

December #161-2023 Author Joan McPheron International author and teacher of children's and women's programs



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

I've been asked by *Canopy of Prayer* to write a few thoughts from an American perspective regarding how Americans, especially the Christian community, regard Europe.

The first thing that comes to mind is a quote by Mark Twain, famous American author and humorist, "God created war so Americans could learn geography." This quote was given by Twain



when he went on a world tour and realized most Americans on the tour couldn't distinguish one country from another in Europe. It's true, Americans don't know geography very well, but it is also true that we are learning.

We began to learn geography when a worldwide pandemic came in 2020. Wuhan, China, became familiar and as the disease advanced and as nations were affected all across the world more nations became familiar.

Then war came to Ukraine. Another lesson in geography. That taught Americans about Ukraine and the surrounding Eastern European countries: Hungary, Poland, Moldovia.

Our response was to pray. Since 2020 our church has opened its door at 7 a.m. for prayer. We gather to pray for wisdom. What's going on? We read about the sons of Issachar who were given the gift of discerning the times and given knowledge of what to do (1 Chronicles 12:32). So we pray for wisdom and discernment. We pray for our leaders and for those in other countries. We continue to pray to this day.

As troubling as the times are—Americans feel at peace. We also feel a kinship with Europe as most of our ancestors came from "over there." They came here for the freedom this country offers. Now when we think of Europe, we think of it as where Protestant Christianity originated and Catholicism is rooted. But we don't really know what's going on in the living church, the *Ekklesia*, the *called-out ones*. Is it alive in Europe? We don't know. We don't hear much in the news. Who can believe the news anyway? But like the Sons of Issachar, we seek to discern the times, not through media of any type, but through the Spirit speaking in our hearts. We are encouraged as we see the signs of the Spirit moving across the nations. Europe to America and beyond. We don't need geography. We only need to know Him because while the blood of many nations flows in us, if we are covered by the blood of Jesus, we are members one and all of the kingdom/nation of God.

We are encouraged in the American church when we see Christians in Europe and America as well as other nations unified during these last days. The wind of the Spirit is stronger than any world-wide web created by man. True believers are being called all over the world. And they are answering.

So as American Christians at this time in history viewing Europe, we see the stirring up of unity between believers as the Spirit moves in all nations. This unity of the Spirit will overtake any world-wide unity offered in these last days. Let us pray that we have wisdom to discern true unity. This is an American perspective.

Prayer points:

- That all believers in all countries of the world would be united in the Spirit as we pray for end-time revival.
- Just as there will be end time worldwide revival there will be end time worldwide deception. Let us pray that our eyes will be open to see through this deceptive unity.

Ephesians 4:3 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Hebron Europe e.V. – Heibronner Straße 31 – D-76131 Karlsruhe – <u>info@hebroneurope.org</u> Chairperson Nick Pease – Business Manager Oliver Stozek - VR 721 899 Amtsgericht Ulm Bank details: Volksbank Mittlerer Neckar – DE53 6129 0120 0488 0210 06 – BIC GENODES1NUE

Effects of the Israel/Hamas war

In a statement this week, anti-racism officials across Europe have signalled the rising number of hate crimes, hate speech and threats to Jewish and Muslim communities. These include attempted arson on a synagogue in Berlin, more than 1000 antisemitic acts in France and mosques being targeted by vandalism. The EU was founded on the basis of reconciliation between antagonistic neighbours with the aim of working together for a shared future. Pray that this foundational principle can be fostered amongst troubled communities.

Further Prayer

- Pray for the Netherlands as talks take place to form a coalition government after the largely unexpected success of Geert Wilders and his far-right party.
- 2. As Christmas markets open in many towns and cities across Europe, pray that any planned terrorist attacks will be discovered and thwarted.

TO DONATE: Hebron Europe e.V., IBAN DE53 6129 0120 0488 0210 06 BIC GENODES1NUE giving your name and address. Thank you!

Donate

CONTACT: Canopy of Prayer, Ian Jeal, Jill Jeal, Nick Pease and Csaba Szakály info@canopyofprayer.eu www.canopyofprayer.eu