

# Canopy of Prayer

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contributor  
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## Dear praying friends in Europe

### Metanoia. Changing our ways. Repentance

When we hear "repentance" many immediately think of what we have to surrender to God in order to escape his punishment. The risen Christ, however, puts it this way: "So be zealous and repent! Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:19,20).

Repentance therefore is not a dark business, but the recognition that He Himself comes to me to restore fellowship with me again. I only have to open the door and let him come in.

This happens by giving up my self-justification and giving it to him. My defiance is the bolt on my heart.

What applies to the individual also applies to Europe. He comes of his own free will. He wants to have fellowship with us. "Europe shall be saved".

**Ortwin Schweitzer**

## Where is a God like YOU?

Precisely on this point, when it comes to transgressions and sin, the difference between other religions and the Christian faith is faultlessly clear. From pagan religions to the high religions of Hinduism or Islam, or even Judaism, it is man's attempt to make himself good to God / the gods through performance and sacrifices, including the killing of one's own children. But the permanent question remains: was it enough?



The gospel is called "Good News" because it says that God is making his way to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. As God Himself, as the Son of God, he puts an end to all religious drudgery by bringing together once and for all all the transgressions of men before God, and - listen! - sacrifices himself to God. Incredible! But true; and forever valid before God. God solves the problem of sin from his side. That's the Christian faith. Where is a God like YOU? And whoever God has acquitted, knows this: that it is valid for all eternity.

The confession of sin, the open admission of transgressions is therefore to turn back into the arms of the merciful, into the arms of the father like a lost son (Luke 15:11-32). Is there anything better? "There is life and bliss," says Luther.

What applies to the individual also applies to communities, to groups of people such as families, cities, countries, and also to Europe. God, as we hear in the Bible, sees these communities like individuals. He speaks to them as "you" to: "You Moab, you Capernaum etc." and trusts them as corporate identities to react to his call to penance as Nineveh did. (Jonah 3:5ff.) Or Laodicea (Revelation 3:19). So God also calls Europe as a corporate identity, as a community: "Turn back! Turn back to Me as before. Leave your many idols and put me again at the centre of your actions, in this way I want to dwell with you again, and peace instead of conflict should shape your life together."

But how can a whole community repent? Answer: God does not look at the percentages of the citizens, but at the hearts of those who stand in the gap for their people. These are the ones who stand as priests for their community before God and before man for God.

Europe needs prayer like never before. "Only the people who pray can still succeed."

## Prayer

- Give thanks for all who intercede for Europe.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to pray from the heart what we bring before God.
- Let us pray that the mercy light of forgiveness will once again rise like the sun over the nations of Europe.



### European Union of Prayer in Bucharest

Thank you for your prayers! Give thanks for God's leading, guiding and provision for this gathering of representatives from 15 nations.

We discussed and prayed over family issues, the rise of populism, Israel, as well as hearing from some Romanian brothers and sisters about their history and current concerns, and had the opportunity to meet a Romanian Member of Parliament, one of the leaders of their regular Prayer Breakfast. We enjoyed a blessed time of fellowship as we joined our Romanian guides for prayer walks in the city and a joint church meeting.

### Additional prayer points:-

1. **Pray for** the people of the Irish Republic, who are deeply affected by the uncertainties of Brexit.
2. **Pray for** the start of the campaigns for the European elections (due to take place from 23-26 May); for an increased engagement by European citizens and good participation in the elections.

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