

Europe needs our prayer!

Week 4: Metanoia, repentance



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

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 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.

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

But who opens the door for Europe? – We do!

And how? By giving a voice to Europe naming all the sins of omission, as well as the active sins, laying down, crying, and possibly weeping. And God hears us when we step into the breach before God like priests for the people or for individual politicians.

Let the one to whom it is given come before God and talk to Him as if He were the continent Himself at that moment, and formulate the words, petitions, repentances, etc. in a personal way ("God, I am ashamed..."). This is possible because God addresses countries, like people, as "you". ("You Babel, you Moab ..."). So they can answer Him as a corporate identity.

One more conclusion: Our repentance does not save Europe. What can save is only the blood of the crucified and abandoned Jesus. The Crucified and Risen Christ is the basis of all hope for Europe.

Ortwin Schweitzer
(European Prayer Network „Canopy of Prayer“)

My Europe

I remember, it was in 1987 when our government made it possible to apply for a "World Passport". The WORLD opened up to us. Our vision of what the West would look like was very much influenced by Communist propaganda. But the Hungarians had a joke: "Where does the West stand? On the edge of an abyss. And Communism? One step further!" And to be honest, Hungary was indeed the least oppressive country beyond the Iron Curtain.

Then the political changes came. There were two main goals: to join NATO and the European Union. The politicians made us believe that within a few years our living standards would be as high as in the West. Nothing was further from the truth, and soon people started to be disappointed. After two decades of alternate ruling by Socialists and Conservatives, finally the former liberal, now "illiberal" Fidesz Party of Viktor Orbán received a 2/3 majority which it has kept for the last eight years while systematically destroying democratic values. Huge bill boards have been shouting "Stop Brussels!" by which they say we don't accept that the EU should intervene in our domestic issues. As a result, a majority of the people think negatively about the European Union. As a pro-European, with a saddened heart I must say the EU failed to prevent a member state being preyed on by an authoritarian regime. Our prospects are "not too rosy".

Prayer for Hungary

- for a more balanced political system and media; a strengthened opposition;
- for our society to be freed from hatred and fears caused by propaganda;
- for economic development, including the improvement of work conditions and especially higher salaries;
- for the education and health care system to be restored after so many years of systematic demolition.

Csaba Szakály, Hungarian Representative of "Christ for all Nations"