



June #200-2026

Authors

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Canopy of Prayer



## Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead...

It is good not to dwell on, or indeed dwell in the past, but at a time like this it is also good to give thanks for what the Lord has done. It is our privilege to take time in this 200th edition of the Canopy of Prayer to share something of its birth and the story of how it came about. Also to share our earnest belief of the importance of this prayer tool for our continent as we move forward in an ever-changing world.

### Raising up prayer for Europe

Back in April 2006, in what we believe was a divine meeting of strangers in our home in Lingolsheim, France, Hugh Davis, an American, had been inspired by the Holy Spirit to set about the task of raising up Europeans to pray for their own continent.

Hugh had been given my name as someone ministering in the European Institutions. He asked if he could visit us to discuss what he felt the Lord was laying on his heart. On his arrival, he told us that he had also invited Ortwin Schweitzer - who neither he nor we had ever met - to join us the next day so he, Hugh, could share what the Lord had given him.

I think we were all a little intrigued as we came together the next day to see where this might all lead. It soon became clear that this meeting about raising up prayer for Europe was something Ortwin had been waiting for and, I'm sure, praying about for many years. I shared that our primary work was to build relationships first before any ministry could start with those we were called to serve; this seemed to resonate with Ortwin. He told us, "I've been waiting for 20 years for someone to say that". So began the journey which was to become the European Union of Prayer (EUoP).

We started meeting in the Presidency country of the EU every 6 months. These meetings were aimed at building relationships with one another from across the continent, each delegate coming with their own national identity but willing to discuss, explore and to pray, seeking to find and enjoy our European family connections. It was a small group that slowly began to grow and the relationships became deeper and more meaningful. I believe our prayer became more impactful and we saw things happening across the continent that seemed to be as a consequence of our prayers. These were mostly small but a real encouragement, and Ortwin was inspired to search for ways to encourage more intercession across our continent and began the search for Prayer ministry leaders who would come together in a similar way and share the task of expanding prayer for Europe. As with so many things, the Lord's ways are not our ways and longterm cooperation between busy ministry leaders proved elusive.

### The birth of Canopy of Prayer

At our preparatory meeting for the EUoP in Luxembourg, Ortwin shared with us what he felt the Lord was saying. He told us that the Lord had shown him that we in the EUoP needed to take on the task and that He had given us the vehicle whereby we could start a 2 weekly Prayer letter to be sent out to whomever had it on their heart to pray for Europe and its leaders. Ortwin's vision was for these prayer letters to be available to intercessors in as many nations and languages of Europe as possible and to highlight a particular topic for prayer in each issue. *Canopy of Prayer was born.*



## Possibilities for the future

We started this letter by saying that it is our earnest belief of the importance of this prayer tool for our continent as we move forward in an ever-changing world. So let us take time to consider what the Lord has given us and to pray for the new editorial team and the exciting possibilities for the future.

Let us remember that God has always intended that we should be in communion with him, and what better way is there than to spend time with Him in prayer, intercession, with thanksgiving. Also, not forgetting prayers of enquiry, to seek how the Lord would have us pray and to ask Him to show us where He is already at work.

Perhaps a pertinent question to ask as we look to the future of the Canopy of Prayer and its vision is *"Where are you, all the other intercessors for Europe?"* I believe this should be part of our prayer moving forward. I am encouraged by the recent work in sharing Canopy of Prayer on social media and the mobile version of the prayer letter which is now available and should appeal to younger Christians. There is more to do, but let us use these resources to invite others to join with us in this vital work of prayer for our continent.

Charles Spurgeon expressed the thought that, **"Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of God's omnipotence."** The world is changing and darkness is all around, but as those who pray know, this is only the beginning of the birth pains and the call is to more, not less prayer. God doesn't promise an easy or comfortable ride but He does promise to be with us.

Many of us who read and participate in the work of the Canopy of Prayer are of an older generation (forgive me if that is not true of you 😊) but we need not just to pray that the younger generations join us, but to encourage it as actively as we can. *Who could you invite to join in the prayer for Europe?*

Ortwin's dream and vision was for thousands, not just hundreds, of brothers and sisters called to this work of intercession for our continent, nations and its leaders. Let's work and pray to see this become a reality by the 300th issue anniversary!

As we end this 200th edition we would like to give our thanks for all those who have helped in any way to help Canopy to become this incredible tool for prayer, whether currently or in the past. Thank you also to Wolfgang and the current editorial team as they take Canopy forward; let us pray for God's continued inspiration for them in their work. **And thank you, dear reader and intercessor, for your part in this mission!**



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