

AUGUST 2024

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)

PRAYERPOINTS

EUROPEAN PEOPLES

Europe is no longer a center for gospel belief. Despite the historical presence of the church in Europe, most Europeans today have never heard the gospel. Yet we are encouraged because God is on the move. He is bringing the global Church together to creatively engage growing lostness in Europe. He is collecting His people from every nation and is sending them out to every nation. Europe’s diversity and global reach make it a critical place to engage in missions.

GOD DOES BIG THINGS ON A TINY ISLAND IN EUROPE

Europe’s diversity and global reach make it a critical place to engage in missions, even from a tiny island like Malta off the toe of Italy. Nearly every fourth person in Malta is an immigrant, walking the same shores upon which Paul was shipwrecked in Acts 27. As people from Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America settle on this 9- by 17-mile island, many are hearing the gospel for the first time. Those who trust in Jesus and gather as a church are a glimpse of the international body of Christ in Revelation 7:9

Robin Pinkston, an IMB missionary in Malta since 1998, says that with this influx of foreigners, she has seen new international churches planted as well as congregations of like-culture people. These new churches have opportunities to cooperate by sharing resources and supporting each other’s churches. The challenge, Pinkston says, is maintaining a sense of unity in God’s mission as churches learn to share openly with each other. Historically, some churches in Malta have been somewhat



The international church family at Evangelical Baptist Church in Malta enjoy a fellowship meal together. IMB Photo.

suspicious or guarded toward one another. God is using the growing international population to slowly develop multicultural churches and teach pastors how to better shepherd their congregations with a global vision in mind.

Pray that as international churches grow, they will unite around their common identity as God’s children and not let cultural differences distract them from God’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and Revelation 7:9 vision. Pray for Christians to see that God has brought them to Malta for such a time as this (Esther 4:14), to display the beauty of Christ’s multicultural kingdom.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

On August 10, 2023, we prayed for displaced Russians. Since then, believers in Europe have been reaching out to them through evangelistic ads online.

Tens of thousands of Russian speakers watch short videos about the life of Jesus every month.

Hundreds of them ask the believers for more information or for prayer.

Praise God that He is drawing displaced Russians to find new life in Christ and a new home in the Church.

1 BARCELONA, SPAIN. Team members in Barcelona are exploring towns in Catalonia that have no existing evangelical presence. Pray that they can have opportunities to share the gospel and start Bible studies. Pray also for local believers to join them in sharing the gospel.

2 PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC. Pray for new team members in Prague to persevere in learning Czech. Pray for boldness and wisdom in their conversations, especially with a language classmate and with their children's preschool teacher. Pray for their children to adjust well to Prague and make friends.

3 BLACK SEA. Pray for a village in the Black Sea region where local ministry partners are trying to start a Bible study. There are only a few believers, but many are interested in learning about the Bible. Pray for those interested to gather and commit to studying the Word together.

4 VIENNA, AUSTRIA. A church plant in Vienna called Crossroads International Church is growing fast. Pray for the new believers to grow in their faith and for leaders in the church to disciple them well.

5 CARDIFF, WALES. Please pray that Redeemer Church in Cardiff, Wales would grow in prayer. Pray that they will be a church marked by dependency on God and fervent prayer.

6 BALTIC SEA. Believers near the Black Sea advertise videos about the gospel on social media to reach displaced Russian speakers and connect them with a local

church. Pray for Russian-speaking believers to join in this work. The harvest is plentiful, but there are not enough workers!

7 TORONTO, ONTARIO. A pastor in Toronto has been leading his congregation through evangelism training. Pray that the church will be excited to share their faith with their families and friends, and to cross cultural barriers to reach their community.

8 BERLIN, GERMANY. Please join team members in Berlin in praying for their children to know God and experience His salvation. Pray that their children will find joy in participating in their parent's church plant. Pray that God will bring other kids and families to their church.

9 KRAKOW, POLAND. Please pray for a breakthrough with students on campuses across Krakow, Poland. Pray that IMB team members will build many relationships with students, that students will come to events, and that they will know Christ in a personal way.

10 BLACK SEA. Pray for men connected to the New Life Rehabilitation Center on the Black Sea coast as they share their testimonies in local churches. Pray for the center as they develop their next-step welding program. Pray for more people to join them in worship and become a church.

11 BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND. Pray for the disciple makers at Hope Church in Birmingham, England. Interacting with multiple cultures all at the same time can be messy and beautiful. Also, pray that

as the leaders teach truth, God will undergird them with wisdom, grace, and kindness.

12 LATVIA. Praise God for women in Latvia who are growing in their love of God's Word and studying it in community. Some have never studied God's Word. Pray for them to continue growing and not lose their zeal. Pray for God to raise up another leader from this group.

13 EASTERN EUROPE. Team members in Eastern Europe ask for prayer "for future and current ministry in a very unreached area in our region of Europe. Pray that God would direct us and other workers in that area and that more workers will join the harvest. Pray that the people in this region would come to know the Lord."

14 PORTUGAL. "Please pray that we will have wisdom to know how to love and support our church and intentionally engage people in our growing neighborhood," wrote IMB team members in Portugal.

15 ITALY. One year ago, a young man in Italy was baptized. Now he feels God leading him toward ministry. Ask God to protect this young man from all schemes of the evil one to distract him from his new faith and desire to minister to others.

16 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK. Pray for a Journeyman in Copenhagen as she maintains a discipleship study with others from a local church plant. Pray for wisdom and depth in conversation, and that the seeds planted will multiply into a harvest of disciple-makers across the city.

17 CZECH REPUBLIC. Praise God for the slow but steady growth in a local church youth group. Pray that God will lead the group and that His truth will grab hold of the students' hearts and change their lives. Ask for courage for the students who are new followers of Christ.

18 QUÉBEC CITY, CANADA. IMB teams share the gospel and make relationships at Impact House while they give university students in Québec City a free meal each Tuesday night. Pray that these relationships will provide opportunities for Bible study, discipleship, and development of church leaders.

19 BERGEN, NORWAY. Please pray for the ongoing training for pastors and leaders in Bergen, Norway. IMB teams and their ministry partners dedicate time in the Word and in fellowship with a group of young men from all over Norway.

20 EUROPE. As Russians try to find new homes throughout Europe, pray for Russian believers to faithfully serve the Lord in the cities where God plants them. Ask that uprooted unbelieving Russians will find new life in Christ in their new homes abroad.

21 UKRAINE. "Praise God for the recent ministry in Ukraine where we hosted a medical clinic with our new mobile medical unit," an IMB team member said. Pray for them to continue effectively sharing the gospel through medical ministry opportunities.

22 BRUGES, BELGIUM. A church plant in Bruges called Familiekerk is growing. Many new believers and not-yet-believers attend the church and engage in deep spiritual discussions. Pray for the leaders of this church plant to be led by the Spirit and focused on God's Word.

23 NORTH BALKANS. Please pray for wisdom for those who lead a weekly Bible study with students in a Balkan country. Pray for those who are part of the Bible study to be challenged and encouraged with Scripture and have an urgency to share the gospel.

24 KRAKOW, POLAND. Virginia is walking through difficult life decisions and counting the cost of following Christ and obeying Him. Pray for her to draw near to the Lord and joyfully follow Him. Pray for the IMB team member who is discipling her.

25 DRESDEN, GERMANY. A church in Dresden primarily consists of Germans and Spaniards. Pray for more people to follow Jesus and serve in this church. Pray for the young adults in a new small group to grow spiritually and witness to their friends.

26 UKRAINE. Pray for the Generation Church Planting School in Ukraine, training 30 teams (100 people) each year in healthy church principles. Pray they attend sessions, faithfully practice what they learn, and live boldly proclaiming God's greatness.

27 BALKANS. Pray for countries in the Balkans where Islam is a majority religion. Many people there claim cultural Islam but say they do not feel a connection to Islam. Pray that believers will have open doors to share the gospel and that many will boldly choose to follow Jesus.

28 PARIS, FRANCE. During the Paris Olympics, Baptist volunteers and IMB teams formed relationships and shared the gospel with many people. Pray that God would use these ministry efforts to bring salvation to many. Pray for healthy discipleship and more churches throughout Paris and beyond.

29 SOUTH TYROL, ITALY. A man in a discipleship group has a past with drugs and depression but wants God to change him. Ask God to help this man clearly understand the gospel and to free him from the things that have plagued him.

30 SLOVAKIA. "We want to build relationships and share the gospel while meeting a need in the community for English language practice," IMB team members said. "We are so grateful for a local believer who lets us use his coffee shop after hours." Pray with them for this new outreach.

31 VALENCIA, SPAIN. Pray for a growing church in Valencia to find a new location that will allow them more opportunities to keep growing. Pray for their local partners and other local churches that are engaging a changing culture. Pray for them to take biblical steps in faith for God's glory.

LOCAL BELIEVERS GAIN CONFIDENCE IN EVANGELISM THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA



Online engagement provides fruitful gospel proclamation and discipleship opportunities. IMB Photo.

People from a country near the Black Sea hold tightly to Eastern Orthodox traditions, even if they don't believe in them. They view Protestant Christianity as a cult—a heretical sect departed from the true Church. Even though many people feel weighed down by their traditions, they won't dare talk to a Christian for fear of being socially shamed. Local Christians are scared to evangelize for the same reason.

To eliminate fear from both sides, the IMB team there decided to run ads on social media, ask people how the team could pray for them. Requests flooded in, and the team's three young adult ministry partners started online conversations with people who shared requests. The team continues to run ads that generate gospel conversations online, and their European partners increasingly gain confidence in evangelism. Pray for the team's three local partners to continue growing in their faith and understanding as they creatively engage lostness in their country.

GOD BRINGS SALVATION TO QUÉBEC THROUGH MEANINGFUL GOSPEL ACCESS

The Québécois (French-speaking Canadians) still live in the aftermath of the Quiet Revolution, when nearly every Quebecois exited the Catholic church in the 1960s. Today people in Québec see churches as vacant expressions of a domineering past. The historical presence of churches does not mean people have meaningful access to the gospel. Only 1 in 100 people claim to truly follow Jesus.

But God is on the move in Québec to give gospel access to the growing number of people in Quebec who feel as empty as the churches. An immigrant from the Middle East named Zachariah visited an old Catholic church as a tourist. While there, the Holy Spirit awakened Zachariah's curiosity to know Jesus. Zachariah didn't have an opportunity hear the gospel in the church, so he turned to IMB missionary, Robert, to learn all he could. Zachariah instantly committed to Christ and wants to give gospel access to others, including those in his home country.



The historical presence of churches in Québec does not mean people have meaningful access to the gospel today. IMB Photo.

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**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**