

# Ukraine Prayer Update – Monday, May 23, 2022 – Day 89

## Praise Reports

### Success

- **Slovyansk** - Ukrainian army repelled Russian forces offensive attempt near Dovhenke at Sloviansk direction
- **Bakhmut** - Russian troops conducted hostilities near Oleksandropillya, also conducted offensive near Lypove and Trypillya without success
- **Svitlodarsk** – to prevent encirclement and to render the Luhansk difficult to cross a bridge and a dam have been destroyed by the Ukrainians

### Truth Revealed

- **War Crimes** - Ukraine's prosecutor general, Iryna Venediktova, said there were about 13,000 cases of Russian alleged war crimes being investigated as of Monday. Another 48 Russian soldiers are due to face war crimes trials, she said, adding that Ukrainian officials have a list of about 600 suspects thought to have engaged in war crime
- **Russian Diplomat Resigns** - A veteran Russian diplomat, Boris Bondarev, a counsellor at the Russian permanent mission to the United Nations in Geneva has resigned over his country's invasion of Ukraine in a rare political protest from within the Russian foreign policy establishment. "Never have I been so ashamed of my country. Today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not about diplomacy," wrote the diplomat, a 20-year veteran of the Russian foreign ministry. "It is all about warmongering, lies and hatred. It serves interests of few, the very few people thus contributing to further isolation and degradation of my country. Russia no longer has allies, and there is no one to blame but its reckless and ill-conceived policy." Bondarev is the highest-level diplomat yet to resign publicly from the Russian foreign ministry over the war

### Support

- **US Sanctions** – the US is exploring creating secondary sanctions on any country that purchases oil from Russia for more than \$40 per barrel (it's now trading around \$100) & that all funds would be tied up and required to go to non-war-related items.
- **Lithuania** - The Lithuanian foreign minister, Gabrielius Landsbergis called for a naval coalition "of the willing" to lift the Russian Black Sea blockade on Ukrainian grain exports and proposed the plan during talks with the UK foreign secretary, Liz Truss,

on Monday in London. Landsbergis proposed that a naval escort operation – not run by Nato – could protect the grain ships as they headed through the Black Sea and past Russian warships. He suggested that, apart from Britain, countries that were affected by the potential loss of grain such as Egypt could provide the necessary protection. His plan, under gestation for weeks, would require de-mining parts of the Black Sea to ensure safe passage, as well as the agreement of Turkey, which guards the entrance to the Black Sea. "This would be a non-military humanitarian mission and is not comparable with a no-fly zone," and "in this endeavor military ships or planes or both would be used to ensure that the grain supplies can leave Odesa safely and reach the Bosphorus without Russian interference. We would need a coalition of the willing – countries with significant naval power to protect the shipping lanes, and countries that are affected by this," he said. "Time is very, very short. We are closing in on a new harvest and there is no other practical way of exporting the grain except through the Black Sea port of Odesa." There is no way of storing this grain (25M tons in Odesa presently and a total of 80M in Ukraine) and no other adequate alternative route. It is imperative that we show vulnerable countries we are prepared to take the steps that are needed to feed the world.

- **US** - secretary of defense, Lloyd Austin, said 20 countries announced new security assistance packages for Ukraine during a meeting with allies aimed at coordinating arms for Kyiv. Among the countries that announced new packages were Italy, Denmark, Greece, Norway and Poland, Austin said at a news conference at the conclusion of the virtual meeting. The new security packages included "donating critically needed artillery ammunition, coastal defense systems and tanks and other armoured vehicles", he said. Denmark agreed to provide a harpoon launcher and missiles to "help Ukraine defend its coast", he said. The Czech Republic agreed to send "substantial support" to Kyiv including "a recent donation of attack helicopters, tanks and rocket systems," he added.

## Pray Points - Latest

- **Kherson** – Occupation authorities introduced Russian ruble in Kherson region from today

- **Zaporozhia** - Number of Russian troops increased in Zaporizhzhia region, there are more Russian soldiers in Vasylivka than local population
- **Black Sea** – Ukraine has said that if they would be given MLRS systems like HIMARS they could break the blockade of the ports that is leading to food shortage worldwide.
- **Mariupol** - Russia claims to have taken complete control of Azovstal and that anywhere from 2000 to 2400 Ukrainian soldiers have been taken to either prisons or hospitals. Although they have been documented as POW's five the Red Cross to be exchanged for Russian POWs, but Denis Pushilin, the head of the separatist Donetsk region, told Russian state media said they are to be put on trial, though for what charges is to be seen
- **Severnodonetsk** - Intense fighting has been reported around the city, as Russian forces appear to be stepping up an offensive to encircle its Ukrainian defenders.
- **Ruble** – the Russian currency is surging to 7-year highs, that although artificial indicate that funds are flowing into Russia rapidly (as Europe attempts to refill stockpiles and India and other companies take advantage of discounted oil) meaning that Russia is being kept afloat.
- **Italy & Germany** – have set up ruble accounts with the EU's blessing to circumvent sanctions and pay for Russian gas
- **Italy** – has been apparently talking with Russia and submitting their own peace plan
- **EU** - Hungary is holding up the oil embargo
- **IMF** - The head of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, has said the war in Ukraine has darkened the outlook for the global economy and could result in recession for more vulnerable countries and predicted that 2022 would be a tough year and declined to rule out a global recession if conditions worsened markedly.
- **Zaporozhia/Kryvyi Rih/Kherson** – Shelling continues as the Russians attempt to move forward and Russia has blocked all exit from these regions as people line up at the borders
- **Odessa** – more missile attacks, but it sounds like they've all been intercepted.
- **Kherson** - Russia is stopping humanitarian aid from reaching hundreds of thousands of people in the region of Kherson, Ukraine said. Doctors could run out of medicine for chronically ill patients in two weeks, a Ukrainian official said.
- **Kharkiv** - Fighting continues in the areas of Ternov and Borshchiv. Occupiers are conducting enhanced aerial reconnaissance.
- **Wheat** - prices soar 60% as India, the world's second largest producer, blocks exports due to low harvest from heat wave
- **NATO** - Even as Finland and Sweden apply to join along, Turkey continues threatened to veto it
- **Snake Island** – Russia is spending a lot of resources to install anti-missile facilities and to protect paratroopers who are holding the island
- **Russian Navy** - Russian Navy - All operating submarines of the Russian Black Sea Fleet went to sea from Sevastopol as seen by the fact that they are targeting military installations in Lviv
- **Fuel** - Russia continues to strike fuel refineries and stores (including in Lviv yesterday) destroying its Ukrainian production capacity and fuel tanks, continuing to create dangerously low availability of fuel, meaning much of Ukraine's economy and food supply could be affected, but also the military and humanitarian aid distribution.
- **Food** - pray for the world food supplies as Wheat make up 15% of all the world's calories consumed. And much higher for impoverished countries. Ukraine produces 7% of the world's wheat and Russia 11% meaning 3% of the entire food supply for the world is cut off, and again a much higher percentage for developing world. While corn makes up 19.5% of global calories and Ukraine produces 2.6% and Russia with 2.3% of world supplies, meaning a further decrease in 1% of the world calorie intake for a total between wheat and corn of 4%. A response to this is that "the Russian invasion is a large shock for agricultural commodity markets, but not historically large. Markets and trade patterns will adjust to absorb it. Farmers around the world will produce more and consumers will cut back or substitute. The transition may be difficult in some places, especially countries such as Egypt that typically rely on wheat from Russia and Ukraine who must be helped to find alternate suppliers. The UN secretary general, António Guterres, has warned of "a hurricane of hunger" if Ukrainian grain is not exported. The world's 41 least-developed nations import a third of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia. Soaring food prices have already driven inflation levels in Egypt to the highest level since mid-2019.

- **Russian Military** - trying to create panic among the Ukrainian civilian population and to disrupt the supply lines in the rear, but has minimum success on the battlefield.
- **Mines** - Almost half of the territory of Ukraine needs humanitarian demining - this is about 300,000 square kilometers, according to the State Emergency Service. Every day, an average of 2,000 to 6,000 explosive items are seized and rendered harmless in the country. One day of active hostilities is equal to 30 days of demining. For example, it will take about a year and a half to clear mines in the Kyiv region, where the fighting lasted a month. "Spring is coming, overgrown with grass, and in a week explosive devices cannot be installed visually, only devices. A few months later, due to rains, they sink underground to a depth of 3-5-7 centimeters, they are not visible at all, but they are still working," the minister said. (As a sign of what supernatural resolutions can be possible, but during the Vietnam War, the United States strategically placed mines in North Vietnamese waters area that were set to detonate when a ship was in close proximity. In August 1972, a large number of these magnetic mines simultaneously started exploding. Upon investigation, the US found out that the cause of these explosions, which were estimated to be as many as 4,000, were not enemy ships. As it turned out, the culprit was a powerful historical series of solar storms with an extreme solar flare, solar particle events, and geomagnetic storm components hit the Earth.)
- **Testing the West** - multiple alternative narratives are being focus-grouped by politicians - Like assuming Russia taking half of Ukraine is a done deal. Or turning Ukraine into Cyprus - divided state with Chinese soldiers occupying
- **Russia - Default** - The Russian finance ministry announced it paid nearly \$650 million it owed holders of two of its dollar bonds. Two creditors told Reuters they had not yet seen the money in their accounts, but a senior U.S. government official confirmed that the payments had been made and that the source appeared to be outside the limits of the current sanctions. The Credit Derivatives Determinations Committee, representing major global banks and asset managers, met on Friday and acknowledged the reports of Russia's payments, but nonetheless made plans for a credit default swap auction next week "solely in order to prepare for the possibility of a Failure to Pay Credit Event." If

Friday's announced payments clear, attention will shift to two events at the end of May:

1. Transactions between U.S. persons and Russia's finance ministry, central bank or national wealth fund are only allowed under a temporary license issued by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) that will expire on May 25. The U.S. Treasury has not commented on whether that deadline will be extended.
  2. Russia faces coupon payments due on May 27 on a dollar bond issued in 2016 and an euro bond issued in 2021. The payment on the euro bond could be done in ruble as a last resort, but the dollar bond does not have that provision.
- **Belarus** - starting emergency military exercises today, claims it does not pose a threat to its neighbors.
  - **Narrative** – probing attacks from many directions in the media and with politicians continue as they attempt to discover a way to distract, divide or dissuade support for Ukraine and for Russia's total expulsion from Ukraine and for Russian government to be held accountable. Continue to pray for solidarity and truth and those in occupied territories who are suffering and/or have been deported will be heard and not forgotten or abandoned.
  - **Putin** - Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to undergo cancer surgery and temporarily hand over power to a hardline former federal police chief, according to a new report. Putin will transfer control of Russia's government to Nikolai Patrushev, head of the Russian federal police's Security Council, while he is incapacitated during and after the procedure, according to a video from the mysterious Telegram channel "General SVR" on Saturday. Putin will transfer control of Russia's government to Nikolai Patrushev, head of the Russian federal police's Security Council, while he is incapacitated during and after the procedure, according to a video from the mysterious Telegram channel "General SVR" on Saturday. The channel — which is purportedly run by a former Russian Foreign Intelligence Service lieutenant general known by the pseudonym "Viktor Mikhailovich" — reported that Putin has been told by doctors that he must undergo an operation. The anticipated surgery and recovery are expected to incapacitate Putin for "a short time," according to the unconfirmed report. "Putin is unlikely to agree to hand over power for a longer period of time," the narrator of the video states, adding that the control of the country will likely be in Patrushev's hands for

no more than two to three days. "I will say that this is the worst option," the narrator adds. "Patrushev is an outright villain. He is no better than Vladimir Putin. Moreover, he is a more cunning, and I would say, more insidious person than Vladimir Putin. If he comes to power, Russians' problems will only multiply." "Viktor Mikhailovich" ominously hinted that he and his allies "will make certain efforts so this does not happen, and I hope we will succeed."

- **Social Media** - Russia's online trolling operation is becoming increasingly decentralized and is gaining "incredible traction" on TikTok with misinformation aimed at sowing doubt over events in Ukraine, a US social media researcher has warned.
- **PTSD** – they are seeing that those fleeing the Russians are holding on for about 10 days and then face complete mental breakdown.
- **6 Russian Key Objectives to Pray Against**
  1. Kharkiv - Destroy, Encircle, Capture
  2. Izium – push south to encircle Donbas
  3. Slavyonsk and Kramatorsk – in the east to complete a smaller encirclement of the cities
  4. Mariupol – completely destroy all opposition and export the populations
  5. Zaporozhye - Russian troops are building up forces and building logistics a massive concerted attack
  6. Kherson – Russia is facing sabotage from the people but is still attempting to push north toward Kryvyi Rih and west toward Mykolaiv, then to Odessa and to Transnistria and eventually to Moldova.
- **Izium/Kherson/Zaporozhye** – there is much evidence that Russia is desperately attempting to catch and conscript any and all able men in the occupied regions and force them to fight for them.
- **Ukrainian Artillery** – all of the defensive positions are using Soviet Era 152mm ammunition and NATO has been scrambling to provide Ukraine with all that it needs but they are running out. As the US is finally willing to send artillery (theirs is 155mm) it will still be months until it can reach the front lines and be used effectively.
- **Deportations** – Russia has deported over 500,000 people from Ukraine to Russia. 134,000 of those from Mariupol alone.
- **Mercenaries** – Continue to pray for all mercenaries to be neutralized in any way!
- **Logistics** - Russia logistical challenges are still problematic even though the supply lines to the

Donbas are shorter, and much will depend on the condition of the roads and railways.

- **Refugees** – now 6.5 million have fled Ukraine. Pray for their safety, provision and care.
- **West** – pray that the pressure would continue to mount on western leaders to ban oil and gas imports and to continue to increase meaningful heavy arms donations.
- **Russia** – pray that the emotional need to make a huge statement and reaction to the sinking of Moskva will lead to Russia moving prematurely and without adequate preparation and coordination and thereby dooming their own assault. Or to make a move that so steels international resolve that it makes supporting Russia impossible even for China and India.
- **Russian People** – pray they understand the Truth and reject the lies they've been told and rise up
- **US** – pray that Lend/Lease gets fast-tracked and raise on the House floor and approved **today**
- **China** – has doubled down and the Russian propaganda and refused to admit the atrocities were committed by Russia or any other point

## Pray Points - Continued

- **Ukraine** - Almost two-thirds of Ukrainian children have fled their homes, the UN says. About 4.8 million out of 7.5 million children had to leave their homes, said Manuel Fontaine from UNICEF. He confirmed the deaths of 142 children, but added that the number is "almost certainly higher"
- **Economy** - Ukraine economy to contract 45.1% this year, Russia 11.2%: World Bank
- **Rage** - Pray against rage as videos have come to the four about Ukrainian soldiers summarily executing Russian soldiers. Although they can obviously feel incredibly justified, this is destructive to them and provides ammunition to Russia their attempt to create an alternative narrative in Ukraine.
- **Russian Military** - Russia is sending an 8-mi long convoy of 100s of vehicles, including armored vehicles and artillery southbound through the Ukrainian town of Velykyi Burluk. The convoy is moving about 60 mi east of Ukraine's 2nd-largest city of Kharkiv, as Russia focuses on Donbas. Russian Ministry of Defense claims destruction S-300 SAM at Chuhuiv airbase and Starobohdanovka

in Mykolaiv region. Also claimed destruction of National Guard base in Zvonetske of Dnipropetrovsk region

- **TRUTH** – pray that an ever-increasing steady stream of the atrocities committed by the Russians will be revealed and documented to maintain the ever-increasing pressure on political leaders and parties to act with speed, vigor and determination.
- **Russian Lies** – pray that all their various alternative narratives would be revealed as rags and shadows for all to see.
- **Evacuation & Panic** - Ukraine has urged civilians to leave the east of the country “while the opportunity still exists” before a massive Russian military assault that it expects in the coming days. The governors of the Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk regions were calling on people to move immediately to safer areas. “It has to be done now, because later people will be under fire and face the threat of death. There is nothing they will be able to do about it.
- **May 9** - Reports are that Putin needs the invasion successful in time for the Victory Day parades, thereby threatening great attacks over the coming month. Putin would want to have an “announceable success” by then, which could create “some tension” with Russian commanders as exhausted forces were likely to be thrown into battle fairly soon in an attempt to gain ground in Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv. This also is at the end of the 30-day default negotiation period (ending on May 5) meaning incredible pressure is on Russia to achieve victory by then.
- **Europe/US** – pray they will block all gas imports and provide truly meaningful military support.
- **Oil** – Pray that Europe would have the political will to do a complete embargo of Russian fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal, etc.)
- **Occupied** - Many villages completely cut off from all supplies and food and water!
- **Global Food** - there could be a global food crisis as Ukrainian farmers are being forced to limit what they plant due to the war. And also due to the fact that the main ways that they have a reaching global markets through the Black Sea is now blocked by Russia. Russia and Ukraine together produce 25% of all green in the world!

- **Refugees** - According to Polish border guards, more than 2.4 million people have fled Ukraine to Poland . However, supplies have dropped off and now the whole regions are struggling.
- **For the Weak** - Russia has flown more than 300 air sorties over Ukraine in the past 24 hours: senior U.S. defense official
- **Russian Elites** – to turn on one another and on Putin
- **Russian Military** – continuing to press in the north, but the real danger is that Russia seems to preparing for an all-out push in Donbas to encircle the Ukrainian army and to take the entire region and to create a united front against Ukraine.
- **Russian Soldiers** – pray for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and for them to have the courage to face the Truth and the opportunity to receive the Gospel which is the ONLY answer to the atrocities they’ve already committed.
- **Russian Opposition** – that those in the inner circle will see a way out and that Russian Opposition would be able to gather together in a meaningful way
- **The Truth** – In all things that the Truth would be painfully evident and unavoidable in all public discussion
- **Ukrainian Army** - Russia is attempting to encircle the Ukrainian Army in Donbas
- **Russia** – for the people to wake up to the Truth and rise up
- **Putin’s Inner Circle** – to fragment and turn on one another
- **Protection of the Weak**
- **The West** – to not grow numb to atrocities, but be compelled to action
  1. **Sanctions** – Loopholes would be closed and sanctions rendered effective
  2. **Oil Embargo** – That Europe would make the choice to stop immediately at the very least paying for gas & oil
  3. **Heavy Weapons** – provide planes, tanks, heavy artillery and high-altitude weapons

## Prayer Strategies

- Corruption & Domination Falls
  - Russia, Belarus & Ukraine
  - The Former Soviet Union

- China, India, UAE & Saudi Arabia
- Truth & Freedom prevail
- The Gospel is spreads like wildfire
  - From Ukraine
  - To Russia
  - To the whole world

## **Prayer Encouragement**

"Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!" — Andrew Murray