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Dear praying friends in Europe!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matthew 19:14

Often this scene is pictured with Jesus smiling affectionately with his hand on the head of a small child. But what an object lesson and rebuke this must have been for the disciples! Their attempts to manage Jesus' time and keep away people who would waste their revered master's time turned into a public rebuke. They did not truly understand what was important. In the previous chapter Jesus says: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven" (Matt 18:10). Jesus seems to be saying at the very least, that with innocence, child-like acceptance of truth, pure adoration of their teacher and deep trust, comes intimacy with God. A special revelation of the father is given to them.



Paul Moynan

Protecting Children

Yet our culture sees children primarily as a burden, an expensive nuisance who take up time and effort, distracting us from other activities. One powerful working mother of a newborn recently said to me, that she had to return to work immediately after the birth "otherwise my life would be over". How cruel for her child, and how tragically neglectful on her part.

So when this is multiplied across our continent, we have a generation of neglected children, and financially rich but relationally poor adults. Psychologists demonstrate that neglect is the most difficult abuse to treat; more than physical abuse, and even sexual abuse.

In addition to neglect, the abuse and sexual exploitation of children seems to be reaching epidemic levels - with revenge pornography (posting sexually explicit images of someone without their consent), sexting (sending sexually explicit messages by mobile phone), bullying and blackmail being widely reported among younger and younger children. The eyes and minds of this generation are being polluted by watching unspeakable acts on their home computers and portable devices, making the evil appear normal because it is often seen. We must cry out to God for our children and their purity. Call out for protection, prevention of these crimes online, the release of children held in sexual slavery, and for justice, repentance and reform for offenders.

Please also pray for

- For those fleeing war and persecution in danger en route, in the camps, and awaiting processing. And may those whose aims are harmful or illegal be turned back at the borders.
- Pray for border guards, coastguards and national officers charged with patrolling, assessing asylum claims, providing shelter and food and working through the processes in the frontline countries.

Our Saviour was vulnerable in the womb because of the disgrace of having an unmarried mother, he was in danger from Herod in Bethlehem and on the journey to Egypt, and then from his descendants back in Galilee. New Herods have arisen and seek to steal, kill and destroy, and we must be vigilant. Our continent will be judged on how we treat the most vulnerable among us.

Let us pray

- We thank God for the reduced funding going to international abortion providers following America's reinstatement of the Mexico City policy. We ask God to defeat the initiative of Europeans to try and restore these hundreds of millions of Euros (pro-abortion hashtag #shedecides).
- We pray for families who want to sacrifice a career and financial gain to invest in the raising of their children; and ask that this example may be followed for a healthier Europe.
- We pray for the traditional understanding of family to be upheld in European law; and call on all who support family life to sign the European Citizens initiative, [Mum, Dad & Kids](#) (now in its final few weeks) - it needs several thousand more signatures to reach the 1 million required.