

Europe needs our prayer!

Week 5: Proclamation



for our movements and communities in Europe – Europe needs our prayer!

Proclamation

What should we proclaim concerning Europe? In the Bible we read about proclamation for liberty (Lk 4:18), about proclaiming Christ, His name and the Gospel of the Kingdom (Is 52:7). We are also to ‘proclaim the Lord’s death until he returns’ (1 Cor 11:26).

Moreover, things whispered in the dark will be proclaimed from the housetops (Lk 12:3)! Today scandals, fake news and dark deeds are broadcast to the world via rooftop antennae, internet and social media.

In the battle for Europe’s soul, we can begin by proclaiming God’s purposes for the peoples of Europe. For it is always His will for His will to be done, for His Kingdom, His rule, to come in Europe as in heaven. By proclaiming God’s purposes, we reject the fatalism and determinism that destines Europe for decline and apostasy.

We are to proclaim truth over lies, love over hatred, life over death, compassion over indifference, freedom over addiction, transparency over deception, integrity over corruption, faithfulness over permissiveness, purity over depravity, generosity over greed, hospitality over xenophobia, justice over injustice, respect over racism and true worship over idolatry.

We proclaim that truth will ultimately prevail. We proclaim that there is only *one* unshakeable kingdom; that all ‘-isms’ defying God’s truth – rationalism, materialism, nationalism or humanism – will one day be shaken.

We proclaim renewal in the western church and reformation in the Eastern Church. We proclaim the gates of hell will not prevail against God’s church. Hallelujah!

Jeff Fountain (Director of the *Schuman Centre* for European Studies)

The Netherlands

In the year that I was born, Europe had just had ten years of peace after World War II. In our village one man was executed, because he had accommodated a Jewish refugee.

I also grew up with the awareness of the evil of communism, specifically the iron curtain. Although the outside world was a dangerous, threatening place, the village where I grew up was a very safe surrounding.

That I was not just living in The Netherlands became clearer to me at secondary school, when we learned three more languages: English, German and French.

But then the world changed completely, I never thought it possible that the iron curtain really would disappear. At the end of the 90s we visited Kiev and Crimea for two months. And the following years we visited a variety of countries in and outside of Europe.

Today I can say, I am fully bi-cultural Dutch/Frisian, but I also consider myself to be a European. And I feel privileged. With my passport I can easily travel through almost the whole of Europe. For a socially successful European citizen Europe it is *gemakkelijk*, easy. If we want, we can just take the car and drive somewhere. From the Dutch perspective, I think I can say that we love the freedom that ‘Europe’ has brought us. Freedom to live, to move.

But ambivalence is growing. We do not want a Europe if it asks too much, when it heads in the direction of a controlling system over our lives. We feel it as a loss of our identity. It causes a lot of discontent. It seems that we have lost our anchor.

Pray that the Netherlands will realize that it is (almost) wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Pray that the church of The Netherlands will awaken and turn to the Lord to buy gold refined in the fire.

Fedde Ypma (The Netherlands)