

By Jenny Leal

Major Advance for Gospel in EU HQ

Christians working in Brussels will remember November 5th not so much for gunpowder, treason and plot as for Gospel, croissants and prayer. Two years of planning paid off with the first official European Prayer Breakfast.

One hundred and twenty-five people attended, including Members of the European Parliament, senior Commission officials, representatives of the African Caribbean and Pacific Nations, of the Council of Ministers, and a number of local business people and Christian leaders.

The inspiration for a European Prayer Breakfast came from existing Breakfasts in London and Washington D.C., two key global decision-making centres. Brussels, the centre of business for the 15-nation European Union (EU) and for NATO, is a city whose influence is felt far and wide. Prince Nikolas of Liechtenstein, Permanent Ambassador to Belgium and the EU, expressed that in view of its significance, "it is very important to bring together people of responsibility to ask the Lord for the way forward."

The keynote speaker was Georgina Dufoix, former French Cabinet Minister, who shared about her life and her faith. She told of her life in politics, how she had lots of praise from people and a loving husband and children, but, she said, "I was empty, completely empty, and I didn't know why." She came to the point of asking God to show himself, which, she says, he did in a very personal way.

David Hallam, MEP, is co-director, with the President of the European Parliament, of the MEP's monthly Prayer Breakfast in Strasbourg. He has attended both the London and Washington Breakfasts, and found the European one an enjoyable experience. "It was good to meet and pray with other Christians who are working at the heart of the European Union to commit its ways to God."

Also attending the Washington Breakfast this year was Tomas Sandell, an EU Consultant who was part of the European Breakfast planning team. Approximately 3,000 politicians and business people, along with the US President, Vice-President and Cabinet Members, attended the US Breakfast. Sandell says that while the Brussels team is interested in increasing the numbers, "we're not just interested in quantity but to have a quality Breakfast each year in which to present the gospel."

Sandell feels the Brussels Breakfast has got off to a good, solid start. The US Breakfast has taken 45 years to get to where it is today, and the UK has taken about 20 years.

This sense of community is what many people left with. Julia Doxat-Purser, European Evangelical Alliance Brussels Representative, believes that "it was a spiritually significant time. The love, peace and joy of the Lord was almost tangible. Several said that they had worked in Brussels for years and had felt very alone. But here were all these Christians! Some had tears in their eyes."



The EU Headquarters in Brussels: prayer in the corridors of power.

Peter's cat

by Steve English

