

Canopy of Prayer

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contributor
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EU of Prayer



Dear praying friends in Europe

Luke 2:41,42 "Now every year His parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival."

It was God's plan that He wanted the people of Israel to come to Jerusalem three times a year for different festivals. It was not always easy to leave their homes, so much work to do, or to organise the travel with the whole family, but they came. A good custom, it bound them together. They were all busy with the same thing, they were being strengthened for their lives and responsibilities back home. That's how it feels when we come every half year to the country that has the presidency of the EU. To get input, to hear and encourage one another, so that we all can keep up praying for our continent.

The history of our EU of Prayer meetings

In May 2004 ten new countries from Europe were officially added to the EU in the city of Dublin. While anti-globalists were planning to demonstrate against it in Dublin, the Lydia prayer group in this city initiated a meeting for intercessors from all over Europe.

They decided to continue to have a meeting of a couple of days every half a year in the country that holds the presidency of the EU for this period. But it ended after 3 countries. In 2006 Hugh Davis, an American brother with a compassionate heart for Europe, organised a meeting in Strasbourg between Ortwin Schweitzer and the Jeals. Out of this meeting Ortwin took the initiative to bring together a group of prayer leaders from different countries of Europe. Since then this group, which has changed over the years, is the team which prepares the "European Union of Prayer" meetings.

The average size of our group is around forty people from about fifteen different European countries. We always come together in the capital city of the country. In April we were in Bucharest in Romania and this September we will go to Helsinki in Finland.

It is amazing to see how this group has grown to be like friends or even family and at the same time, when new people join, they feel at home.

We always start on the Sunday evening with a meal together, often at the location where we stay and have our meetings. We continue that evening with a short introduction and a time of worship. The programme does vary, but we always have several things that come back every time:

We worship together. We have input and prayer times for certain topics, which are related to the situation within Europe. There is a time of input and prayer for our host country. If possible, local people come and share about their land and city.

And we also have a time of prayer for Israel. In addition to this, when possible, we visit the Parliament or a parliamentarian will come to our meeting and share about his or her work. After listening there is always a time of prayer.

Another activity is the prayer walk through the city, preferably organised by local Christians, who lead us in groups to places of importance. Another highlight is the evening together with local Christians from different churches. We encourage them to pray for their political leaders and for Europe and we do pray together with them. The meeting is always closed by blessing the host country with the Aaronic blessing, proclaimed by a representative of each country present, in their own languages.

In March 2020, with our meeting in Croatia, we will have visited the 27th EU country, i.e. the whole EU except the U.K. But it continues with the non-EU countries, such as Switzerland, Norway, as well as the U.K and others, possibly also countries in the east. We invite you, dear Canopy readers, to come with us and pray for Europe on site.

Contact <http://euofprayer.eu>

Prayer points:

- We would like to see people joining us from those countries which are not yet represented and we also pray that more younger people will join us
- Pray for our time in Helsinki from September 22 – 26
- Pray for the process to form a new association to cover both the ministry of the EU of Prayer and that of the Canopy of Prayer.



Update



EU Summit in Romania, 9th May 2019

The informal summit – held on Europe Day – was unusually not held in the capital, Bucharest, but in Sibiu (or Herrmannstadt – Lord man's town). The focus of the Summit was the EU's agenda for the next 5 years.

Intercessors from all the main churches met to pray ahead of the meeting and the result was that many of those present testified to the peace and harmony they experienced there. The Heads of State enjoyed a peaceful and friendly welcome from the crowd in the sunshine and with no protesters present!

Additional prayer points:-

1. There will be soon decisive elections in Austria (29.9.) in Poland (13.10.) and in Israel (17.9.) which can change much.
2. The drama of Brexit is becoming a catastrophe. Chaos never was nor is God's original intention except as a judgement.

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