

Dear praying friends in Europe,

Perhaps at times like this, for our continent, it is good to remind ourselves of these verses in 1. Timothy 2:1-2 "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."



Even as Christians and Europeans we have been on both sides of the UK referendum debate, whichever country we are from. All our leaders need wisdom and discernment. So let us be praying and remember God's purpose as shown in verse 3 "He wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Ian Jeal

Mum, Dad and Kids

If we come from a loving, married and stable, godly home, we can thank God for this great start in life. However, this is sadly not the experience of the majority.

Our family background forms and informs our whole lives; blessings and curses received in childhood follow us, even beyond conversion to Christ. We should hold fast to one of God's first commands to us all: *"As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."* Genesis 9:7

And our obedience to this command is under attack; in one instance by the attempt to redefine marriage and family to include same sex couples and other variations. Grassroots movements in countries like Croatia, France, Slovakia and Slovenia are resisting this push. They have reaffirmed the natural order of one man and one woman being joined as one to form a new permanent family.

In European politics many Christian leaders have launched the "European Citizens Initiative" (ECI) "Mum, Dad and Kids" (www.mumdadandkids.eu)

Given that many European laws talk about 'the family', this group wants citizens to affirm that it is the traditional family which is meant. If successful the EU institutions are obliged to consider this application. They are calling on us to support them in prayer as they seek to gather over 1 million signatures in the next 6 months. It is a huge task, but we are confident that with the support of Christians from every denomination and community we can overcome the spiritual opposition.

Please commit to pray for wisdom, strength and the means needed to get this ECI across the finish line, so that the European institutions will affirm the definitions of:

- Marriage as *one* man and *one* woman
- Family as father, mother and their children; and that these families are the foundation of our society.

With God's strength we will advance His kingdom in this political battle.

Please also pray for

Post-UK Referendum Fears

On June 23rd voters in the British referendum favoured leaving the EU by 52%. This surprise result has thrown British politics into turmoil; winning leave campaigners have resigned, the main opposition party (Labour/socialists) is fighting a leadership battle, and the British Prime Minister resigned to allow someone else to steer country through the troubled waters ahead.

Financial and currency markets have fallen dramatically, and even European stocks and shares are struggling over the uncertainty of future trade prospects. For better or for worse an enormous shift is taking place in Britain as in Europe. God is shaking the UK and this continent.

Please pray for

- wisdom for leaders running to take David Cameron's place (Theresa May and Andrea Leadsom) and those who will vote for them;
- a solution for the UK relationship with the EU - either a reformed ongoing membership, or a wise exit;
- an end to racism and ultra-nationalism that entangled in the debate.

Paul Moynan