



DEFENDERS OF
**Faith and Religious
Freedom in Ukraine**

The Defenders Dispatch

Friends,

Welcome to the third installment of the Defenders Dispatch. We had a great October, which included visiting college campuses and continuing to share the firsthand testimonies of persecution that our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ are facing at the hands of Russian invading forces. We are also shedding light to the 20,000+ Ukrainian children who have been kidnapped by Russian forces since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. This is a truly despicable and demonic practice that has gone widely underreported in the media.

May God protect Ukraine and its people and bring about a just and peaceful end to this war.

Gary Marx, President, Defenders of Faith and Religious Freedom in Ukraine

Yalta European Summit

I was blessed to travel to Kyiv with a delegation to participate in the [Yalta European Strategy \(YES\)](#) conference, which brought together global leaders from politics, business, media, and civil society to discuss the future of Ukraine.

It was a fantastic opportunity to meet some of the world's leading experts on Ukraine, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, former Sen. Rob Portman, retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, former Ambassador John Herbst, former Ambassador Kurt Volker, and retired Army Gen. David Petraeus, just to name a few.

Read my [op-ed](#) in the Washington Times on my experience at YES.



Campus Tours

Over the last month we had the opportunity to visit several college campuses across the country with Ukrainian pastors, who shared their testimonies on the reality of life Ukrainian Christians in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine. We are grateful for the following universities for hosting us on the campus and allowing their students to hear these important stories: Arizona Christian University, Columbia International University, Grand Canyon University, Liberty University, and Lipscomb University.

[Link](#) to article from Grand Canyon University on the Ukrainian pastors' visit.



Russia's Moral Rot

I recently had an op-ed published in The Institute on Religion & Democracy's (IRD) Juicy Ecumenism newsletter. My piece focuses on my work with Defenders of Faith and Religious

Freedom in Ukraine and the lessons I have learned since our work began back in March. I have now visited Ukraine twice and been blessed to meet so many amazing and strong Ukrainian Christians who have shown me that this war is not over, Ukrainians still have hope, and their faith is their strongest weapon to lead them to victory.

Check out the op-ed [here](#).

See You Next Month

We appreciate all your support and advocacy on behalf of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ. We must continue to work hard every day to help find a just peace and end to the horrific war in Ukraine.

Please feel free to forward this to friends and encourage others to sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

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