



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,



4. The crowd in Trafalgar Square – “The Silent Majority finds its voice.” Photo : Clifford Shirley

The Nationwide Festival of Light

On 25 September 1971 I joined tens of thousands of singing, banner-waving people at London's iconic Trafalgar Square for **the largest open-air Christian gathering in UK history. We came to witness for Jesus and identify with positive values for society: honour, decency and respect.** The 1960's brought us 'Make love not war' and 'Do your own thing' slogans and a rapid decline in public morality with many laws passed allowing abortion, easy divorce, and an explosion of sexually explicit material. Under a banner saying 'Moral Pollution Needs a Solution!' speakers challenged Christians of every denomination to speak out as 'salt of the earth, light to the world.'

'Proclaiming truth and demonstrating compassion.'

A Committee then began campaigning to strengthen family life, protect children and stand up for life, gathering evidence, advising MPs, writing articles and mobilising churches. In 1983 it was renamed CARE (Christian Action Research and Education) with Charlie Colchester and my husband, Lyndon Bowring, called to co-lead a growing army of 70,000 supporters to proclaim biblical truth and demonstrate Christ's compassion. Alongside political engagement CARE offered education training, foster care, people opening their homes, launched Care for the Family and other projects. Our original DNA remains. Today we focus on: **preserving life; protecting children; sexual ethics and strengthening marriage and families; freedom of speech; plight of modern slavery victims and those with addictions.**

CARE's partnership with the Church is crucial. We invest resources to **inform, equip and inspire Christians** to pray, engage with politicians and affirm truth.

Caring for the vulnerable

By 1983 a million unborn lives had been lost. The figure is now almost 11 million. We resolved then to fight all attempts to make **abortion** more accessible and also reach out to women through practical non-judgmental care. By 2002, 157 CARE pregnancy advice centres were established.

CARE fears the sinister implications of proposed **assisted suicide** legislation and is working non-stop to oppose it.

CARE is concerned that **free speech** is under threat. Christians face workplace discrimination and prosecution for expressing faith-based views.

Back then **explicit sexual images** had become visible to children in many places. From 1978 on, CARE initiated legislation to counter this, also helping those addicted or otherwise affected. Research shows today's 'one click away' porn is being seen by even little children and young people's sexual attitudes risk becoming warped. The UK's Online Safety Act now requires age verification for internet sites. Some say this may never have happened without CARE.

Sexual exploitation ruins lives.

CARE was instrumental in Northern Ireland's groundbreaking 2015 Act on modern slavery to protect vulnerable **trafficking** victims and campaigned for similar laws in the rest of the UK. We are passionate to bring this evil to an end.

Prayer

I hope this article has stirred you. We believe God called CARE 'to the kingdom for such a time as this.' Perhaps He is inspiring similar ministries elsewhere in Europe.

'When the enemy comes in like flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift a standard against him.' Isaiah 59:19

- Please pray for His favour on CARE, especially as we fight assisted suicide.
- Ask Him to raise up more godly leaders in our land.
- Intercede for a turning of the tide back to God's ways of truth and grace.

Pray for your nation!

Peace in Ukraine?

Nobody can fail to have heard about the major changes in the USA's foreign policy, nor of the tumultuous meeting between Presidents Trump and Zelensky. The leaders in Europe hastily convened a meeting to show their support for Ukraine while, at the same time, trying to persuade America not to cease all of its aid to this war-ravaged nation.

Changes are happening so quickly and suddenly that it can leave us all stunned and bewildered. European leaders are again meeting in Brussels to discuss ongoing support for Ukraine, but also their plans for rearmament as America can no longer be relied upon to assure European security.

As old alliances shift and new proposals are discussed, let's turn to our God, the one who does not change, to focus on Him, the author of history, and to pray for a just peace agreement for Ukraine and clear guidance for our leaders.

Further Prayer:-

1. The big issues in the German election campaign were migration, economic problems and Russia's war against Ukraine. Even after the election, Germany is divided on these issues, also between East and West. Pray for reconciliation!
2. Pray that in this time of great uncertainty in Europe, there will be a great turning of people to God and that HE will bring in a rich harvest.



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