



# CANOPY OF PRAYER

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Canopy of Prayer



Dear prayer friends in Europe,

## What kind of Europe are you praying for?



A few weeks ago in Canopy#128, we were challenged by the words of Oswald Chambers 'Prayer is not a preparation for work, it IS work. Prayer is not a preparation for the battle, it IS the battle.' As a missionary these words have been a significant part of my own walk of faith. 20 years ago, I

was challenged to be part of the answer to my own prayers and the Lord led me to Strasbourg to serve those in authority in the institutions of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe - not something I expected. I was not employed in these institutions, but God opened a door for me to move freely as a witness and to be available to help and pray with anyone that the Lord placed in my path.

What the Lord has shown me is that in these institutions, as in any area of life, there are both good and not so good people working in and elected to them. However, the institutions themselves are not places of evil intent, they seek to serve but are influenced by those who engage with them. Romans 13:1-7 says: *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.* Many of those within these institutions have a genuine desire to serve.

So, if these governing authorities were established by God what has gone wrong? Why are we seeing an increasing assault on morals and a value-based society? What is now the EU was a foundation of post-WWII Europe, based on biblical principles and values. May I suggest that you read Jeff Fountain's book 'Deeply Rooted' to understand its beginnings.

Yet another scripture says: *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms* (Ephesians 6:12). This verse and the earlier one, on some level can seem like contradictions, so how can we reconcile them?

Perhaps the absence of an authentic bible-based Christian voice could be part of the answer. The slow but continuous withdrawal of bible-based Church and Christian organisations from the public square of

debate, particularly within the political institutions, is to be lamented. This void is being increasingly filled by a number of what I believe are ideological lobby groups such as those promoting LGBTQ+ rights or Women's health rights (mainly promoting abortion). Some of these groups may purport to be upholding 'Christian values' but not necessarily biblical truth. They seek to influence and affect the agenda without a true concern for the effect on individuals or society. Indeed, they often vilify anyone who dares to challenge their view, be they politician, civil servant or you and me. They have increasingly built up a network of 'believers' in the media, sport as well as in politics. The sole purpose is to propagate immorality, abortion and euthanasia within society. It is a lie of the enemy that these groups are seeking to uphold Human Rights, because, the ideologies they promote want to indoctrinate even the youngest in society and remove the freedom to repent from what the Bible describes as a sinful life style. We are all sinners and we all need the opportunity to repent and turn away from an unhealthy life style.

The Bible is God's word to humanity and the means of pointing us to the way by which we can be reconciled with God through Christ Jesus. It is also the way to fill the spiritual hole in each of us and which many of these other ideologies only fill with selfish desires. In truth the church exists for the benefit of its non-members. Let us respond to that challenge and pray but also be available to play our part in seeing Europe revived and restored.



God's desire is that, under the authority he establishes, 'we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness' (1 Timothy 2:2) However this can only happen if we are fully engaged in the debate and stand up for a society that is based on biblical truth.

### Let us pray

- pray for the authorities that God establishes.
- pray for the hearts of those who seek to influence those in authority to pervert the purposes of God.
- for an increase in biblical-based Christian organisations that are willing to engage in the political arena.
- for ourselves to become a voice for biblical values in society, wherever the Lord may call us.

### Update:-

"Ukraine belongs to the European family," said Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz yesterday at a meeting in Kyiv of four leaders from the EU. However, they went on to say that Ukraine will still need to meet the accession criteria in full in its bid to join the EU.

The meeting comes only a day before the European Commission is due to meet to discuss recommendations for Ukraine to have EU candidate status. The recommendations will then be included in talks due to take place with all 27 EU leaders at the summit on the 23rd and 24th June.

Let us continue to seek the Lord's wisdom for the leaders of the EU and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

### Additional Prayer Points:-

1. Pray to develop a bible-based EU law on migration, which meets also the sociological and other possibilities of the member states (no Rwanda solution).
2. Pray for the European governments who are working hard to reduce their dependence on Russian gas and oil. May they also speed up the switch to renewable energy.

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