

Update from Pete and Pip Gardner – July 2026

Praying for Regime Change

In this update we want to share some thoughts from our own experience in praying geopolitically. We hope it will be an encouragement to you in your own prayers for a world in crisis.

There are days when praying the same prayers for a rogue nation, a head of state or for regime change seems like pushing a boulder up a hill! The Lord has given direction in prayer and we pray from this in the face of the external signs that are discouraging. We know we are partnering with the Lord but how we long to see answer! How do we handle His ‘delay’? How do we strengthen our hearts when daily we see the clear manipulation, corruption, lies and deception at work on the earth?

Isaiah 14:24-27

The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying,

“Surely as I have thought, so it shall come to pass

And as I have purposed, so it shall stand

That I will break the Assyrian in My land

And on My mountains tread him underfoot

Then his yoke shall be removed from them

And his burden removed from their shoulders.

This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth,

And this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations

For the Lord of hosts has purposed

And who will annul it?

His hand is stretched out

And who will turn it back?

There are appointed times for judgement. Times that the Lord has determined that will not be annulled. Times when he will break the staff of wickedness held in the hands of the rulers who are empowered by the principalities and powers who manipulate their earthly counterparts (Ps 82). Yet in waiting for that time to arrive it is easy to grow weary and to come under an oppression that silences prayer and quenches faith.

We often face such occasions of struggle. Recently the Lord popped the following phrases into my heart (Pip) ...

- You need to endure
- For yet a little while
- God is not mocked

Two of these are found in Hebrews 10:35-39. The Jewish believers were experiencing persecution and began to wonder if they had made the right decision leaving Judaism. They expected Jesus to return but his delay caused them to doubt. Had they got it all wrong? Paul exhorted them,

*“Do not cast away your confidence which has great reward. For **you have need of endurance** so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise” ... “**For yet a little while** and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith but if anyone draws back My soul has no pleasure in him”*

You have need of endurance

Before any major breakthrough, faithful and often unknown men and women have been God’s catalysts for change. One such example is the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989. It took **43 years** before the Berlin wall came down that divided east and west Germany and prayer was instrumental to this event. Enduring prayer.

In 1980, a small congregation in Leipzig, East Germany began weekly prayer meetings for peace. Through these prayer meetings a movement began. In the same year, Open Doors launched a seven-year long global prayer campaign to pray for the church in Communist Eastern Europe and for the fall of the Iron Curtain and the Soviet Empire for the advance of the gospel in these nations. [The Time Prayer Changed the World](#)

What was God doing behind the scenes over this 43 year wait?

We watched a documentary called ‘*Secrets behind the fall of the Iron Curtain.*’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntkECAtC-po&t=25s> The documentary interviews Miklos Nemeth, who at the age of 40 was appointed as the Hungarian Prime Minister in 1988. As an economist and a member of the Communist party, Nemeth was tasked with fixing a broken economy and a corrupt system. His appointment was a ‘surprise’ to him and he was expected to fail, but he didn’t! This documentary is worth viewing because it is remarkable to see how God was working in this 43-year period, and how he used this man in Hungary as a catalyst to undo the fetters of communist control and ‘unwittingly’ provide a way of escape for 30,000 East Germans from Hungary to Austria in August 1989. His decisions were one of a number that triggered the fall of the Iron Curtain. He made one very pertinent comment in the documentary... *“We knew from the past of the Soviet Union, that for the Russians **the least valuable item is the people.**”*

This seems to be a feature of numerous regimes today who hold on to their ideological positions without any value for their populations. Thus, to endure in prayer and not give up, grow weary or fainthearted but to strengthen ourselves in the Lord is so critical. We may or may never see the answer in our lifetime but answer will surely come. The way to develop prayer muscle is by persisting in prayer, even if that means praying the same prayers day after day. **How do we endure?** By resisting the resistance! When we meet this resistance, instead of giving into it, see it as the Lord’s tool to grow that prayer muscle. We need to hold fast to our confidence in what the Lord has given us to pray and to draw on his divine power that gives us all we need for life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3). It may feel like walking through treacle but hold fast to the Lord. We’ve often found a freedom and an ease in prayer the next day which just shows this is all part of the warfare.

For yet a little while

When God doesn't meet our expectations and we encounter delay in our prayer, the question to ask is, what is He working through the delay?

The following are some examples for why the Lord delays in scripture: -

- Perhaps, as with the Amorites (Gen 15:16), the sin of the regime has not reached its full measure.
- Perhaps, as with Pharaoh (Exodus 11:9,10) the Lord further hardens the heart of the leaders in order to bring the full extent of His judgement upon their 'gods' and to show his glory?
- Perhaps God is giving time for the people to repent for he delights more in their repentance than in their death (Ezekiel 33:11/ 2 Peter 3:9).
- Perhaps, as with Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:1), the Lord is troubling and turning the hearts of the leaders through dreams and visions.
- Perhaps God is working through the regime's hardness of heart to draw the peoples to himself. They are so sickened by what they see that they begin to seek God for answers. Such is the recent testimony of a member of the Iranian armed forces: -

A man entered a church in a neighbouring country to Iran. The pastor noticed this man sitting at the back of the church so he went and spoke to him. The man said, 'I was in the IRGC but I can't take it anymore. They (the regime) have destroyed us and I have become disgusted with all of this and I want to be free from it.' The pastor shared the gospel with him and he repented publicly and gave his life to Jesus in front of the congregation.

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Regime change comes through spiritual change and spiritual change is the determining factor before the fall of a regime. Delay merely highlights the reality that the spiritual battle has not yet been won. Hence our need to endure.

Several factors were at work prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall that we may recognise in other nations today: -

- The initial submission of the population to the ideology
- The regime's silencing of its opposition
- The deepening corruption within a regime to the point the economy fails
- Increasing lack of access to basic needs - fuel, food, finance - which resulted in further uprising against the regime
- Deepening despair, particularly among the youth; further attempts to protest and harsher crackdowns
- Behind all this God was raising up a 'deliverer' ... e.g. Gorbachev, Nemeth
- The suddenly of God. Through internal and external pressure, that 'bulging wall' mentioned in Isaiah 30:13-24 fell - the Berlin wall was torn down and the Communist system failed.
- This was followed by a period of openness for the gospel to advance.

God is not mocked

Galatians 6:6-10

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who

sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith”

These verses are a great encouragement and are worth keeping at the forefront of our minds as the filter through which we process world events and the action of world leaders! Especially pertinent are the words to ‘**not grow weary in doing good**’ and ‘**do not lose heart**’.

Many thanks to those of you who pray regularly for us and financially support us. We appreciate hearing back from you having received our updates and also to be updated on your news,

Richest blessings,
Pip and Pete