

Franklin Graham on Ukraine Unrest: 'Pray for Peace'

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has a long history in Ukraine. In 1988, Billy Graham preached in its capital, Kiev, three years before the end of Soviet rule.

In 2007, Franklin Graham held a three-day evangelistic festival at Olympic Stadium in Kiev, where more than 124,000 heard the gospel message live and more than 100,000 more heard it throughout Ukraine via satellite broadcast.

So it was no surprise that Franklin Graham took to social media late last week to ask for prayer for Ukraine, which is dealing with months of political unrest that has recently escalated.

"I am saddened to see the violence escalate in the Ukraine," Franklin Graham posted on Facebook. "This part of the world has a very special place in my heart—My father and I have both preached in Kiev.

"I spoke there in 2007 and Samaritan's Purse has distributed Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to millions of children there. Pray for peace for this troubled region and for the innocent civilians caught in the turmoil. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God' (Matt. 5:9)."

This article originally appeared on .