

Canopy of Prayer

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contributor

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Dear praying friends in Europe

Today we turn our prayers to Austria. The Spirit of God in me points to Revelation 3:8, a word, which is to apply to Austria: "... for you have little strength yet have kept my word and have not denied my name." Yes, you have passed through decades that were difficult, faithful to the Word of God, and not ashamed of the name of Jesus and proclaiming it. That's why the Lord has dramatically changed your situation from heaven. He says, "Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut." (V. 8a) This is true for your courageous young chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Israel, as well as for the major event "Awakening Austria" in June next year. You will walk through an open door! Be blessed, you key country of Austria!
(Ortwin Schweitzer)

Austria

Political situation:

For a long time Austria seemed to be in the shadow of German-speaking nations. But the land starts to rise and cast shadows itself. Political changes make people listen and split society. But despite some turbulence, the government has high popularity in the polls shortly after one year of government.



Spiritual situation:

The small but significant spiritual revival that went through the country in the 1980s also reached some of the still active spiritual leaders who then had their personal encounter with Jesus Christ. When five free church fellowships merged into a state-recognised religious society in 2013 and thus gained the status of a public corporation, new hope in the hearts of Christians began to re-emerge as a "voice" in this country. An unprecedented demonstration of unity in the body of Christ was the "March for Jesus" in Vienna in 2014 with 12,000 participants, a subsequent "Christ Day" in 2015 in Linz and another "March for Jesus" in Vienna in 2016 with 18,000 visitors of all denominations and many senior representatives. All this made the expectation of spiritual breakthroughs in the country even higher.

Given the spiritual developments, we asked ourselves two questions:

1. Why was it that such spiritual changes could happen in Austria?
2. What is Austria's responsibility so as not to slow down or even lose this development?

The answer to the first question lies in the biblical prayer for the politicians (I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made... 1 Tim 2: 1).

The answer to the second question is, biblically speaking, the relationship with Israel (whereby the term "Israel" is ambiguous and can mean the country, the people, and the covenants and calling).

In response to our prayers for the politicians, we see that Austria's relationship with Israel is maintained at the highest political level. Thus Netanyahu sees in Chancellor Kurz a "true friend of Israel and the Jewish people". He quoted Kurz, who had said that Austria was not only a victim, but also a perpetrator: "These are brave/courageous and bold words". The responsibility lies therefore also in the body of Christ, not to close the national, but also the personal processing of the guilt of the Holocaust. Growing interest in the historical secular and spiritual significance of Israel within the free church communities shows that God is in the process of turning back to the people and land of Israel.

That's why there are 3 important prayer requests:

- above all ... for kings and authorities ... (1 Tim 2: 1-2);
- expectation of spiritual breakthroughs;
- That the political relationship with Israel remains not only a diplomatic duty, but also a relationship of the heart.

No excuse for synagogue massacre



Let us remember the Jewish community facing anti-Semitism. "There is no excuse for the barbaric shooting inside the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh which left eleven people dead on Saturday", European Coalition for Israel (ECI) Founding Director Tomas Sandell said on Sunday.

Please also pray for:-

- **Poland:** the European Court of Justice has made an interim ruling, ordering Poland to suspend its new law requiring Supreme Court judges to retire earlier at the age of 65. It also requires Poland to reinstate any Judges it has already forced to retire. Critics of the law say that it erodes the rule of law and is intended to give the right-wing Law and Justice party (PiS) control of the judiciary. It is not a question of policy, it is a fundamental question of democracy.
- **Italy:** On October 23rd the European Commission rejected the budget submitted by Italy. It has asked Rome to produce a different one by November 13th to address the country's rising budget deficit and not to break EU Stability and Growth Pact rules.

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