

Canopy of Prayer

April #85-2020

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Dear Prayer Partners in Europe

The message of Jesus reached Europe through the apostle Paul 2000 years ago. The message then reached all European countries and shaped their culture. Then the first missionaries set out, with many others following, to bring the gospel of Jesus to "the Gentiles". Many died on the mission field. But the fruit of their tears ripened: the young churches came into being. And when they themselves began to evangelise, revivals broke out and the church grew, even under persecution. - In old Europe, however, the churches declined. They looked satisfied and blind and not much inclined to mission. Will Europe experience revival again?

We Europeans are the second hour workers in the Lord's vineyard (Mt 20:1-16). Almost everyone else came after us. And what wages do they get? Revivals. And us? Let us call to the Lord that we agree that we as the second will be paid last. But that's what we are waiting for - still.

The Background of the spiritual situation of Europe today

In connection with the integration of migrants into our western culture, Angela Merkel stated in October 2000 that besides the language and the knowledge of the national constitution, knowledge is required of what has shaped our European culture: (1) antiquity, (2) Christianity, (3) humanism and (4) the Enlightenment.

These 4 streams of mind shape the culture of Europe to this day. Each of these streams represents a basic concept of life and society:

- the ancient world stands for man as an independent being, as an individual;
- Christianity stands in depth for (restored) communion with God and among men;
- humanism has as the highest value "homo", autonomous man - regardless of a higher being;
- the Enlightenment put reason, the rational, at the top i.e. in the place of God.

If we look at Europe spiritually - for example in comparison with China, Arabia or Africa - we find that we are all, more or less, shaped by these 4 streams of mind. As Europeans, we are shaped by the fundamental right to be myself; we are shaped by Christianity, whether as a Christian in our personal faith or as a secular person in our "values"; we are shaped by humanism in our education and our commitment to human rights; and we are shaped by the fact that everything can be explained rationally somehow.

This is the background of the spiritual situation of Europe, with the 4 streams influencing and fighting each other.

Antiquity, humanism and the Enlightenment/Rational combine easily and today for so-called "secularism" i.e. a conscious worldview without God. It is therefore not surprising that Christianity is in such a minority today. But the difference is fundamental. Christianity cannot be reduced to "values" in order to connect it with the others. The essence of the Christian point of view



was and is, and will be, that there is a God **above** man, a God who sets the beginning and the end of the world and who walked among us in Jesus of Nazareth as a member of a chosen people in Israel to bring us back to God who loves us - a message that is carried on by the army of his disciples to this day.

To say this is a provocation to secularised Europe. But there is a perceptible growing courage among the Christians to take their place in society, in work and in the neighbourhood, in politics, media, art and education. And God himself opens hearts, if necessary, also by a pandemic.

Prayer:

- that Christians live, love and teach more and more according to Jesus
- that millions of Europeans recognise and accept God's love



Easter

This Easter, as a message of hope to share with our friends, families and communities, let's find ways to proclaim that Jesus is alive, for example by singing from our windows, doorways, balconies or gardens an uplifting hymn on Easter Sunday morning. Let us as church also live out the hope of Easter by offering spiritual, pastoral and practical help for all people in our communities.

A blessed Easter to you all!

EASTER – daily happy returns of this day!

(Rom 6,4.5)

Additional Prayer Points:-

1. O God, prevent the outbreak of Corona in all slums and crowded refugee camps around the world!
2. May the power of the resurrection reach, strengthen and straighten up many despondent and sick ones

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