches, festivals, and discovery Bible studies. Pray that these efforts will bear much fruit and further God's kingdom.

24 AUSTRIA. Hope Church Wien is a new church plant in the ninth district of Vienna, Austria. Pray for local partners to join the leadership team. Pray also for success as the church reaches out to the many university students in the district.

25 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES. Pray for Sergei and Nadia, Ukrainian refugees living at a church in Romania, and for their family still in an occupied city in Ukraine. The couple has heard the gospel and received Bibles in their language. May the fruit of repentance and new life in Christ come.

26 BELGIUM. A small group in Bruges, Belgium that started out meeting on Saturdays for a meal and Bible study has quickly become, Familiekerk, an international church plant with a desire to reach others. Pray for them as they strive to plant another church in a new location.

27 BLACK SEA. In a country near the Black Sea, 39 men gathered to study the Word and discover tools for leading others during an evangelism and discipleship training for pastors and lay-leaders. Please pray for these men as they lead disciples to make other disciples.

28 FRANCE. After a year of training, a church-planting team of French believers and IMB personnel are engaging a highly populated neighborhood through evangelism, digital engagement strategies, and Bible discovery groups. Pray for the team's unity and fruitfulness.

29 SPAIN. Join us in praying for BIDEA Church, the first Basque church plant in Spain by IMB team members and local believers. Pray for many to come to Christ, for healthy church leadership, and for disciples to make disciples. God is moving in this land.

30 POLAND. Pray for a ministry center in Krakow, Poland that is providing space for a growing English ministry to university students. This location also serves as a meeting space for a church plant. Pray that this ministry center will be a light in the community.

31 EUROPE. Europe is the most lost continent on earth with 17,531 people dying daily without knowing Christ as their Savior. Pray for workers, their local partners, and believers to share the hope of Christ. Pray for more workers for this lost continent!



Ukrainian church. IMB Photo.



First IMB church plant among the Basque. IMB Photo.

IMB TEAM MEMBERS PLANT A BASQUE-FOCUSED CHURCH AND BAPTIZE NEW BELIEVERS

The Basque Country is situated in the Pyrenees Mountains, straddling the border between France and Spain. The 3 million Basques who live there have a distinct identity and make up one of the least-reached people groups in Europe. They have preserved their unique culture since their arrival to the area 3,000 years ago. Though efforts have been made to reach the Basque people for years, and they have a Catholic history, today, many Basques are anti-religion, and less than 2% of them follow Jesus. In 2021, IMB missionaries planted BIDEA Church, a Basque-focused church plant, and recently baptized several new believers. Please pray for this church to keep growing and get the resources they need, especially a stable location. Ask God to bless the IMB team as they shepherd the church and train up local leaders. Pray for the gospel to thrive and spread among the Basque people.

UKRAINIAN PASTOR AND IMB TEAM SERVE AMONG INTERNALLY DISPLACED UKRAINIANS

Need drove many Ukrainians to Western Ukraine to find shelter from the war. Faith inspired Joseph, a pastor in Izmail, Ukraine, to rent a camp so that he could house 180 internally displaced Ukrainians. IMB representative Mike Domke has been working with Joseph through SEND Relief. They work to meet people's physical and spiritual needs and have seen many come to faith and join the church in Izmail. Vision is spurring Joseph to renovate a former disco night club so that the growing church can move into a larger space. This month, he plans to start a new church at their former location. Pray for Mike and Joseph as they work with other local partners who are starting new work throughout Ukraine. Pray that more Ukrainians will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Lostness in EUROPE



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**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**