

Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

As we look towards a new year and reflect on the year passing, it is perhaps a good time to take stock and make an assessment as we pray for our continent.

One of the things I've heard a lot this past year - and have also found myself saying - is that God is doing something new. I feel a deep sense of being on the cusp of change. That begs the question, "but what is it?" In [Isaiah 43:19](#) we see this well-known verse which is often quoted, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." It is very easy for we who pray, and for the church in general, to almost sit back and let God get on with it.

However, if we read a little further in this chapter we find verse 22 "Yet you have not called on me, Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, Israel." And this is only the start of a number of verses which should challenge us about our attitude towards what God has called us to, be that as the church in Europe or those who are called to pray for the nations and their leaders.

As I look around the nations of Europe today I can't help but feel that in various ways each nation is struggling with demands we as Europeans are making on our leaders that are almost impossible to reconcile. Whether it be on immigration, the cost of living or a nation's response to the various conflicts in Europe or in the wider world. Perhaps this says more about us as individuals and our demands and expectations than it does about the leadership of our nations. Are we finally beginning to understand that as sinners we are not able to replace the sovereignty of God by our own efforts?



Is this why the new thing that seems to be resonating in the church is to Praise God and to become more aware of what He is doing instead of seeking to ask God to bless us and what we are doing without Him, towards praising Him for what He is able to do?

It will take a step of faith to truly 'Let go and let God' and let the truth of this verse be our prayer of praise: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" Ephesians 3:20-21. Ultimately we need to learn to submit to His authority above all earthly desires and authorities. Let us Praise God for what He is doing, and what He might do in and through us in 2024, if we allow Him.

Ian Jeal

To all our praying readers, on behalf of Europe and on behalf of the Canopy of Prayer team, we would like to say a big Thank You !!

As ever, it has been quite hard work putting all the Canopy letters together this year, but we are continually encouraged to think that you are using them for prayer. Europe needs so much prayer, so anything that raises more prayer for Europe is a good thing.

We are also aware of our weaknesses, so if you have any suggestions of subjects for prayer or, even better, good authors who could write on those subjects, we would love to hear from you! Let us know about any other comments or encouragements as well. 😊 info@canopyofprayer.eu

And now a small request: Could you help us financially with 15€ per month? Please see our bank details below, or hit the Donate button. That would be a big help! We would appreciate also your prayers for the continuing ministry of Canopy of Prayer, for finance to cover the costs, for time and people to do the work, and for choosing good subjects and finding good authors. Thank you!

Finally, we wish you and your families a blessed celebration of the first coming of Messiah Jesus, a joyful anticipation of His second coming, and peace and joy in the new year.

**Csaba, Doro, Ian, Jill and Nick
The Canopy Team**

Further Prayer

1. Pray for the Christmas period, that people will search and find Jesus.
2. Pray for the New Year celebrations, that it will not be a time of protests or violence, but of joy and celebration.

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