Dear friends,

As promised, we have prepared (and attached) a guide for spending this Sunday, August 24 in prayer and fasting for Ukraine.

Thank you to the many who have responded, stating their intention to join with us at this important time. While what attention that *has* been given to the situation has focused on politics and diplomacy (or the lack thereof), we continue to be convinced that this battle is spiritual. The discipline of engaging in spiritual battle with the weapon of prayer is one which can only be done through God's Spirit, but it holds great power here and in other areas of our troubled world.

If you are willing and able, you can use the attached guide in its entirety. Knowing that many of you may be participating in corporate worship on Sunday, this guide suggests activities both before and after worship. It may be appropriate for some to begin some of the reflection on the evening before. Of course, these are all suggestions… please feel free to participate as you feel led.

While we embrace the practice of solitude, we would suggest that these prayer activities not be done alone… where two or three are gathered, Jesus has promised to be present. No warrior or soldier takes on a battle by himself… well, except for maybe a sniper… and there was David against that giant… but you understand.

Also, feel free – as well as free to do something unusual – in terms of posture and position. Prayer, particularly while fasting, should bring mind, body and spirit into harmony. Thus, assume a position that is conducive to what is going on in your heart: whether kneeling, lying prostrate on the floor, standing with arms raised to heaven… again, be prepared to be led by the Spirit and be ready to respond.

We pray that God will honor the concerted prayers of his people. There have been times in recent months where the answers to the prayers of God's people have been read not in church bulletins, but on the front pages of the newspapers. May this be such a time…

Prayerfully,

Jim and Liz Baker