

Challenge of Europe

by George Verwer

Europe is a mission field with many unreached people, and there is a need for a proactive approach to reach them with the gospel.

Duration: 43:19

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, John 4:34

Topics: "Europe"

Description

In this sermon transcript, the speaker begins by discussing the importance of relaxation and taking breaks in the life of a committed Christian. They mention a book called 'Paste of New Wine' by Keith Miller, which emphasizes the continual commitment of oneself and one's problems to God. The speaker also mentions Paul Turnier and his plea for the body of Christ to prioritize prayer for the 50-70 window, which covers Europe. They highlight the presence of nominal Christians in Europe and the potential for rapid conversion and church growth among them. The sermon concludes with quotes from Stanley Jones, emphasizing the opportunity for God to use our circumstances to make us creative.

Transcript

I came across a little book that I used to use all the time 25 years ago. This is my Verwerk quote book. And I thought I'd read one or two quotes before I share with you some of these thoughts about Europe.

I think most of you were there Monday morning when I shared answers to prayer concerning Germany. We might pray more about that later on. The weekend before I was in Spain, and it was a visit to Spain for the 25th anniversary of decision started by John Blake, who I didn't really know very well, but we corresponded for 25 years.

He says he met me in Italy and was impacted by my prayer and that influenced him the rest of his life. In 1990, Billy Graham wrote their office and said, it's all over for you. We're closing our offices around the world.

And John Blake said, no, we're going ahead. They became independent, raised their own money. A lot of it from within Spain and just had a phenomenal ministry there.

Amazing. And it partly inspired me to share what I'm sharing this evening. But here's a quote from Stanley Jones.

I think he was considered one of the greatest preachers in India. Methodist, I believe, there, Kenny. And we were together at the Merriman Convention.

Just very briefly, I think he went to be with Jesus. He wrote, you needn't accept your circumstances as from God, but you can accept them as an opportunity for God to use them to make you creative. I often get discouraged about my circumstances.

And I just thank God for that little quote. Years ago, I guess 20 years ago, I don't remember to be exact, I used to carry this around with me. And if you listen to messages from the 70s, which I'm sure most of you don't, you'll get a lot of great quotes.

And if you read my books, you'll find the best part of the books are the quotes that I took from other people's books. But there's certainly some amazing quotations that I've gleaned from different books that I read. Some of them are a bit long.

The whole thing is just disintegrating and falling apart. And I just thank God for the input of so many people into my life. This is one of my favorites from H.A. Hodges.

It's about when you start to feel that you're losing your initial fervor that you had right after your conversion. I've had the privilege of being introduced, by the way, as George Fervor. It's always encouraging.

This fervor is especially characteristic of beginners. And drying up should be welcomed as a sign that we are getting beyond the first stage to try to retain it or to long for its return in the midst of dryness is to refuse to grow up. It's to refuse the cross.

By our steady adherence to God, when the affections are dried up and nothing is left but the naked will clinging blindly to him, the soul is purged of self-regard and trained in pure love. Can anybody ever remember me quoting that? How are your memory? There it is. Three free books for Chaco.

Let me just read one or two more. Legend has about John when criticized for playing with a tame partridge, answered, the bow that is always at full stretch will soon cease to shoot straight. Everyone needs relaxation.

And the more he is dedicated to his own job, the more he will need it. I remember when the book by a guy named Keith Miller hit the Christian world. It hit Wheaton College like an atomic bomb called Taste of New Wine.

Most people would never even heard of the book today. And this is a quote I took from his book. So the totally committed Christian life is a life of continually committing oneself and one's problems day by day as they are slowly revealed to his own consciousness.

I found that very, very significant. Here's one I used to give a lot from Paul Tournier. How many have ever heard of Paul Tournier? Amazing.

Lots of readers here. He was a psychiatrist from Switzerland. This is from his brilliant book called The Strong and the Weak.

I picked this book up a few months ago again. Just happened to find it. Any O.M. base is a place to find old books, by the way.

It's amazing what you'll find in O.M. bases. Zobington, I think, must have one of the most interesting libraries. But here's something that he wrote on the subject of sex that really helped me.

Too often when we speak of sin and its power, we are suspected of pessimistic exaggeration. It goes on to say, If the Church really wants to recover its influence, it must become realistic again. The atmosphere of mystery and shame in which it helps to envelop the whole problem of sex is as harmful as the smutty jokes of the moral people, the double meanings of the cynics, or the advice of the psychologists who advocate unrestrained surrender to the impulses of instinct.

Dynamite. Let's pray. Father, we thank you for the different people who have impacted our lives, impacted our fellowship, impacted our churches through their writings, through their sermons.

We want to continue to be vessels that can carry truth and blessing even to the ends of the earth. Lord, our hearts are still stirred at the thought of the death of our sister Bonnie Witherall. We do lift up Gary, and we pray that there would be supernatural grace for those laboring in that part of the world.

There's a lot of other heartbreaking news coming our way. We just ask, Lord, increase our vision. And give us wisdom.

Lord, there's so much in your word, not just Proverbs, but many other places where it's clear that wisdom is important. And we ask for that wisdom that comes from above, which we know will be surrounded by the fruit of the Holy Spirit. And help us to take steps of faith in the light of what we hear this evening.

In Jesus' name, amen. The challenge of Europe. Ten reasons why you should consider giving your life to work in Europe.

In the 40th anniversary of OM, we've been reviewing our life and ministry. And I realize that though my priority has always been Asia, the 1040 window, and especially the Muslim world, that in God's providence, he mainly chose me to minister in Europe. And I ministered in almost every single nation in Europe, many of them over 30, 40 times over the last 43 years since we went to Spain.

And I guess in God's providence, going to Madrid just helped remind me and helped refresh me of the European vision. My wife flew on a propeller plane into Madrid only seven or eight months after we were married, all on her own. For some reason, I sailed on the QE2 to France, I think partly to buy a cheap car.

I heard that cars were expensive in Spain and cheap in Paris. And I bought a little piece of junk in Paris that didn't even make it to Spain without its engine blowing up near Marseille, partly because I decided to go over the mountain instead of the sensible route through the valley. And yet, amazing enough, as I drove toward Madrid, Adrena landed in that airport, and that's the same airport we landed at just the other day.

It will be replaced soon. But Barajas Airport has been serving Madrid. It keeps growing ever since we ever met each other there as young newlyweds 42 or 43 years ago.

But I realized that in recent years, in OM in general, we have not been very outspoken about Europe. I'm sure some have. I'm sure our brothers and sisters in France, when they take meetings like on furlough, they're speaking about France.

And I know our brothers and co-workers in Austria, of whom there's only a few, are presenting the challenge of Austria. And I hope Jonathan, who takes some meetings, is still presenting the challenge of Europe. The challenge I have that I'm sharing, which will also go by CD and tape around the globe and, I don't know, maybe on the Internet, is appealing more to your mind than to your emotion.

I'm probably not in a very emotional mood anyway right now for a number of reasons. But God just brought these thoughts to my mind and I wrote them down on this piece of paper. And so I share them with you with the hope that you will pass this message on to others.

Maybe you feel called to Turkey. By the way, part of Turkey is Europe, so we include Turkey in this challenge. Maybe you are just totally committed to work in Asia or on the ships or in your home office.

That's fine. But I'm sure God is going to bring people across your path who would be challenged about Europe. I think we're missing a lot of people for missions because we're presenting these 1040 countries and Muslim countries.

Most people are frightened by that challenge. Most people who have short-term experiences in those places do not return, including OM people. Let's be realistic.

And I think we need to look at other options and especially options for Anglo-Saxons. Now, not everybody here is an Anglo-Saxon. We don't want to leave you out.

But I really believe especially Anglo-Saxon Americans, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders should consider Europe. Anglo-Saxon South Africans should consider Europe because the truth is many Anglo-Saxon people do not become very successful missionaries in Asia and in 1040 window countries. In fact, there's quite a lot of negative reports and people returning after trying for a couple of years to crack Arabic just to return to the United States and give up.

There are plenty of success stories as well. So I'm not in any way putting that vision down. I'm just wanting to put Europe on the map in our praying and in our mission thinking.

And it's very much linked with the fact that Europe is now filled with Muslims and people of all different cultures who are generally much more accessible than people in their own countries. Now, we love people to go to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is loaded with Christians from all over the world.

I don't know how many of them are witnessing. When they do witness, they seem to end up in jail. We've had a few fleeing jailbirds join us on the team here.

And yet Saudis are pouring into Europe. They come for vacations and holidays and very few of them are ever approached with the gospel. Quite a few of them are wealthy, not necessarily found in the street cafes, more likely found in some ritzy hotel.

Anyway, I'm getting a little ahead of myself there. And so let me try to give you my list. The first reason is because often one can be more effective in a closer cultural situation.

If you are an Italian-born American, why don't you give some thought to going back to Italy? It has about 2% as much witness as the United States and the Italian community in the United States. Italy, and many places, by the way, claim this, so it's a bit ridiculous, claims to be the graveyard of missionaries. And yet Italy is a place where quite a few Americans have proven to be very effective.

Quite a few British people have been very effective. And I believe most Anglo-Saxons, and we're not limiting it to that, can more easily learn these languages. It's just like Koreans beating their brains out to learn English when they go to some of these Central Asian countries, isn't it true? And they seem to pick up the language rather quickly.

There's a difference between languages that are just totally off the charts, like Finnish and Hungarian, and other simpler languages like, say, Spanish or French, but that varies depending on your own language and whether you're from California or Korea. So I think there's a lot happening in missions today that's emphasizing the need to reach people who are close by. There have been phenomenal British missionaries in France.

I've followed some of them for over 40 years. They disciple French people. French people get linked to them.

I remember Larry Gannon, a converted drunk out of California, a bizarre guy whose French was horrific. But when I've gone back to France, I've found French people turned upside down in a church planted that has grown because of Larry Gannon. He, by the way, is one of the first missionaries I ever met when I landed in France to buy this car.

And he's with Jesus, but he used to cook at some of the early OM conferences. He was a professional cook and was powerfully saved from his alcoholism. I could give many other examples, but we don't have time to show the effectiveness of people going to cultures that are somewhat similar to their own and yet very, very unreached.

There's examples even here in Britain. Bill Batman, who founded an organization that was one of the first groups to welcome me when I came to the UK. He was from the United States, and yet he was in a culture that was somewhat similar.

And I still find people today who appreciate Bill Batman. What about R.T. Kendall? Do you think he was an effective American missionary to Great Britain? He wouldn't think of himself as that. Actually, in Europe, it's better not to be thought of as a missionary.

Missionary is not an acceptable word in European culture. You can get some other name, but I think in some cases, even people with the name missionary have been effective. And they've often been church planters.

Some of them, to me, have stayed as pastors too long. And I've wondered about that, especially in connection with France. But they have had an effective work.

And often they've been involved in training nationals, encouraging nationals, and helping nationals. It would be French nationals or Dutch nationals or Italian nationals to, of course, get on with a job in their own country. And my vision is that these people should work their way out of a job and let those from that country take up the load, just as we've seen to a large degree in places like India.

The second reason I have, these reasons are not in order of importance, is that when we're working in Europe, we no longer have this endless criticism that we're too expensive. Now, for many of you, this may sound irrelevant, but I'll tell you it's not irrelevant to the people giving the money. It's not irrelevant to business people.

Why has K.P. Yohannan's thing grown from a few hundred people to 6,000 workers? Because people want value for money. And when they can mobilize and sponsor 100 Indians for the price of three or four American families, believe me, some people are going to vote to put their money that way. Now, this is a huge controversy.

If you read my book, *Out of the Comfort Zone*, where I deal with this, you realize I'm in the middle. O.M. is in the middle because we have supported nationals from day one, before we had our policy of everybody finding their own finance. Before we ever had that, we had the policy of supporting nationals.

That goes back to 1958 in Mexico. And it was in Europe, as we, I think, got more mythologically smart, guided by the Lord, we felt it was better for people, as much as possible, to raise their own support. As soon as I got to India, I threw the policy completely out the window.

I had a lot of authority back then. And we started to support Indians the same way we had supported Mexicans. And a lot of people to this day don't understand the differences that we had in different countries and different cultures.

This is still a huge debate, and there are quite a few churches now that will not support any missionaries from their own country. They feel all their money should go for projects or for nationals. And some of those people will be listening to this tape.

God bless you. They are leaving Europe completely out. Because when an American comes to Europe, or when an Englishman goes to France, generally they're living on the same level as Europeans, at least what some people would call middle class Europeans.

You're not going to hire a French person to do evangelism at the price that you can hire an Indian brother or sister. It's a different culture. It's a different economy.

It's not saying one is better than the other. It's just the reality. And I believe economics, this is only one of my ten points, but economics is a factor.

And some people who are working in some of these countries where it's so inexpensive for nationals to carry on the work, they actually get very discouraged and decide they'd rather go home and just send money. In fact, that message is going to some churches. Don't send us any people.

We don't want any of your people. Just send us your money. It gets very complex, to say the least.

There are a lot of countries where people from different cultures who are accustomed to a certain lifestyle will discover they can live in that country and their lifestyle will be beneath many of the people in that country. I'm not just speaking about one or two. The third reason, and I think we must consider Europe in a more proactive way, it is that it's the only continent in the entire world where there is no major church.

Now, we have some church growth in Europe. We have individual churches growing. Certainly the church in Albania has been growing.

It started from nothing 12 years ago, so it's growing. It's still a very small minority of people, despite all the wonderful stories, and that hit me very hard when I went to Albania. But overall, the church in Europe is shrinking.

The statistics, and I've read some more of them today, are just very, very discouraging. Now, there are encouragements. No one is saying, for example, in Britain, that the percentage of evangelicals within the body is shrinking.

That seems to be increasing a bit. A little hard to measure that, in my view. But I'm convinced with all my heart that the European continent needs help.

We need to put out the Macedonian call. And if it's Canadians, if it's Brazilians, if it's Americans, Koreans, of course, they seem to be going to almost every country in the world. I myself prefer to see them going to Central Asia and some of the Muslim lands, but the Holy Spirit directs different people in different ways.

When they shared with me about the present situation in Spain, I was just overwhelmed. The church has been growing in Spain. There are encouragements, but it's still so small.

In fact, between the airport and where we were going to preach, John Blake picked me up himself. He just spun out all these statistics about Spain. The greatest growth in Spain has been among the gypsies.

And Spain is a needy mission field. I was in Greece in the early part of the summer. I mean, Greece is probably the most unreached nation almost in all of Europe, more than Albania, just to the north.

And the very fact that so many bear the name Orthodox Christian actually makes it even more complex. So Europe is a mission field. Look at all the people of Greek background in America.

Why don't some of them return to their native Greece? Some do. And some of them, from my short experience in Greece, are proving to be quite effective. Another reason is that we have so much.

Is this the fourth? I don't know if anybody's keeping a list because I'm jumping around on my list. There's such tremendous freedom in Europe. We don't know how long this is going to last.

We don't know how long before we have a Bali bombing or a Kenyan. Wasn't that just a big thing just in Kenya? And before we have a September 11th kind of bomb here somewhere in Europe or suddenly people are starting to get shot on the doorways of clinics in Paris and Brussels. It may happen, especially if this war breaks out.

But right now there's phenomenal freedom, especially to reach the Muslims. This vision I'm sharing for Europe is multifaceted in that I want to see us reaching Europeans of all kinds. Many Muslims now consider themselves Europeans.

Many Muslims here in Britain consider themselves British. Many are British, so it is good to consider them British. And we need to watch our language in contemporary culture.

But I believe as soon as possible we need to take greater advantage of this phenomenal freedom we have to talk to people of all religions and share within the gospel. Now I know in some cases they don't seem to be very responsive, but I don't think we've done enough to really make a final decision about the response back. The Iranians certainly are responding to the gospel.

Some Arabs have responded to the gospel. And they're ones and twos. And if you consider the size of Europe and you consider how many churches there are, even though the church is small, I believe there are more people who know Jesus in these churches from some of these backgrounds than we realize.

And it's a huge, huge challenge. See, here's the thing that I'm really struggling with. OM has now become a very high-risk organization.

We are under big pressure, I can tell you. Very big pressure to pull our Americans out of the Muslim world. The decision has to be made by the movement.

It has to be made by area leaders, field leaders. It's a huge discussion that's going to go on in the coming days, especially after this death. And we have already people in the press, like one Catholic priest, who said this death was unnecessary because they were warned, if you proselytize, it's going to bring difficulty.

Somebody quoted that from the press on the phone to me today. We are not surprised by these comments. And our people who are on the field, most of them know of the dangers, living in Kabul, living in some of these other places.

Some of them also know that if they went home and lived in New York City, they'd also be in danger. London has a rapist running around the outskirts. How many people is he up to? Is it 11? Is it 12? It was just another one that they decided wasn't the serial rapist.

It was another guy just doing this horrendous deed. But at the same time, as we attempt to witness to Muslims in some of these other countries, the risk is greater. I am completely committed to going forward in all these countries.

I don't want people to misunderstand. But does it make sense if we send so many people out? It's a high-risk situation where even sharing Christ, in some cases, is getting difficult. Don't try to tell me sharing Christ in Kabul is easy.

It's not easy. Some are doing it. Some are not doing it.

It's actually bringing tension in our own movement because some are saying we need to be more bold. Some are saying, no, for at least the first year, we need to just learn the culture and learn the language and let people see our light. So here we are with this massive recruiting effort and sending people out to these nations which are semi-closed, with limited access, and yet we have very few people in O.M. working among Muslims in Europe.

And now we're going to add to the list a couple of other countries that are so complex to reach that in a debate I think I could make the person look pretty out of it. And yet we're going to go into some of those countries as well, risking jail sentences, risking all kinds of things. And I'm not against it, but I'm saying, what about Europe with all these people that we can just stop in the street and give them a Bible or share that we love Jesus? So it's not an either-or, but it's a plea that somehow, and I'm not mainly speaking concerning O.M. at this time.

I'm speaking for the body of Christ in general, and this tape will especially be released through the Mission Mobilization Network with the hope that our mobilizers around the globe will put the 50-70 window into their prayer target. I think actually somebody already released it, a challenge about the 50-70 window which covers Europe. And then, fifthly, there are so many nominal Christians in Europe.

Now that might sound negative, it is negative, but it's also positive because I believe history shows that you can have very rapid conversion in church growth among nominal Christians. Now that has not proven to be true yet in Greece. It has not proven yet to be true in Spain, though the growth of people coming to

Christ in Spain would be much faster than any Muslim country or any, say, orthodox Buddhist or orthodox Hindu country.

Latin America, however, for a number of factors and a culture very, very different from Spain, has had this phenomenal church growth, and I think we just have to face this fact that Roman Catholic nominal Christians and other kinds of nominal Christians often may at least know who God is. They often at least know what sin is. Catholics are actually sometimes over-aware of sin, whereas when we're dealing with, say, orthodox Hindus, they don't even know what these concepts are.

They are totally barren. Now, the great response we're seeing in India right now is among outcast people. That is a very complex response, very much linked with their place in the social order.

It is not totally a spiritual thing, though we hope spiritual factors are in there. We're hoping for many wonderful conversions. But what I'm simply saying is I feel that Europe is more ripe for evangelism than sometimes we will admit, and that nominal Christianity, both in its Protestant and Catholic form, is a foundation that can be built upon.

The far bigger problems probably are humanism and the New Age movement and the cults and just materialism and all of that kind of post-modern situation that, of course, takes nominal Christians into a position where they're often much harder to reach. In Europe, we have just about everything, and I am in no way saying it's easy. But I am saying that if someone at least believes in God and believes that Jesus Christ was a historic person or the Son of God, that you've got some foundation to build on.

If you take a survey in the United States, if you discover one of the main groups that are filling our evangelical churches in the past years, they all come out of the Catholic Church. Many, many came out of the Catholic Church experiencing conversion, experiencing new life. My sixth reason is the huge variety of nations.

This, to me, is just so challenging. Europe has something for everyone. It has Muslims, it has Hindus, it has English speakers, German speakers, French speakers, Italian speakers.

Just think of all the languages of Europe. When I think of some of our teams over in Eastern Europe, some of them are so small. Some of them are having such a problem finding workers.

How can this be? With millions of people in America from Polish backgrounds, our total team in Poland at this time, someone please correct me, is two people, isn't it? We've got two people in Poland. We actually had much stronger work under the Communist era than we have today. We are not seeing a lot of recruits to this part of the world, and that's one of the reasons I'm sharing this vision.

I don't know about other mission agencies, but I think in general we need to rethink, we need to pray through some of these things. And I'm sure different people, maybe even writing articles and sharing websites, will come up with much more in-depth thought through challenges than I'm able to give in this brief message. I thank God for the variety of nations of Europe, and I pray the Lord will raise up people for all of these countries.

I think of a phenomenal problem, this is an extra reason, not on my list, but the phenomenal problem we have educating our children in some countries. You know, educating your children in Europe is not easy. My friend John Blake in Spain, all of his kids educated in Spain, the Lord provided beautiful Spanish spouses for all of them.

You think John Blake, now that he's retired, is leaving Spain? He's in Spain for life. Arthur Weems, he's in Italy for life. Many Americans have come to Europe, like Jonathan McCroskey, this is it.

They've become European. You think my wife and I are planning to go back to the United States after we have this change next September? Europe is our home. This is where we're going to be.

Our grandkids are European. Three are being converted to American, so that makes an interesting challenge. We love America and like to visit there as much as possible.

Hallelujah. So this to me is another very important factor that I hope we can think about. I touched on this before, but let me just give it, and that is, am I up to number six? Seven.

Great history of effective foreign missions in Europe. I've been studying this, I guess, since I first arrived. One of the first persons I ever met was Dr. Homer Paine.

Do you think he was effective? Major. Major. The whole European Bible College movement started by foreigners.

It was the European Bible Institute, by the way, which closed this year, that indirectly birthed TEMA. Do you think TEMA has been effective in mobilizing Europeans? And that's another thing. Again, I'm not sure I have that listed here, but our vision was always a double vision, especially after my arrest in the Soviet Union and the famous prayer meeting where God gave me the name Operation Mobilization.

It was to mobilize Europeans to reach Europe, to see the Church, of course, challenged and motivated, and at the same time to move out to the Muslim world. The Muslim world vision came before the European vision. To some degree we saw Europe as a double challenge.

We knew the need was great. We were thinking, especially in those days, about France and Spain and Austria. But then we realized that both these activities could go on simultaneously, the evangelization, the building up of the Church, and the sending out of workers.

And probably historically the sending out of European workers, up until ten years ago when the Asians began to move in such a powerful way, will prove to be OM's greatest contribution to world missions. Now the Latin Americans are joining in, people from many, many different countries. The eighth reason is perhaps a small one, but I've just written it here, cheap flights.

Cheap flights. It's interesting how many Americans are going to the West Indies for short-term work. I would have thought that most West Indian countries need one more American gospel tourist group like I need a bullet in the head.

But that is just a Verwarian exaggeration. It's interesting that even Willow Creek, that famous church, is targeting Haiti. When I had lunch with Bill Heibel, I could, many years ago, tell that he was not going to get involved in any kind of traditional missions, because they felt Willow Creek was totally off the wall.

And so if they did missions, they weren't doing anything at the time, it would have to be off the wall. And so all traditional mission societies, of which we were categorized, were just kept out of the loop. But now we hear, in the last years, Willow Creek is in the missions, of course through the Willow Creek Association, a huge influence, and a lot of it positive in the body of Christ.

And now people from Willow Creek are going on short-term trips to Haiti. Tell me, is this something really new? Doesn't this sound like something we did in Mexico in 1957? To me, Americans, Canadians, people from a number of different countries, they should consider more short-term trips to Europe. The culture is closer, the flights are cheaper, the opportunities, the freedom.

I think even the mistakes we make in Europe are less costly than the mistakes we make, say, in Istanbul, which of course is part of Europe, or maybe Tehran. So the cheap flights, I think we need to talk to more people about it, because I'm told that people are going to the West Indies and Central America because it's close, and they can get cheap flights. But I know in the summer the prices go up on flights to Europe, but the flights within Europe with these new airlines like Ryanair, and, what is it, EasyJet, who knows how long they'll all last.

I think it's a very, very encouraging thing. Well, I thought I had ten points here, but I can't seem to find them on my scribble. So I think we'll just leave that where it is.

Oh, I wanted to bring up this fact. Yeah, this is important. That if you're not an Anglo-Saxon, you must not be left out, because Europe has all these other cultures.

And so Chinese people need to come to Europe, because we have lots of Chinese people. And Indians need to come to Europe, because we have Indians everywhere, and Pakistanis everywhere. And what can we say of Arabs? So many Arabs, especially in France.

So many Turks. And it seems to me it would be a good idea if people so interested in some of these distant, difficult countries, if they could come to Europe first, in a country closer to their culture, where they could, in a way, prove themselves. Because if you can't be a missionary in Europe and adjust to the culture and make an impact, I'm speaking now, maybe a missionary among Iranians in London or Arabs in Paris, then I wonder if you are actually going to make out very well in Morocco or Tunisia or some of these other places.

Obviously, God is going to lead different people in different ways. And the brother who has proven himself back at home and now feels called to go directly to Jordan for language study or directly to Morocco, he's not going to find me stopping him. But I just want to have this other alternative.

And I think there's a lot of people that are frightened by missions because it looks too far for them. The culture just seems too difficult. And especially now with this, what some people, I'm not saying myself, many people are saying there's now a war between the West and the Muslims.

And all of this is going to frighten some people, some young people. The same young people will jump on a plane and fly to Italy for a holiday. My daughter, last minute, is going to Tunisia for a holiday with the kids.

We've been asked, of course, to take care of the animals. Let's pray. Lord, I just pray somehow through this message, some people will give some more thought to Europe, to Spain, to Italy, to Greece, to Albania, to Austria and Belgium and, Lord, even places like Switzerland are becoming spiritually desperate.

And what can we say of the eastern countries, Kosovo and Bosnia and Serbia, Hungary and Poland? Father, we pray, raise up workers. So many people jammed up in America, so many Canadians stuck in Toronto, stuck in Calgary. These European nations have less than 5% of the amount of witness that we

have in those places.

We pray that people of Polish background will consider Poland, people of Greek background will consider Greece, that people, Lord, of Spanish background will go to Spain. We thank you for many Latin Americans who are moving to Spain. That really fits into this vision in a certain way, and we thank you for that.

And, Lord, we pray also that British people would consider crossing the Channel to Belgium. Consider the possibility of France, where you've again and again used British people not only to evangelize but to birth whole churches and mission agencies. So, Lord, we're looking to you that somehow Europe may be put more back on the map of global missions and that European agencies may see their staff needs met.

European Bible colleges may continue to flourish. Some of them have really been going downhill. One or two now closed.

And we pray, Lord, above all else, that Europeans will receive the vision for their own continent and also extend their arms for partners willing to help from other parts of the world, wherever that may be, and that they would also begin to be more diligent in reaching out cross-culturally to Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs and Jains and Buddhists and people from all over the globe who are now here by the millions. We think of these asylum seekers that are leaving this famous place over in France within the next 24 hours, and over a thousand, I believe, new asylum seekers will be in Britain in the next few days. Lord, who's going to reach these people? Because we know in many cases it's not just literature or a film or a word of testimony.

There are physical needs, and there's need for in-depth kingdom building and church planting among all the asylum seekers and all those who are flocking into Europe from all over the globe, from almost every nation of any size in the world. So stir us up concerning this challenge, that we may take steps forward to respond before it's too late. We thank you for this great freedom we have at this present time.

There's signs in places like France and Belgium and some other places that there may come more restrictions upon evangelical and biblical people, but at least for now, the freedom is far greater than any restriction. So enable us to respond to this, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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