

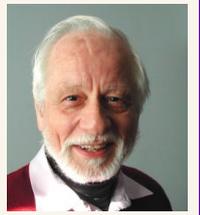


CANOPY OF PRAYER

January #122-2022

Author

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Canopy of Prayer



Dear Praying Friends

The original narrative of Israel is the calling of Abraham in Genesis 12, together with Isaac and Jacob "the fathers". This was later followed by the narrative of the Exodus from Egypt and the passage through the Red Sea. Another high point of the revelation of God and thus of self-definition, which became a narrative in Israel, was Sinai and the 10 Commandments and the great leader Moses. The last great narrative of biblical Israel became King David, whose 6-pointed star represents the nationality of Israel to this day. The last narrative of Israel at all is the re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, whereby "narrative" always meant places and times of God's revelation. Learning from Israel means recognising the revelations of God in history and preserving and praising them as an "eternal" narrative.

What was the founding of the EU in 1949 but a revelation of God? And the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989? Yes, God is making history!

The Future of Europe

Containment

There are many factors that will determine the future of the EU. Much has already been written about them. I am limiting myself here to EU Europe, which numerically (not geographically) comprises the greater part of the countries of Europe. And from the many unanswered questions about the EU, I will pick out just one, the solution of which will determine the continued existence of the EU and thus the future of Europe.

Common or national? Where is the focus?

In September 2016, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, deeply affected by the British Brexit decision in June, invited the heads of government of the countries to Bratislava/Slovakia giving this question as homework to honestly consider: "What still holds the EU together?" (roughly translated). This question was asked honestly in the aftermath of the Brexit shock - and they answered: They wanted to stay together. That was healthy.



In the meantime, the tsunami of migration rolled over the EU in 2016, when the Visegrád states categorically refused community solidarity, on which they are now counting heavily with the threat of Russian border manoeuvres, while at the same time Poland is taking the dispute with the EU Court of Justice to extremes over whether European law takes precedence over Polish law. Juncker's question must be answered anew today: does the EU as a community still exist? And how far can it go? And who comes first: the nation state or the community? Basically!

The faded narrative

Narrative is the name given to an idea that was affirmed by all participants at the time of its foundation. Such a supporting narrative was, for example, the idea of joint production of steel and coal by both countries in 1949, put forward by Schumann (France) and decisively supported by Adenauer (Germany), borne by the willingness to reconcile, not to take revenge as was the case with Versailles after

World War I and as the American Morgenthau Plan had envisaged after World War II. The will of all was to avoid another world war.

This narrative carried through all the years of the Cold War. But then the Eastern Bloc disappeared and the Eastern satellite states of the Soviet Union became independent again and joined the EU on 1 May 2004. Their narrative was: avoid renewed Russian oppression and preserve state national sovereignty at all costs. The extent to which this

was their EU accession narrative can be seen in their reaction to the current crisis with Russia and with Brussels.

Now, however, they are encountering "old states" of the EU, for whom belonging to the EU was experienced as a gradual process of cooperation towards an ever-closer community, without giving up their national identity despite surrendering some state sovereignty.

The new narrative

One almost has to be grateful to the Russians for reviving the original Cold War narrative with their

military build-up and thus opening up an avenue for our Eastern European allies to the primacy of community over national sovereignty. Unity, then, just to avoid war? I say "No!" that would be too little. What matters today is that we as Europeans can only seize the future of Europe in the globalised world in unity. The old narrative of 1949 looked to the past, but the new narrative of the 21st century wants to seize the future.

Prayer

1. Let us give thanks to God for Europe's richness in peoples and gifts.
2. Give thanks for the trust and increasing togetherness of the European states from the EEC to the EC and the EU.
3. Pray for God's mercy on all the self-importance, God-lessness and national and continental egoism of us Europeans.

Update:-

The trial of Dr. Päivi Räsänen and Bishop Juhana Pohjola began in Helsinki this week with the prosecution going in with full force, revealing a determination to make an example of this case. The hearing saw evidence, and both defendants were cross-examined, which they managed well. Another hearing is scheduled for 14th February and a judgement will follow 2-4 weeks later. Let's continue to pray for the defendants, their legal team, the judge and for a just outcome which upholds freedom of speech and religion.

Here is the full press release with more details:

<https://adfinternational.org/live-from-court>

Additional Prayer Points:-

- Let's continue to pray that war will be avoided in Ukraine and that a diplomatic solution can be found which is satisfactory both for Russia and the NATO nations.
- Pray for Hungarians as they prepare for important elections on 3rd April which will have far-reaching effects, not just in Hungary, but in Europe as a whole.

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