

Canopy of Prayer

February #59-2019

contributor

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Dear praying friends in Europe

Psalm 133

1. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
- 3b. For there the Lord bestows his blessing

Those of us who feel called in some way to prayer and intercession can usually make time to respond to that call and make it a top priority. Here are a group of brothers and sisters in Christ, from different denominations and backgrounds, who carve time out of their busy schedule in a workplace of high importance and pressure to pray together regularly.

Perhaps there are others among us who could be inspired to seek out, fellowship and pray with brothers and sisters in their workplaces? There too the Lord will bestow his blessing!

Jill Jeal

The Prayer Group in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU (GSC)

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them".

Matt. 18: 19-20

Our group started in March 2016, when three persons working at the GSC, strangers to each other, met in the Chapel of The Resurrection at a gathering of officials interested in prayer groups in the EU Institutions. Considering Jesus' "condition" fulfilled, they decided to go for it! The small group's varied composition and 'confessional' background determined its character from the start, and remains unchanged: united by brotherly love, mutual understanding and respect, the group would be open to anyone confessing Christ as Saviour, with no other condition than abiding by the truth of God's word in the Scripture...



The Consilium

We started meeting in an office on Fridays around lunch time, building genuine friendship and praying/praising for personal/family matters and for more far-reaching issues of common concern. Soon "word of mouth" brought new members, always greeted in the same spirit of community in Christ. Later, the necessary search for a better meeting place, concluded "miraculously" and at the right time after extensive praying, and was also the opportunity for a new member, longing to find such a group, to join.

Our list reached 15 persons, including some from the European Commission. Subsequently pastors from our respective churches were occasionally invited to deliver the reading and commentary of God's word, so helping us better grasp Truth's single authority...

Now, after some departures for professional or other reasons, we are 10 "active" members, of whom 6-7 regularly attend Friday meetings. Before starting praise and prayer, we read, discuss and explore the wealth of God's word: one of us introduces a text from the Scripture freely chosen and elaborated upon, or we take as a starting point "the verse of the day". The discussion is extremely rich and fruitful for all of us – one recent member admits his life changed because of what he learns and experiences in the group!

Also, having among us three active Belgian citizens knowledgeable of the local political and social environment, we endeavour to take a Christian stance in the face of legislative proposals in the Parliament. We acted decisively and daringly against the first proposal for a new law aiming at legalising in full, and penalising objection to, abortions, meeting or writing letters to key players (including the King!), posting on an electronic citizens' forum a petition that some 1,500 people signed. Along with our efforts, effective prayer brought fruit: the law only marginally "worsened" the previous one, leaving out most of the harm this initiative could have produced! We will deal likewise with future proposed laws going clearly against God's word, human dignity and our ethical values.

Pray:

- that this group of believers would continue to shine their light in this environment and that others will be drawn to them
- for praying groups in places of authority (local, regional, national, European...) that they will see answers to their prayers and actions

Europe's Wells 21-23 June 2019

*"Then Israel sang this song:
"Spring up, O well!" Numbers
21:17*

A worship and prayer initiative to reopen the spiritual wells of Europe – three days of simultaneous worship and prayer.

- Celebrate everything God has done in the Christian history of Europe
- Ask him to reopen these wells of spiritual life and power
- Ask him to send new revival across the whole of Europe!

I wrote about this in Canopy 44, calling it the Timeline of Worship.

Now it has a new name: "Europe's Wells"! Can you form a group to worship at a spiritual well near you? Full information and contact details at <https://europeswells.org>
Nick Pease, World Horizons

Additional prayer points:-

1. **European elections:** pray for the member states as they finalise their party manifestos, that these will include important topics which will encourage the engagement of citizens.
2. **Spain:** pray for Spain as tensions rise around the trial of the Catalan separatist leaders, which began this week.

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