

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

September 2015

The “crisis” of God’s light – John 3:19

We live in a time of crises – one crisis follows another: the financial crisis, the crisis in the Ukraine, the crisis in Greece... The gospel however speaks of a much deeper “crisis” for this world. This is the “crisis” of God’s light that we read about in John 3:17-20. The Greek word “krisis”, which Luther (and RSV) translated as “judgement”, really means “differentiation”, “separation” and in a court of law “the verdict”. Since God’s light (Jesus) has come into the world we now have the “crisis” of God’s light. The light condemns the works of darkness and shows the true way of salvation. We have to decide whether we move toward and desire to walk in the light or if we turn away from the light. The many crises in our time are basically the result of people having turned away from the light. At the same time they always have the opportunity to turn towards the light. And this is what we pray for! -RS-

Answers to prayer

- The members of the CDU Party in Berlin voted against the introduction of “Gay-Marriage”. (See July/August prayer letter.)

- At “Awakening Europe” in the Grundig Stadium in Nuremberg (see April prayer letter) some 25,000 people were inspired and prepared for evangelism in Europe and encountered the love of God. -RS-

“Global Gathering”

A “Global Gathering” of the Body of Jesus is taking place in the Olympic Hall in Munich from October 25-28 this year. As well as up to 3,000 Chinese, many hundreds of Japanese, Koreans and others from Asia are coming to Germany, to pray for a breakthrough in Germany and also throughout Europe. So let us all come in our thousands to experience how God lives and works in the midst of his people – his “family” – in Germany and world-wide.

This gathering is being sponsored by “Watchman for the Nations” – a ministry of David Damian which is based in Canada. In Germany the event is supported by the “ELIA-Kreis” (led by the Haselbarths) which also initiated and organised the gathering in Leipzig in June 2013.

We are all expecting something very special during these days, for our land, for Europe, and for all the nations to grow together in worship before the throne of God. We are praying for his presence and glory to be revealed as it will be in the end times in the light of the fulfilment of all things. Read Revelation 5:9-10 and come to the Global Gathering!

For further details and registration visit:
www.watchmen.org/global/munich/de/.

Prayer:

- **Sense what has already been prepared in heaven for these days and open the gates to receive it for yourselves and for this land of Germany. (Psalm 24:7-8)**
- **Blessings on all the preparations at all levels, as the time is now rather short – and that God will perform wonders for all to see. (Psalm 85:9-13)**

- **For every seat in the hall to be filled and that everyone from the many nations will experience the “family of God”. (Psalm 72:17)** -OS-

Threat to peace from within and from outside

All around Europe there are centres of major conflicts which are not so easy to resolve. In the Ukraine there is still no peace. Russia is equipping its army with new intercontinental missiles. The USA is transferring heavy military equipment into seven NATO countries – including Germany – as a deterrent. NATO is developing a revised strategy to respond to the latest “cold war”. There is now a new “rapid response force”.

The crisis in Greece continues with no credible solution in sight. Europe is being increasingly drawn with military intervention into the conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Libya and the Balkans. Refugees are streaming into Europe and it is clear that European policy for the treatment of refugees is not prepared for the challenge. There is no solidarity within the European Union. Defending EU borders is not possible, even with higher and longer fences in Greece, Hungary and Calais. This is also causing increased tensions within our land. In the first six months of 2015 there have been more attacks on refugee homes than in the entire previous year. Conflict analysts are very concerned because society is increasingly becoming polarised. There are breeding grounds for conflict throughout our society: right-wing extremism, Islamism, fear of loss of living standards, as well as people who feel that they are no longer represented by their government. Politicians who try to help refugees are often threatened. Radical movements cleverly take advantage of the Internet to mobilise their supporters. Prophetic voices warn us that internal concerns could increasingly find expression in violent acts. Politicians urgently need people who can give them godly advice: what will really bring peace?

Prayer:

- **That God will awaken prophetic voices within our government and political leadership. (Daniel 1:18-21)**
- **For wisdom to know which actions will promote peace both within and outside. (Psalm 34:14)**
- **Blessings and protection for all those who pursue peace and for our land. (1 Timothy 2:2)** -RS-

The nuclear agreement with Iran

The nuclear agreement now reached with Iran is being presented to the world as a “victory for diplomacy”. Victory? For whom? First of all for Iran. Iran can retain its nuclear sites and is allowed to continue research and the further development of centrifuges. After the 10 to 15 year period of the agreement, Iran could then immediately build an atomic bomb without further restrictions. There will be no surprise inspections of suspicious sites as the governing rules are specified in the Additional Protocol of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which has never been ratified by Iran. The possibility of cheating on the agreement by Iran *cannot* therefore be excluded. With the

easing of sanctions, hundreds of millions of dollars will soon be available to Iran for the further support of terrorism in the region. Immediately after the agreement, the Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Khamenei declared that his policy towards the USA and Israel (that, by the way, has to be annihilated) will in no way be changed. The negotiating powers are not taking this seriously. Germany had an important role in the negotiations. Since the time of the Shah, Germany has had good trade relations with Iran. Vice-Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel was the first leading politician from the west to travel to Tehran with a high-ranking delegation of German business leaders only five days (!) after the agreement. Iran will now build up a large business centre in Berlin. They are all hoping for great business opportunities.

Prayer:

- **Pray for forgiveness for everyone turning a blind eye to the real threat to Israel through this nuclear agreement with Iran.**
- **For the worship of the God of Israel instead of the god of “mammon” and for a mind shift in the business world. (Luke 16:13)**
- **For further revelation of the weaknesses in this nuclear agreement. (Daniel 2:22)** -RS-

Turkey

After a long delay Turkey has at last decided to take an active role in the fight against the “Islamic State (IS)” in its neighbouring land of Syria, after having long granted the possibility for IS fighters to return to their own countries and allowed them to freely cross its borders. This change of mind was triggered by a suicide attack by the IS on July 20 in Suruç where 32 young people died. The Turkish military then began to bomb IS positions and opened the military air base Incirlik to the American air force after months of negotiations to enable a more effective fight against the IS forces. However, as it turned out, President Erdogan had completely different motives - in fact, to further his domestic ambitions. In the June elections, his party, the AKP, had lost its absolute majority in parliament, because the HDP pro-Kurdish party had surprisingly overcome the 10% threshold and won seats in parliament. Since then he has been talking about new elections. In order to keep the HDP out, he has to again brand the Kurds as enemies of the state, so that he can come against them in the elections. So he not only bombed IS positions, but also Kurdish freedom fighter (PKK) positions in northern Iraq and Syria ten times more heavily. The PKK struck back and gave Erdogan the grounds on which to declare that the peace process with the PKK, which had begun in 2013 after 30 years of war, was at an end. In addition he wants to deny the HDP members of parliament diplomatic immunity if they do not clearly distance themselves from the PKK. Sheer hypocrisy! For years he had been negotiating with the PKK through these contacts in the HDP.

The USA had been supporting the Kurds until this time, as they were the only ground troops who could stand against the IS. Now Erdogan is suddenly calling the PKK a “terrorist organisation” and is justifying the Turkish attacks on the

PKK – only in order to keep open the access to Incirlik. NATO is also not challenging the actions of Turkey and Germany has only issued a “reprimand”.

Prayer:

- **For the continuation of the peace process with the Kurds instead of the hate propaganda now coming from the Turkish government. (Psalm 34:14)**
- **For NATO and the USA to reconsider the situation and no longer allow themselves to be manipulated and abused by Erdogan with his lust for power.**
- **That German IS fighters can no longer cross Turkish borders with Syria and Iraq unchallenged.** -OS-

25 years of German unity

God could scarcely have revealed himself more clearly as the “Lord of history in Germany” than by making possible the reunification. Giving God the glory for this openly and thankfully sends a clear signal of hope for the future. Therefore Christians are drawing attention to this fact in many locations in Germany through public celebrations and church services. (www.3-oktober.de - in German only).

The official national celebration of the 25th anniversary of German reunification will take place in Frankfurt from October 2 – 4 where 1.5 million visitors are expected. By way of a MIRACLE, God has provided a stage for the Evangelical Alliance Frankfurt, together with the Catholic Church in the city, directly in front of the town hall in the central “Roemer” square, for the three days. Under the banner “With my God I can leap over walls”, gospel choirs and eye witnesses from all over Germany will in different ways bring the works of God into focus. There will be various worship services and some people will give reports on how they experienced God’s hand on events during the fall of the Berlin wall. At the political level there will be a live transmission between Frankfurt and its twin city Leipzig. People in the east and the west will then be standing together with candles and in this way express their thankfulness and solidarity with one another.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for 25 years of reunification. (Psalm 107:10-16)**
- **For success and good cooperation of Christians in Frankfurt and elsewhere in all the events which are planned. (Psalm 90:17)**
- **That the witness of the Christians in Frankfurt will be heard throughout the land, especially through good reports in the media.**

-Silja Lueben, Round Table Prayer-

Dates for your diary:

- 09-11.09** Call of the Watchmen board meeting, Stuttgart
- 12.09** Celebration of leadership change and tribute to Ortwin Schweitzer for 15 years service to Call of the Watchmen, CVJM Stuttgart.
- 19.09** Pro-Life March, Berlin (www.marsch-fuer-das-leben.de/)
- 21.09** Hearing in German Parliament on euthanasia.
- 21-24.09** German Catholic Bishops Conference, Fulda.

*God’s blessings from
Rosemarie Stresemann and Ortwin Schweitzer*