



PRAYER LETTER 54

ACO-France, one of six partners of ACO Fellowship, is suggesting this prayer. It considers its mission as being a bridge between French Protestant Churches, especially the ones which had allowed the birth of ACO in Alsace-Lorraine one century ago, and its sister and brother churches in Iran, Syria, Lebanon, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. In the name of the Gospel which unites us as a big family, ACO tries to be a tool for testimony, communion and solidarity.

Introduction to the prayer

Elections and the war in Ukraine have been taking center stage in France.

The churches asked questions important to them to the different candidates on various topics: the way the weakest people are treated (*migrants, handicapped people, sick people*), what measures are intended to reduce climate shock, promote education, define Europe's future, and so on. Yet many church members voted for candidates of the extreme right who promised France's salvation in moving away from Europe and in being opposed to foreigners.

The European and liberal project won, but concern rises about political forces which are looking to seduce voters with a speech of exclusion and national preference.

Russia's war against Ukraine has been the first war on European grounds in decades. Threats of using nuclear weapons and of spreading this war throughout the world are being brandished regularly.

War is about destroying, killing, menacing, creating sufferings, sowing hatred for generations.

As Christians we need to remember again and again that our fight to promote the Kingdom of peace and love promised by our Lord is a compelling necessity.

Prayer

Lord, your love expands to all the people, you invite women and men to enter the covenant of love you offer. For you there are no more Jews, nor Russians, nor Ukrainians, nor Syrians, Lebanese, Iranians, Swiss, Dutch nor French!

Your Gospel of Liberation is being transmitted to us in specific cultures and traditions, old and new! We are aware that our mind and our heart are limited. Help us recognize your Gospel at work in other cultures and in situations different from ours. Help us also to remain vigilant to identify and fight the spirit of the evil where it acts.

Lord, enlighten us, give us discernment! We need to rediscover the liberating power of Christ's love in every culture, for each generation! Help Churches become meeting places, places of mutual understanding, of truth, of liberation!

Indeed, you have always invited us to invent words, gestures, commitments so that everyone around us wishes to draw from the source which gives us our strength.

We are unable to do everything, show us the places you want us to speak and act in.

Your Son Jesus Christ showed us that no sacrifice is vain. You invite your people to follow paths of hope and love. Help us take those paths.

Amen.

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