

Canopy of Prayer

March #62-2019
contributor
Ortwin Schweitzer



Dear praying friends in Europe

But where are the other nine? (Luke 17:17)

Ten lepers stood and shouted, "Jesus, have mercy on us!" No word of salvation came back, but an order: "Go, show yourselves to the priests"; believe that I have seen your misery and healed you. They believe and go together and get healed on the way. One of them does not stop there. He runs back and breathless he falls at Jesus' feet and thanks him over and over. But Jesus asks, "Where are the other nine?"

Covered by the leprosy of sin, Germany and the countries of Europe stood there in 1945, shouting, "Jesus, saviour, have mercy on us!" And he said: "Go as a community - and on the way you will be healed." And so it happened. And who ran back, who runs back to thank Jesus for the healing of Europe? One in ten. "But where are the other nine?" This is the spiritual situation of Europe and its Christians. There is only one in ten who gives thanks...

Ortwin Schweitzer

Thank you for Europe

Geographically a tip of Asia, but separated and therefore a clear entity. That's "Europe". Not the mountain massifs of Asia, nor the endless expanses of North America, no, in Europe everything is there, but smaller, differentiated and very diverse.

Europe, in its multiplicity, has the commission of the Creator to seek its unity, otherwise it breaks down into an infinite number of dwarfs who fight each other and therefore have nothing to say in the world. But Europe always gained in importance when it joined forces. The merger can be political or economic, scientific or technical, but also theological, religious or ideological.



Thus, Christian faith since Charlemagne developed a transnational Christian culture that shaped Europe, and the world through Europe. Do we not want to thank God for that?

The same applies to the daughter of Christianity and Antiquity: the Enlightenment with its findings of human rights, democracy as a form of government and criticism of religion, which also set standards throughout the world, which is important today compared to Islam. Can we also simply give thanks for those things worthy of thanks?

From the cooperation of the scientists of the countries of Europe (Copernicus, Galilei, etc.), the world view of the Earth emerged as a ball and as a planet in a solar system. This made the circumnavigation of the globe possible. And the cohesion of European science and technology is, until today and above all in the future, a precondition for the importance of Europe in the globalised world of the 21st century. Do we want to thank God for that?

Attempts for political alliances have always existed in Europe in the form of alliance policy for protection or preparation of wars or under the military pressure of dictators such as Napoleon or Hitler. Was that about unity?

What no one thought possible, and what had never been achieved in the centuries before, came into being starting on 9 May 1950. Applying their Christian faith, the French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman, and the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, shook hands in reconciliation and marking a new beginning for Europe. Under a joint supervisory authority, they developed their production of steel and coal - and later - their entire economy. There followed more and more fields of work and other countries. And war was abolished as a means of politics in Europe. That was the healing of Europe on a shared path. Who would like to thank God for that? More than one?

Prayer

- Give thanks for God's vocation for this continent over the centuries.
- Give thanks for the international convergence of the Body of Christ in Europe.
- Give thanks for the growing unity of the Nations of Europe.



In Dec. 2018 Italy finally agreed a budget with the European Commission. Yet today, with continuing instability in the Italian economy and within the government, any rumour, such as the recent possibility of tax rises, causes shock waves that threaten the stability of the Eurozone. Let's continue to pray for the stability of European economies.

Additional prayer points:-

1. **Let us claim God's care** and mercy over the turmoil of Brexit in Great Britain and the EU.
2. **Pray for** the formation of governments after elections in all European countries, something which has become so difficult...

CONTACT Canopy of Prayer,
Ortwin Schweitzer, Ian Jeal,
Corrie Oosterhuis
info@canopyofprayer.eu
www.canopyofprayer.eu

DONATION Waechterruf e.V.,
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