

Canopy of Prayer

November #96-2020

Author

Tunne Kelam

Former Member of the European Parliament (Estonia)



Dear Prayer Partners in Europe

Do countries have "a soul"? We read in the "Old Testament" how God permanently is talking to Israel as to a person. He challenges "Israel" to return and to repent. But not only Israel is addressed that way; God talks also to Egypt and Babel, to Sidon and Tyre. Jesus did the same (Matt. 11:23; Luke 19:41f) when he prophesied over Capernaum or cried over Jerusalem. What does this mean? Obviously communities also have an identity. Everybody knows this when we speak about "the atmosphere" of a city. Sometimes we even call it "the Spirit of ...". This is very close to the "soul". At least we feel something of the "corporate identity" of a given community.

God has created individual persons and corporate "persons". He can therefore address them as a whole body and He expects their answers. As the Creator of all, He has a good plan for both – the individual and the corporate identity. And this is true for sure also for Europe and its soul.

Ortwin Schweitzer

Dear fellow prayers

The Corona pandemic that continues to dominate AD 2020 cannot be seen only as a health problem or an economic and social disaster. Did this disastrous flu really come out of the blue? This type of external problem serves often as an incentive to develop an insight into its internal meaning and purpose. What could be God's message to us? In the past, God has used powerful instruments to catch our attention which had been directed elsewhere, to warn us about the path we are following.



The whole world has been impacted by the virus. All of Europe has been damaged, regardless of whether the nations suffering from Corona are members of the EU or outsiders, or whether they are wealthy or poor.

This year has created an unexpected, unique situation. The whole world was forced to stop its routine rushing. We were forced to realise that progress, as it is generally understood, is not automatic. We were forced to realise that steady development towards a better economy and fairer social conditions is not necessarily a rule.

I believe that God has provided the whole world with a time-out. (This may be easier for richer countries than for those who struggle much more for their daily living.) We were suddenly taken down from the everyday carousel of working, consuming, having fun, travelling around the globe, enjoying ourselves. Instead, we were given a rare opportunity to find out where we are, to orient ourselves – what is our direction, what is the deeper meaning of our existence beyond mere consumption and fun. And to address the main question - are we healthy? Not only physically but also spiritually, morally? Being forced to check our physical well-being every day, the added value is the chance now to assess also our existential situation.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, later to become Pope Benedict, diagnosed the state of our continent at the beginning of the 21st century. His conclusion was - Europe is sick. Its health is damaged because "having reached the climax of its external success, Europe has become internally hollow. In a way, its blood circulation has come to standstill." According to Ratzinger, secularism has become the general common denominator of Europe, which has replaced its traditional religious and cultural foundations with the modern civilisation of technology and commerce. As a result, Europe has lost its identity.

Let us pray to God for the ability to understand the message He is sending through the Corona pandemic.

Let us pray for ability to assess critically our situation and to ask for Jesus' help through repentance and religious revival. Many people think that when a vaccine becomes available, we can leave this anomalous Corona episode behind us and resume "business as usual" as quickly as possible. Such an assumption would be a fatal mistake.

Let us pray that European leaders can rediscover the diagnosis of the founding father of united Europe Robert Schuman: "Democracy is Christian or it is non-existent. Because a non-Christian democracy will end in tyranny or anarchy".

Let us pray that God will pour out His reviving spirit so that we can perceive and restore the soul of Europe.



Ukraine

- **Thankfully, the fighting in the east of the country has decreased.**
- **For the first time in the history of Ukraine an unprecedented number of people of faith were elected to the different levels of government to be salt and light. Almost 1000 candidates met before the elections at forums where they were encouraged by the Word of God and prayed for by Christian leaders.**

Additional Prayer Points:-

1. Pray for all those who have been affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Greece; for those injured, bereaved or made homeless and for the ongoing rescue operation.
2. Pray for the situation in France after the killing of a teacher, followed by more attacks and murders, and the vilification of the President, all caused by Muslims offended by cartoons of the prophet Mohammed.

CONTACT Canopy of Prayer,
Ortwin Schweitzer, Ian Jeal,
Corrie Oosterhuis
info@canopyofprayer.eu
www.canopyofprayer.eu

DONATION Waechterruf e.V.,
IBAN DE73 6129 0120 0464 0500 06
BIC GENODE31NUE
Use "Project 2100", Name and Address