



July 2017 · #026/2

Canopy special edition

WHY NOT?

I. Inspiration for Prayer

What is the basis of my prayer when I begin to pray? It is Psalm 27,8: “You have said: Seek my face! My heart says to you: Your face, O Lord, do I seek.”

So God is waiting for me and for you, whenever and wherever. There is immediate access to HIM my loving Father.

And how to begin? Of course with thanksgiving for this opportunity; and with worship and adoration about his majesty and love. Doing so it makes my heart focused. Now He is my Centre again. My heart becomes quiet.

Let me make a proposal for these coming days of summer vacation: Let us take the opportunity to lay aside our watch and enter timeless eternity. Your personal affairs, your national issues and Europe in its situation: everything suddenly looks solvable, because faith has grown; and faith grows astonishingly quickly the closer I am to my Father's heart. I know and I am sure: Yes, HE can!

So, don't work off your 15 minutes commitment every week as an “obligation” but as your opportunity to bring God's presence into Europe. Fill your heart and soul with God's loving promise: “Europe, my Europe shall be saved!” Fill your heart with it, speak it out over Europe, speak to Europe as God's messenger and mouthpiece: “Europe, you shall be saved, you will be saved, says the Lord, your redeemer.”(Isaiah 54:10)

In doing so, I feel how my heart gets filled with faith and trusting confidence: this change in our continent will happen - from disbelief to faith, from scepticism to following Jesus, from rationalism to the convincing power of signs and wonders. Why not? I ask: Why not?

We will see God at work. The Holy Spirit will change the mentality of the European population from secularism to “seekularism” (seeking Him) Thousands will begin to ask for a new life: thousands of traditional churchgoers, and also thousands who had no religious background.

“Behold, now is the favourable time, Behold, now is the salvation!” (2. Cor. 6,2)

Please, become aware of the signs of this now-time for Europe. Write it down and share it with your friends – and with us, the editors of the Canopy, please!

And let me say this to end with: my prayer, your prayer, our united prayers for Europe are not the reason for God's blessing, but certainly they are the door opener, necessary to let the heavenly blessings be poured out into Europe, into our continent.

Ortwin Schweitzer

II. Information about Europe

The true meaning of "Europe"

Most of us were taught the old Greek legend of Europe, the daughter of Phoenician king Agenor, king of Tyre; how the pagan god Zeus fell in love with her, took the appearance of a bull, abducted her, and disappeared into the sea with her.

At first sight, the word "Europe" beginning with "Eu -" looks Greek, Yet, "Europe" does not mean anything in Greek. It is a fake Greek word.

But, according to the legend, "Europe" was born in present-day Lebanon. It is then reasonable to investigate whether "Europe" could mean something in a Phoenician context. We do not know a lot about the Phoenician language but it was very close to Hebrew. Arguably, Phoenicians and Hebrews would have been able to understand each other like Swedes and Norwegians do nowadays.

The situation was of course very different for the Greeks whose Indo-European language did not allow for easy intercommunication with people speaking Semitic languages. However, the Phoenicians and the



Greeks had something in common. They were sailors and traders. The Phoenicians would surely have asked them where they come from. And the Greeks would have pointed at the West, where the sun sets. We do not know what the Phoenicians called the West but the Arabic word is *yarb*. This word is basically the same as the one meaning "evening" in Hebrew "ערב". And in fact, the link is clear, the sun sets in the evening in the West.

Arguably, when the Greeks would point at the West, the Phoenicians would have said some word like "ערב" and the Greeks would have believed that it was their country's name in Phoenician.

The first letter "ע" is a laryngeal that hardly any Greek would have been able to pronounce. It sounds like a strange, fat "A" coming out of the deep throat. The Greeks might have reinterpreted it as the diphthong they were used to writing with the two letters epsilon and upsilon, "Eu -" which sounded approximately like "ave". "P" is simply a voiceless "B". That the Phoenician "B" would have become a Greek "P" could be explained by the fact that the Greek pronunciation of "B" was very weak, like in Spanish. Most words containing a "B" in Old Greek are pronounced "V" in Modern Greek. The more energetic pronunciation of "P" in Greek could therefore explain that "ערב" had become "Europê" in Greek.

Then the old legend begins to make sense. Lady Europe disappeared into the sea just like the sun seems to dive into the Mediterranean Sea each evening towards the West, seen from the Lebanese coast.

The name of our continent means thus simply "West" or "Evening" and we have inherited it from a language closely related to Hebrew. The Greeks always liked to invent mythological stories based on natural events. But these are just stories without any spiritual relevance – except for those who believe them. We don't.

O.J-Y. CAISOU-ROUSSEAU

The story about the EP-building

Some people believe, because of what they have read, that the European Parliament building in Strasbourg was modelled on the biblical Tower of Babel. This opinion is based on a comparison with the 16th century painting by Pieter Breughel the elder, "Tower of Babel" (1563). But, in the view of archaeologists, the Tower of Babel was far more likely to have been a rectangular ziggurat (a stepped tower). Also used as evidence is an old poster with a similar cartoon image of a circular tower advertising an event called 'Many tongues, one voice' at the Council of Europe (a completely separate organisation and not part of the European Union) but which is claimed to be proof of the architects' intentions.

Apart from this having no connection with the European Parliament, the architects themselves (Architecture Studio of Paris) said that in their planning they "had to preclude Babel". They state that "the Parliament remains an open piece of work, just as Europe itself is and always shall remain, by its democratic nature, a 'work in progress' ". The open aspect on one side of the building is designed to portray both dialogue with the city and also transparency from the outside. (Source: "The European Parliament in Strasbourg" by Pierre-François Mourier)

I realised how much hurt can be caused by uninformed criticism when I was asked to pray for one of the team of architects by his brother, who told me he had received many judgmental messages about the design.

Ian Jeal, Strasbourg

III. Some Prayer topics for the vacations

1. Great blessings for all Christian summer camps for youth and adults wherever.
2. Completion of our Canopy website and then many visitors and new people signing up.
3. Protection against terrorist attacks which is especially vital in these weeks.
4. Special grace for President Macron beginning now with his reforms.
5. Italy and the African refugees and the other EU member states.
6. The growing tensions between Poland and the EU.
7. The "dark cloud" coming from Turkey towards Europe.