

Daily Devotion For February 23, 2022

“Go make disciples of all nation’s”. Matthew 28:19

The above verse is the “Great Commission”. In the Greek language, the word for nations is “Ethnos” from which we get our English word Ethnicity. God’s desire for us is that we be “global” Christians. When I was serving with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Japan from 1983-1986, I had the opportunity to serve with people from 23 different countries. It was at that time that I realized how little I knew about other countries and cultures.

Yesterday, President Biden spoke of the “invasion” of Russian troops into Ukraine. One great resource for us to become “Global” Christians is the book “**Operation World.**” It lists the nations of the world and how to pray for those countries. I highly recommend that book for every Christian.

Each day, Operation World selects a different nation and shares points about how to pray for that nation. For instance on December 1, 2021 it states:

“Thank God for the rich Christian heritage of Ukraine. Christianity in the Slavic world began in Kyiv 1,000 years ago. Churches here suffered greatly until independence (1991) and millions of Christians died, but the faithful perseverance of the Church now bears fruit. Today it impacts most of society. Evangelicals emerged from 130 years of persecution with larger numbers and stronger faith. Ukraine has a spiritual drive and vision present today that is different from generations before.”

**From December 2, 2021** Operation World states, “Ukraine’s location as a gateway between East and West puts it in a vulnerable position, as the last 15 years have shown. With the Orange Revolution in 2004-5 and then the Euromaidan in 2014, Ukrainians demonstrated the willingness to stand up to Russian interference in domestic affairs. In response, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, and supported two pro-Russian separatist movements which seceded from Ukraine. The war in the Donbas region has continued since then, and as of 2022, Russian forces are alleged to be massing. Tensions in the region increase, conflict persists, Russian interference does not abate, and uncertainty and strife continue to menace Ukraine. May God bring to ruin the plans of those who seek war, and may peace prevail! Pray for wisdom in the face of pressure for Ukraine’s leaders and freedom from fear for its people.

**Thought For Today and Today’s Prayer Focus:** The above paragraph was written nearly 3 months ago, and yet we see the unfolding of this in our current events in Ukraine. Take time to visit the Operation World Website and seek to become a global Christian. Pray for Ukraine. Deo Volente.