

PRESS RELEASE



The European Evangelical Alliance is praying for God's shalom for both Ukraine and Russia

Bonn, 4 July 2024

Vitaly Vlasenko, General Secretary of the Russian Evangelical Alliance, was recently interviewed by Christian Daily International and an edited version of the interview was published by Evangelical Focus.

In this interview, Vitaly shared his anguish at the pain and suffering caused by the war in Ukraine. We know that his feelings are shared by many Evangelicals in Russia.

Vitaly called on the global community of Evangelical Christians to do everything they can to stop the war. The following is the European Evangelical Alliance's response to his call.

The EEA strongly believes that the way to peace for Ukraine and Russia is simple. Russia must withdraw completely from Ukrainian territory that it invaded in 2014 and also from the land that it took in 2022. Russia's invasions and occupation and devastation are illegal. Russia had no provocation to invade. Ukraine as an autonomous state has the right to defend itself and choose its own future. There is nothing ambiguous about this war.

The EEA has a weekly prayer meeting for both Russia and Ukraine where we pray for God's shalom for both nations. We love both and we certainly love our Evangelical brothers and sisters in both lands. We do not acknowledge any division of Evangelicals between East and West. Nor do we accept that Russia "is being attacked by the countries of the entire Western Christian world." No country is attacking Russia. But many countries are united in seeking to defend Ukraine and to prepare defensively in case Russia decides to invade another nation. We also pray weekly for peace with justice for Ukraine. Justice means Ukraine having its territory back and for Russia to pay fair reparations for the damage it has caused. Reconciliation is needed but peace with justice and truth must come first.

Vitaly is right that the suffering is immense and that we must do all that we can to stop the war and prevent military escalation. So, we redouble our efforts to pray to see miraculous change in the situation which will bring about a just and lasting peace.

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