

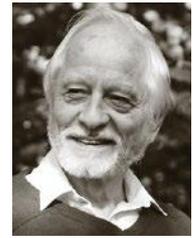
*Dear praying friends in Europe,*

*What a wonderful weekend! 500 German Christians coming together to pray for the country and for Europe. And for the rapid expansion of the Canopy – many of them are willing to engage.*

*But what mattered above all was the way the KING was present, so perceptibly, so near. HE just was there and we were in His presence. A loving community, a family around Jesus.*

*We understood that we have come to a new time, a new season of God's reality among us; He wants to dwell in our midst.*

*This is certainly also true for an international prayer group like "Canopy". Jesus promised to be with us till the end of the world-time. This is more than a weekend, this is Jesus forever. Let's trust and pray!*



Ortwin Schweitzer

## The UK EU referendum - June 23rd

### 'Better together or apart?'- that is the question

If you look closely at the roots of the European Union, you will find Christian politicians wanting to ensure harmony between nations, brought about by shared values and economic cooperation.

Christians are divided on the success and purpose of this growing EU; and in two weeks the United Kingdom is asking its voters to decide whether to remain in or to 'Brexit'.

In a slim lead the 'Vote leave' campaign points to the financial and social cost of giving sovereignty to Brussels - especially at a time of euro and migration crisis.

Most recent general population polls indicate a shift away from the 'remain' campaign, who emphasise the economic and social good membership brings; leaving causing potential further EU fragmentation, and even the break up the United Kingdom.

Whichever side of the debate we are on, we all as European need to pray.

### Please pray that:

- God's will would be done through this vote
- Truth, and sound arguments will be spoken and understood, rather than misleading sound bites.
- The UK National Prayer Breakfast will be a powerful unifying testimony
- UK's Christian heritage (and future, God-willing) would reflect the beauty and hope of our Saviour. In February polls showed 60% of Continentals hoped that "Brexit" would fail.

There are many blessings that we can be thankful for from being a united Europe peace, shared best practices, international aid together.

And there are many needs we can ask God for against the wastefulness of too much bureaucracy, the greed of individuals and nations, political bullying.

***"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this sums up the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)***

Whether UK decides to remain or leave, we are called to live as Christians, reflecting the love Jesus showed us in our relationships with others.

Neighbours will remain neighbours, and should not be treated as enemies.

### Please also pray for

- **National Church leaders**, that they would have wisdom and revelation as they seek to lead their churches and influence the nation for Christ.
- The **Aramean Christians** being persecuted in Syria & Iraq, and when fleeing for their lives in the migrant camps in the EU and neighbouring countries. A group visited this European parliament last week and gave tragic testimony to the violence, persecution and martyrdom they face daily. Pray for organisations like Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Aid to the Church in Need working among the persecuted.
- **The Council of Europe Social Affairs Committee** considering the issue of surrogacy in Europe. This highly contentious draft report currently seeks to permit surrogacy across the 47 member states of the Council. Christian politicians and NGOs are working hard to prevent this being allowed.