

Franklin Graham Meets Zelensky, Calls for Prayer and Peace Amid War

In a deeply moving moment at the European Congress on Evangelism, evangelist Franklin Graham shared that he met earlier in the day with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to pray for peace amid the ongoing war with Russia.

The announcement came Tuesday evening during a session of the congress, which is being hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) in Berlin and has drawn over 1,000 evangelical leaders from 56 countries. Graham, who leads the BGEA, took the stage and led attendees in prayer after disclosing his meeting with the Ukrainian leader.

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“Today, I had the privilege to meet with President Zelensky,” Graham told the audience. “And I prayed with him that God will give them wisdom and that God will give them a path forward for peace.”

Graham emphasized the growing instability in Europe and reminded delegates that the region has once again become a battleground. “We see war again on this continent,” he said. “And I have had the opportunity in the past of meeting [Russian] President Putin and sharing with him what we as Evangelicals believe.”

He reflected on his earlier encounter with the Russian leader, noting, “Now, when I said that to him, he kind of listened very politely, but maybe it was the first time he understood. He was probably thinking this is the craziest thing I’ve ever heard. I don’t know.”

BGEA has previously reached out to both leaders, encouraging them to seek God in the midst of conflict. But for Graham, prayer is not a last resort—it is the front line. “Only God can solve this,” he said, acknowledging the complexities on both sides of the war.

Calling the congress to a time of collective intercession, Graham urged, “I think the most important thing maybe we can do for the next few minutes is to pray, and to pray for Ukraine, to pray for Russia, for the leaders of these countries and for the president of my country (U.S.), President Trump, that God will give a way forward.”