



IN *or* OUT?

*How should Christians
approach the EU
Referendum?*

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CROSS-CULTURAL
MISSION TRAINING

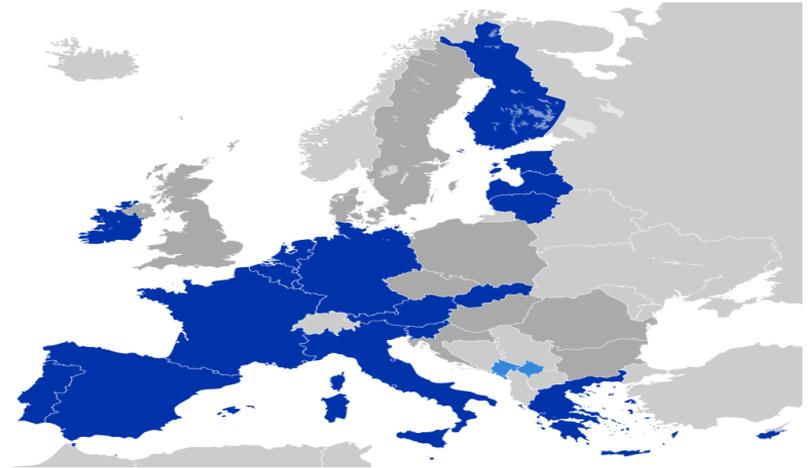
1. Introduction

The Bible renders to us the story of God's mission through God's people in their engagement with God's world for the sake of the whole of God's creation. The Bible is the drama of this God of purpose engaged in the mission of achieving that purpose universally, embracing past, present and future, Israel and the nations, "life, the universe and everything," and with its centre, focus, climax, and completion in Jesus Christ. Mission is not just one of a list of things that the Bible happens to talk about, only a bit more urgently than some. Mission is, in that much-abused phrase, "what it's all about."

Chris Wright, *The Mission of God*, p.22



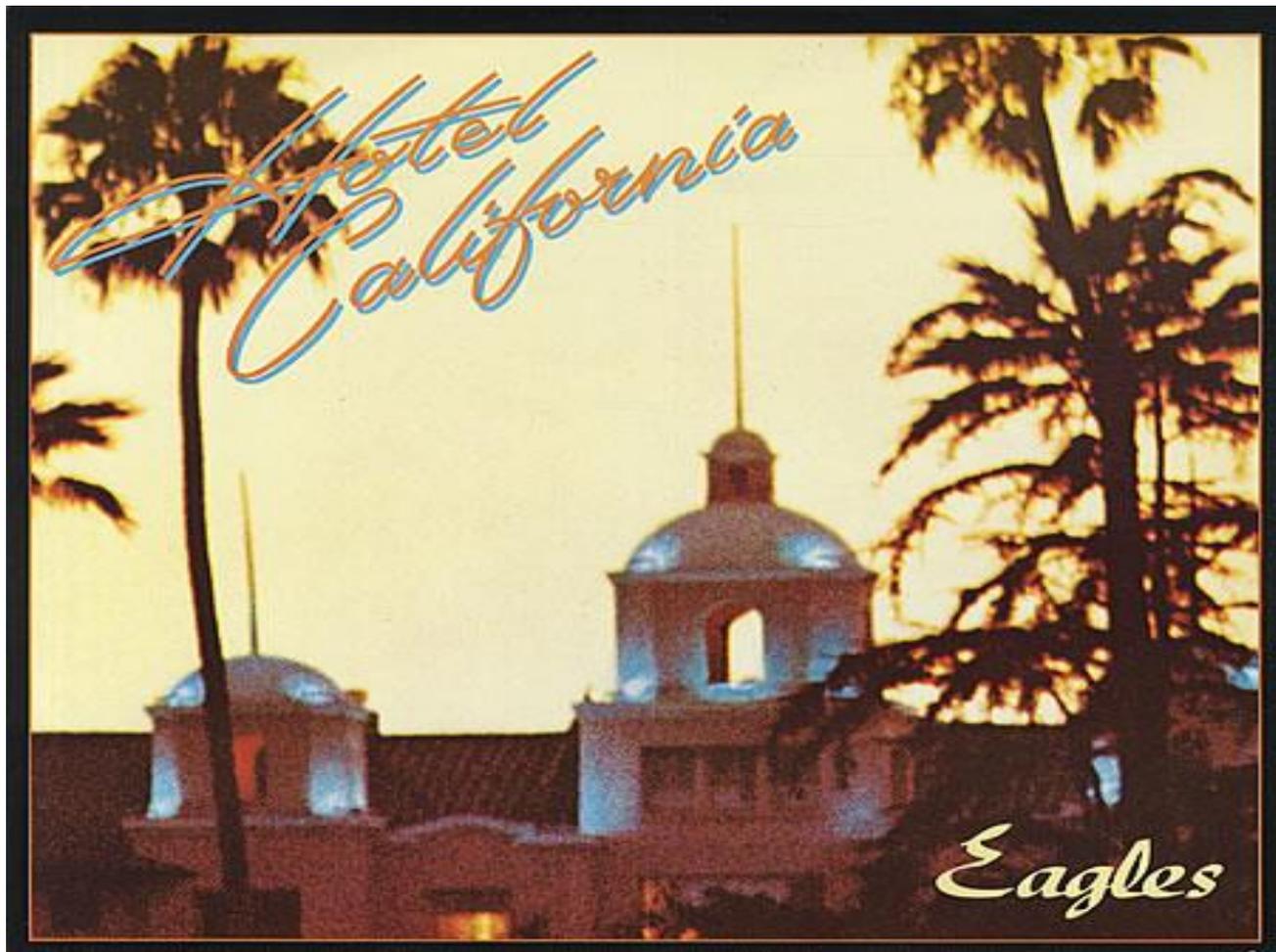
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*Hotel
California*

Eagles

2.1 Economic Crisis

- GDP at 1.6%; Inflation rate hovering around 0%
- Unemployment – EU-28 8.9% (UK 5%); 21% in Spain, 25% in Greece; 45% and 48% of <25s resp. (Eurostat, Jan 2016)



2.2 Political Crisis

- **Pressure from within the EU -** Euroscepticism on left (Syriza, Podemos) and right (UKIP, AfD); UK-EU referendum.
- **Pressure from xenophobic parties and movements -** Front national (France), PiS (Poland), Freedom Party (Austria), Jobbik (Hungary), PEGIDA.
- **Pressure from nationalists and regions**
- **Pressure from Russia**



2.3 Social Crisis

- **Migration**

- EU-28 Population, 1st Jan 2015: 508.2 million
- 1.25 million asylum applications during 2015
- Schengen under threat



2.3 Social Crisis

- **Demography**
 - Every single EU country has a fertility rate below 2.1
 - Ageing populations particularly in Germany, Poland and Mediterranean



2.4 Environmental Crisis

- 15 of 16 warmest years on record since 2000 (2003 was hottest summer for 500 years).
- 1998-2012 drought in Eastern Med and the Levant was the worst for 900 years. Caused internal migration in Syria.
- Flooding across NW Europe.



Source: Vista Issue 24, Creation Care in Europe, due out in May 2016

2.5 Spiritual Crisis

- Islam – one in twenty Europeans is a Muslim; will rise to one in ten by 2050
- Secularisation and consumerism





NATIONAL
APATHY
SOCIETY

Become a Member...or Don't.

We Couldn't Care Less.

3. A Brief History of the European Union

“We must build a kind of United States of Europe. The process is simple. All that is needed is the resolve of hundreds of millions of men and women to do right instead of wrong, and gain as their reward, blessing instead of cursing.

The first step in the re-creation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany. In this way only can France recover the moral leadership of Europe. There can be no revival of Europe without a spiritually great France and a spiritually great Germany.”

Winston Churchill, 19th September 1946, Zurich

3.1 The European Coal and Steel Community (1951)

- Role of prominent (mostly Catholic) Christians
- Schuman Declaration, 9th May 1950 – purpose of making war between historic rivals France and Germany "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible"
- The aim was peace and solidarity; the potential economic gains were a secondary objective.

3.2 The European Economic Community (1957)

- Focus on economic objectives
- Common Market: gradual removal of trade barriers; free movement of labour and capital; common policies for transport and agriculture(CAP)
- UK initially declined membership joining European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in 1960
- Significant economic growth in EEC caused UK to change its mind. France vetoed UK admission twice.

3.3 UK joins the European Community (1972)

- Joined along with Ireland and Denmark
- “Joining the Common Market” was the message
- 1975 – referendum on membership
- 1984 – Britain negotiates rebate re: CAP
- 1985 - Schengen Agreement – removal of borders to facilitate freedom of movement. UK opts out.

3.4 The European Union (1993)

- Maastricht Treaty – strengthened EU parliament, central bank and common currency, justice, security & foreign policy. Britain opts out of the Euro.
- Social Chapter of Maastricht Treaty – perception of loss of sovereignty. Britain opted out then in.
- Enlargement to 28 members; significant migration from new Eastern European members to the UK; Lisbon Treaty (2007)



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