



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

DISCRETIONARY UNITY!

My wife and I served as missionaries in the town of Montefrio in Spain for 10 years. We heard clearly from God that we were not to plant a church but were to support whatever was there. I have spent my 60 plus years involved in charismatic evangelical churches. The only church in Montefrio was the Catholic Church! To me this was a huge challenge!

In Judges 21.3 we read that Israel is missing one of its brothers. This is because the Benjaminites were all but destroyed by the other tribes because of sin. It was time for healing and restoration. This understanding helped me as I attended the Catholic church. There were people there who genuinely were seeking God. My bible says "if you seek Me you will find Me". The priest became a friend, welcoming prayer and worship from various groups within the unique and spectacular surroundings of Iglesia de la Encarnacion. Despite my ongoing struggles with some of the traditions in the Catholic church there was no doubt of God's presence in that place – just like any other church where I have had the privilege to worship.

We've become masters of judging others! Our denominations become better than all the others! Our sins are certainly less! Of course this is so untrue; every church family and denomination have idols they worship, weird nonbiblical traditions and sins that have become acceptable. I have news, dear reader, none of us have got church right. Surely it is time we go back to scripture asking God how the bride of Jesus should look.

In John 17.20-23 we read those powerful words of Jesus as He cried out to His Father that His followers would all be one. This cry for unity is straight from the heart of Jesus. How long can we deny these words, shaping them to what makes us comfortable? Psalm 133 describes how a blessing sits on united brothers in Christ. Surely unity is at the heart of God, there can be no question of it to any bible-believing follower of Jesus.

It has been good in recent years to see church families working together in towns across Europe. But are we truly united? Or is it a nod towards what we know to be the heart of God? Show me a city or town, maybe you can, where the church is truly united. Where every denomination comes together to lift Jesus over their community. Where every church family joins to worship our wonderful Saviour together as one, albeit with different styles.

Revelation 19.7 celebrates that the bride has prepared herself! There has to come a time when the bride, God's church, says "It is time to get myself ready, there's a wedding to take place". Nobody, not even God, is going to 'make' the bride prepare; sure, there will be Holy Spirit's help, but firstly the bride has to make a decision to get ready. Church, there is a decision to be made, there are criteria which have to be met and the bride needs to take the steps.

One of those steps surely has to be unity, not just in words but in action. We are all unique, we do things differently, that's the way God made us – it is so colourful! But we are still one family – just like the tribes of Israel. We've all got it wrong and it is time to sort out our differences, get ourselves right with God and build unity in our towns and cities.

This process starts with you and me!

Let us join together and pray for unity, as Jesus did. Let us encourage one another, taking positive action where God gives us opportunity. May our towns and cities be transformed as the church bears witness to our communities that so desperately need to experience the love of Jesus.

Let us pray "God forgive us for our disunity. Help us, your church, to be united so that the people of my community may know your love and understand the truth that Jesus came to save lives, their lives."



Ramadan

The spokesman of the Al-Quds Brigades, the military-terrorist wing of Islamic Jihad, Abu Hamza, has called for the month of Ramadan to be turned into a "month of terror". In his hate speech, the spokesman not only calls for an escalation of attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Abu Hamza calls on the Arab countries in the region to unite in a multi-front war against Israel. In the meantime, the Israeli army has indicated that it has finalised security precautions for the impending escalation during the Muslim holidays.

(Extract translated from the German website: - Fokus Jerusalem TV)

<https://www.fokus-jerusalem.tv/2024/03/04/islamischer-dschihad-wir-werden-den-ramadan-in-einen-monat-des-terrors-und-der-angst-verwandeln/>

Further Prayer:-

1. Pray that the disputes with farmers across the EU can be resolved for the good of all.
2. Please remain in constant prayer for the candidates for the EU-elections and for those in positions of responsibility in the EU.

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