



**Your Weekly  
Prayer Inspiration**  
*and Prayer Requests*  
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**Feb. 21, 2016**

## **Miracle at the Ukrainian Border**

By Pavel Goia

Robert owned a construction business in Italy and was very successful. However, deep in his heart was a hunger for a closer walk with God, and the desire to serve God in full time ministry. Finally, one day, he left his work behind, and started serving the poor and needy, trusting that God would provide and lead.

One day, while still in Italy, he was convicted to gather supplies to help the poor in Ukraine. With the help of friends, he loaded up four semi trucks with clothes and supplies.

However, when they got to the Ukrainian border, the guards would not let them through. In fact, they were told that all they were allowed to carry across the border was two suitcases at a time. Any more than that, and they would be charged by the kilogram.

Robert and the other drivers prayed and prayed. Still the guards would not let them bring the trucks through. Finally, discouraged, they gave up and unloaded the clothes in a rental storage place. Then they contacted the pastor at the nearest SDA church on the Ukraine side of the border and told him that they'd brought supplies, but couldn't get them across the border. They gave the pastor the combination and lock codes and then they returned to Italy.

The local Ukrainian pastor, along with six men and two suitcase apiece, went to the storage unit. Slowly, day-by-day they moved the contents from the storage unit across the border to distribute to those in need.

It wasn't long until the head guard at the border began asking what they were doing. They told him that they were taking clothes to help the poor. "No one does this kind of thing for the poor. You can't be serious!" the guard mocked them. But they insisted that this was indeed what they were doing.

Next he challenged them, "If you're Christians, can you prove that there is a god?"

Right then and there, the Pastor and his friends sat down and gave the guard a Bible study on God and the trinity. The next day they gave him another Bible study, and the same after that. Almost every day for a whole month they gave this guard a Bible study on their way across the border.

Finally at the end of the month, he was so convicted that he called the other guards together (there were eleven of them) and he asked the Pastor to give the same study to his comrades. As a result, almost all the guards were so convicted of the truth that they decided to be baptized.

At this point, the head guard of customs told the Pastor, "You don't have to take this luggage through in suitcases anymore. You can just drive the supplies through and you can take everything, and we won't charge you.

It had taken a few months for Robert's prayer to be answered, but God had opened the door, not just for the Ukrainian Pastor and the people in need, but more importantly, for those at the border gate.

**Pavel Goia** is a pastor in Lexington Kentucky, who is known for his faith-building testimonies. Many of his stories have been shared in the book, *One Miracle after Another*, by Greg Budd, published by Pacific Press.

## **Practical Application in Response to Blog:**

Often as we seek to serve God, we will face impossible obstacles. It's easy during these times to give up in despair. However, maybe, if we'd keep praying, God will work miracles even during the time of delay, just like He did for the Ukrainian pastor at the border. Maybe prayer will open doors that we would have never thought about praying for.

The Bible tells us, "Call unto me and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3).

In *Steps to Christ*, Ellen White writes, "Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 94).

Whatever roadblock you're facing in your life and ministry, don't give up! Jesus will make a way. Keep praying and talking faith!

*Dear heavenly Father, We just praise You for Your faithfulness. We praise You that You are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We praise You that You will make a way through the wilderness, across the border, and across any obstacles that Satan throws across our path because this is Your work, not ours. And You will be glorified. We give ourselves to You again today. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.*

*Promises to Claim: Isa. 45:2, Ps. 18:30*

## **World Church Prayer Requests for Feb. 21-28**

- Pray for our missionaries serving in dangerous countries and territories throughout the Middle East and Asia. Some of their stories have been featured in recent Adventist Review Articles.
- The South America Division has 250 missionaries serving in the 10/40 window. However, the SAD is also having financial problems now due to the Brazil economy. Please pray that they can continue to support their missionaries, and that God will continue to provide and take care of His children as many throughout the world church are facing financial struggles.
- Please pray for the Greece Union. The union leadership is really feeling the need for God's wisdom and guidance in how to help the people in this region.
- Please continue to pray for the thousands of refugees fleeing the terrible situation in Syria, and for the many who are living in very difficult situations in refugee camps in Europe. Pray for church members to be able to help the refugees with physical and spiritual needs.
- Please pray for the North Congo Union. The new president Mwangachuchu, asked we pray for them and their union as this is a very tough territory.
- Pray that we will actively support overseas work and missions, both in our time, and in our donations and offerings.