



**July #201-2026**

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Canopy of Prayer



*Dear Praying Friends in Europe!*

### **The Quiet Revival – How should we respond?**

Following on from the Canopy letter that Wolfgang Rathmann wrote in May about Generation Z and the 'Quiet Revival', this month we will look a bit more at what God is doing, how the church should respond and how we can partner with God in our prayers.

First of all, it is SO encouraging that we have such a thing to pray about, a move of God in our continent. I have been asking, "Lord, how do we pray into what you are doing? How do we bless it? How do we support our churches in prayer, as they adjust to this wonderful thing that you are doing?"

Can we be expectant that this is going to go a long way? Is this part of the big revival in Europe that many have been praying for? We will see. But we remember that Jesus said, "and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18 NIV) The Lord Jesus is always at work, building His church, including here in Europe. So let us rejoice and get involved in what is happening today in prayer and action.

In the May letter, Wolfgang presented a picture of what the Holy Spirit seems to be doing in many European countries. It looks like a young generation is waking up spiritually and the Holy Spirit is drawing them to Jesus. Some are prodigals, who grew up in a Christian family but then left the faith and are now coming back. This should be encouraging to parents of children who have given up on Christianity, to continue praying and living as a godly example.

However, many of these new enquirers have no Christian background at all, no knowledge of the faith or the Bible stories that many of us grew up with. But that also means that they were not put off by poor religious teaching at school or Sunday School, like maybe some of their parents' generation were.

### **So how should we respond?**

Our welcome needs to be strong and genuine, wanting relationship with them. It should not be a case of, "See you next week!", but "Let's meet for coffee on Wednesday!" They will need a lot of time, listening to their story and allowing them to ask all their questions. When Christians are warm and generous, offer community and live out their faith, young adults are impressed by that authenticity. One commented, "The first time I came to church, the local student pastor introduced himself to me, asked me about my story and gave me a Bible. I felt seen and cared for, even as a stranger to him."

We should think about the words we use, for example 'Holy communion' and 'the blood of Jesus'. These ideas will need to be explained clearly at the beginning. However, it is important that we do not water down the gospel. They are dissatisfied with the superficial secular world and find the gospel to be true, beautiful and profound, even if difficult at times. They are seeking genuine spirituality, which we have in Jesus, so we should give it to them fully.

As with all of us, they find there is a cost to commitment to Jesus, which cannot be avoided. To come out of their hedonistic, secular world and into the Kingdom requires perhaps greater lifestyle changes for them than for older people. They will need to rethink many of their values and will need help as they work through these discipleship challenges.



An example of a church that has made big changes to accommodate this new wave of young people is the Roman Catholic church in Toulouse, France. The Bishop has re-organised the parishes in the student district to be focused on student outreach, with dedicated staff, daily services and many prayer and discussion groups. Over 200 students have signed up for their baptism programme this year!

As Western society moves further away from its Christian spiritual heritage, so the gap grows between the values of the secular majority and the Christian minority. But also, so the emptiness of a hedonistic, self-centred lifestyle grows, resulting in a yearning in some people for something solid and eternal.

These 'seekers' will come for all kinds of reasons, with all kinds of questions, problems and anxieties. But God is drawing them and we must not let them down!

### Prayer Points

1. Let us pray that our churches will be welcoming to young people, making time for them, meeting individually and in groups, and introducing them to the wonder of the gospel.
2. Pray that each young person will find a church family where they feel at home, where they are helped, challenged, and can grow.
3. Pray that the seed of the gospel will not be crowded out by worries, parties or the failures of others, but will take root deep in their hearts and bear fruit.

Lastly, let us remember that action has to go with prayer, and we might become the answer to our own prayers, befriending and mentoring the young people who come into our churches.

*These sources are encouraging to read in full (please copy the links in your browser):*

1. Is your church ready to welcome the new young adults that are having dreams about Jesus?  
Luke Smith, Evangelical Alliance UK, Nov 2025  
<https://www.eauk.org/news-and-views/is-your-church-ready-to-welcome-the-new-young-adults-that-are-having-dreams-about-jesus>
2. Roman Catholic Church in Toulouse, France  
<https://www.premierchristianity.com/features/we-cant-keep-up-with-the-number-of-students-requesting-baptism/18991.article>

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