



CANOPY OF PRAYER

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Dear prayer friends in Europe,

Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. Ezekiel 33:7

God told Ezekiel to take seriously his role as watchman for Israel; his own life depended on it. Similarly, it is a serious thing for us to be watchmen or intercessors. We need to be watching what is happening spiritually, in society and in politics, and then bringing it to the Lord. And if He gives us a message for the church, we must speak it to them. God bless you as you stand on the walls and speak out what you see and hear.

Nick Pease

DECISIVE ELECTION IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

On the 3rd of April, 2022, over 8 million Hungarians will go to the polls to cast their votes. They will decide in which direction the country will go over the next 4 years.

The current government and its prime minister, Viktor Orbán, has been leading the country for the last 12 years, with a two-thirds majority. Their achievements during this long period are highly disputed, both within the country and abroad (especially in the EU). In fact, following their landslide victory in 2010 the Government immediately started to reconstruct society at a fast pace. They called it The National Cooperation Order, which in written form was displayed on the walls of every public institution.

Those praising them, as most Christians do, like their family friendly tax policy, "Hungary first" economic and foreign policy; stating Christian values in the Constitution (in particular, that marriage is between one man and one woman); issuing an anti-LGBTQ law; and a strict policy against illegal immigration (e.g., the fence at the southern border with Serbia).

On the other hand, their critics state that they have systematically dismantled the constitutional checks and balances of normal Government and have built an autocratic state. They wrote a new Constitution; occupied 90% of the entire media (including ALL county daily news); reduced the media into a government mouthpiece and put its oligarchy into privileged positions. Meanwhile, Hungary became the second poorest country in the EU (74% of the population live under the EU average), and the recent inflation rate (7.4%) was the worst in the E.U. Plus the public debt is at a historic peak.

One may ask, where were the opposition while all this happened? The question is relevant. The opposition consists of



six parties from both left and right wings of the political spectrum. They were incoherent, disorganised and weak during the last three elections, although they represent at least half the population. No wonder they could not impede Mr. Orbán and Fidesz. Eventually in 2019 during the latest Local Government elections, all 6 parties united, resulting in gaining back the lead in Budapest and another 10 major cities.

In the last two years they worked together and just lately successfully organised a primary by which the parties choose who would oppose government candidates in all 106 election districts as well as who would be the challenger for Mr. Orbán. This person is Péter Márki-Zay, a Catholic conservative politician, a father of seven children, and mayor of a small town. To everyone's surprise, he defeated Gergely Karácsony, the Mayor of Budapest. Their coalition is called In Unity for Hungary, and they go to the starting-line as a fully united coalition carrying the hopes of millions of Hungarians that desperately want change.

What would be the result of the election? It is, at the moment, unpredictable. Pollsters measure different results. The OSCE plans to send over 200 observers to oversee the election. This indicates that the International Community considers it a high priority.

Let us pray

- that God's will be done in Hungary;
- for a fair election;
- that Christian values would remain protected even if the opposition win;
- that corruption would be eliminated.

Covid Protests:-

From Julia Doxat-Purser, European Evangelical Alliance:

In some countries, people are getting angry with Covid restrictions, especially anything that puts them under pressure to be vaccinated. In Germany, protests across the country take place every Monday night and some of these are becoming violent. Meanwhile, people are inspired by the huge convoy protests in Canada. French protestors brought Paris to a standstill and moved on to cause chaos in Brussels. Others are upset, angry or frightened because of the protests. Let's pray for calm and for ways to heal these deep divisions.

Additional Prayer Points:-

1. What to pray about Russia's invasion of Ukraine? Lord, your will be done! Lord, save lives! Lord, bring lasting peace! We do not want war but harvest!
2. Since the Brexit deal the balance of peace between the two communities of Northern Ireland has been destabilised. Pray for the emotions on both sides, for mutual-respect and that the situation can be sorted out without violence.

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