



## Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." Jn 1:5 (NLT)*

When God decided to bring life to the earth, darkness was covering the surface of the earth. The first thing He did was to dispel that darkness by speaking His Word, *"Let there be light", and there was light. Gen 1:3.*

Once again, darkness is pushing to cover the earth, particularly in Europe. But the Word of God remains: *"For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." Is 60:2.* God's solution to the invading darkness in Europe is the light of the Gospel. Darkness can never extinguish it. The Word of God, as it was in the beginning, will dispel the darkness.

Jesus is the Light of the world (Jn 8:12). Because He lives in His Church through His Spirit, He has made the Church to be the light of the world. (Matt 5:14). Light is not meant to be hidden, especially in an environment of deep darkness. The Church has the responsibility to shine, and this we can do by living out the Gospel and preaching it. As we proclaim the true Gospel, Christ the Light of the world is revealed, and darkness is dispelled.

In the beginning, the Holy Spirit was brooding over the surface of the waters before God gave the command for the light to shine. In these last days, the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon the Church. Acts 2:1-4. The Church has both God's Word and His Spirit. The responsibility therefore lies on the Church to shine the light that cannot be extinguished by the darkness. The Lord has committed to the Church, "The Great Commission" because God always uses men to accomplish His purposes. This is also the reason why He became a man, to save mankind. Let us therefore as the Church of Jesus Christ in Europe shine the light to overcome the darkness.

### Europe from an African perspective

Some centuries ago, Missionaries were sent from Europe to take the Gospel to Africa. Africa then was seen as the dark continent. Several of these Missionaries died upon arrival, because of sicknesses and diseases, such as malaria. But that did not deter the Mission Organisations or the Churches that sent them from sending more workers.

It was through the persistent efforts of such Mission Organisations and Churches, that the Gospel was carried to several places in Africa. A lot of sacrifices were made by European Missionaries, following in the footsteps of the Master Himself, in laying down their lives so that souls in Africa would be saved.

Today, the African Church is the largest in the world. (Although, sadly, the prosperity gospel is quickly replacing the true Gospel message in Africa. This is an issue on its own). The African Church has grown exponentially.

In contrast, Europe today has become the darkest continent on earth. The continent from where the light of the Gospel was carried with much sacrifice, has been invaded by darkness. Would the African Church in turn send Missionaries to take the true Gospel back to Europe, in the same sacrificial manner that European Missionaries did some centuries ago? European Missionaries paid a very high price for the Gospel to reach Africa. Is the African Church willing to pay a higher price for the Gospel to come back to Europe? That's the challenge the African Church faces.

Unfortunately, the message the Western world is currently sending to African nations is LGBTQ+ rights. While most governments of the countries in Africa are not bowing to this message, they are under a tremendous pressure to comply. Sometimes, aid to African nations is tied to accepting LGBTQ+ rights. It's pathetic to see the nations that once carried the Gospel to Africa now trying to impose views that the Bible clearly defines as being sinful.

In Ephesians 2:1-2, Paul talks about sons of disobedience (some French translations say sons of rebellion). The spirit sweeping across Europe is the spirit of rebellion. This spirit is likened to the spirit of witchcraft in the Scriptures. (1Sam 15:23). It's not surprising that witchcraft is surging in Europe at this moment. Wherever you find rebellion, you will find witchcraft as well.

The open rebellion towards God in Europe is staggering. Governments approve and aid the killing of millions of babies every year. In a continent where we promote human rights, unborn babies are given no rights to live. "The self" has become the god to be worshipped. Everyone has the right to indulge in what the Bible deems as sinful, as long as it satisfies "the self-life". This is the reason why the call to follow Jesus is very clear: *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Lk 9:23.* There is no other way to follow Christ. To embrace the Gospel implies denying the self. The self has to be denied and released to be crucified on the cross. This is the message Europe needs and indeed, the whole world. When the devil spoke to Eve, he told her the lie that is being propagated all over the world: *"... and you will be like God..." (Gen 3:5).* This lie is what is believed in Europe. The self has become the god being worshipped in Europe. People are their own gods.

One day I heard someone say that he prefers eastern religions, because they don't have dogmas. In essence, what he was trying to say is that I don't want

anyone to tell me what to do with my life. I'm free to do what I want to do. It's not really that Europeans are denying the existence of God, rather, they are resisting the change of life that the Gospel message carries.

The Gospel demands a change in lifestyle. That is why the first word John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus Himself proclaimed as they started their ministries was "repent". (Matt 3:1-2; 4:17). Without repentance, the power of the Gospel to transform one's life will be diminished.

Once, while preaching at a wedding in Montpellier, I referred to the fact that the Bible asks the wife to submit to her husband. This brought an uproar in the congregation (there were several non-Christians at that wedding). Later, I learned that the French don't like the word submission. But the Bible calls us to submit our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. You cannot be a true Christian if your life is not in full submission to Him. This is the message that will make a difference in Europe.

Outwardly, it appears Europe is prospering, but deep within the hearts of men and women is poverty—a lack of peace. People indulge in various vices in the quest for peace and joy, which only Christ, the Prince of Peace can give.

Whether it's in denying the existence of God, or in LGBTQ+ issues, the spirit of rebellion against God is manifest in Europe. Intimidation is used against anyone who tries to take a clear stand on the Bible.

But there is hope for Europe. I believe God will raise a generation that will stand on the Word of God and not shy away from it. God's light will shine bright in Europe. The darkness will not be able to extinguish the Light of Christ.

Indeed, the Word of the LORD shall come to pass over Europe: ***"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." Is 60:2***

- Pray for the Church in Europe to arise in boldly declaring the message of the Gospel.
- Pray for the African Church to catch the vision of reaching Europe with the Gospel in the spirit of Christ.
- Pray that the youths in Europe will catch the fire of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and arise and shine it out.

### Europeans United in Prayer Conference Albania

Pray for the 24 people from 10 nations meeting in Tirana from 3-6 May; that we would hear from the Lord what is on His heart for Albania and Europe at this time.

**TO DONATE:** Hebron Europe e.V.,  
IBAN DE53 6129 0120 0488 0210 06  
BIC GENODES1NUE

giving your name and address. Thank you!

Donate