



March 2010

Arise, shine!

Many of the promises that God gives to us come with a call for us to work with him. We have a responsibility! If we do not do our part, God will not simply intervene and do it for us. God has already allowed the words of Isaiah 60 v.1-2 to be pronounced prophetically over Germany many times. This is a call to the sleeper who is lying in a dark room with the window-shutters closed. "Get up! Open the shutters, the light has come and wants to shine in on you!" If the body of Jesus in Germany had already taken this responsibility seriously, there would not be so much darkness. But every single person who responds and gets up brings light into the land. Let each one of us open up our inner shutters and pray for ourselves and the church of Jesus:

- **That God will give salve for our eyes so that we can see and recognise our spiritual poverty.**
(Revelation 3 v.14-18).
- **That we recognise the responsibility which we have not taken seriously and not acted upon.**
- **That God will reveal to each one of us the "shutters" which are still closed within us.** -RS-

The state of the government coalition

As the first assessment was drawn up at the beginning of February after 100 days of the CDU/FDP government, it became clear that this coalition has more areas of disagreement than was assumed at the outset. What is the overall vision for this country? What values and ideals should be the basis of government policy? This is not yet evident. The FDP and CDU certainly have fundamental values that influence their politics. Where are these coming from? The values of the FDP and its understanding of freedom do not have their roots in Christianity but rather in humanism. Without God freedom becomes "liberality". The CDU under the leadership of Angela Merkel is moving even further from Christian and conservative values towards more liberalism. In this way the party is protecting its majority vote. In opening itself more to the middle ground of society, it is also opening itself to persuasions and ways of life which have no regard for the ways of God. This is also leading to tensions within the party. In addition to the long established "Evangelical Working Group", a new working group "Committed Catholics in the CDU and CSU" will be formed in March, to strengthen the Christian orientation of the party. God can only bless our land when our politics ultimately follow God's directions and standards. We ask God for forgiveness for all disregard of his Word and for the power that comes from turning back to him.

Prayer:

- **That those politicians who follow God's ways and standards will gain influence. (Psalm 1).**
- **Let us repent on behalf of the CDU for all tactically motivated liberality which abandons the connection to the Word of God. Pray especially for Angela Merkel.**
- **That those policies will prevail, which open doors for God's blessing when implemented in our land.**
(Proverbs 11 v.11). -RS-

Integration with love

As "Call of the Watchman" we want to see the whole area of social integration through God's eyes.

First of all it concerns people loved by God and our interaction with a population group of over two million people of the Islamic faith, mostly Turks. That is about double the number of evangelical Christians in Germany altogether. Meanwhile most of this group were born and have grown up in Germany. Some have a German passport and are known as "Germans with a migration background". Since they live here, they live under the jurisdiction of German law. Article 4 reads: "(1) Freedom of belief, conscience and the freedom of religious expression and world view ideology are inviolable. (2) The unhindered practice of religion is guaranteed."

When the German constitution was drawn up in 1949, Islam was not yet an issue. But it is today. Therefore the "Charter of Rights of the European Union" goes much further. In Article 10 it says that every person has the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion. "This right includes the freedom to change religion" and to practice religion alone or in a group, in services, teaching, customs and rituals. This charter has been valid since the coming into effect of the Lisbon Treaty in Germany. This means: (a) One can be a Muslim in this land, hold services, conduct teaching and observe customs. (b) One can also change religion without punishment (!).

So much for the basic rights. However they mostly trigger fear and anger in Christians: "They want to islamise Europe with a high birth rate" and "how blatantly they claim their rights!". The consequences are anger, rejection and fear in a state of helplessness.

Where is all this going? Does God not have an answer? Who, if not the intercessors, can get the answer and then pray into it? Let us pray that the church of Jesus in this land will finally lay aside fear and anger and recognise God-given opportunities to go to these fellow citizens and give them room in this country, in their homes and in their hearts. Europe has the possibility to become the largest "Islam Mission" of all time, because the framework of Europe allows the change of religion – which is not true in the Islamic countries.

Prayer:

- **Deliverance of Christians from anger and fear. (2 Timothy 1 v.7).**
- **Courage to go to Muslims as Jesus would.**
- **Pray for many Muslims to be open to Jesus as Saviour.**

-OS-

The new Family Minister

Kristina Schroeder (née Koehler, married to Ole Schroeder on February 13th) is just 32 years old and is the youngest minister in the Cabinet. Her appointment closes the door to the former “conservative” influence on the formation of policies in the area of marriage and family. In 2009 she took part in the Christopher Street Day parade for homosexuals in Frankfurt. Kristina Schroeder is not (yet) promoting the “opening up” of marriage, but is happy that there is a law concerning civil partnerships. Her political goal is that the state “at last brings the rights of civil partnerships into line with the duties.” Her office manager Eike Letocha is a board member of the Lesbian and Homosexual Union (Berlin) within the CDU. The “antidiscrimination office” of this organisation is also in her building and here the concepts of gender theory are transformed into policies. By making effective use of this organisation, she has the chance to bring a lasting change in the social climate of this country to the benefit of homosexuals.

Prayer:

- **Protection from all the attempts of homosexual organisations to influence the policies of the Family Ministry.**
- **Grace for policies that promote family life and protect marriage.**
- **Pray for the appointment of staff in the Family Ministry that live by God’s standards (Luke 1 v.51-52)**

-RS-

Brandenburg and the Stasi (Secret Service in the former East Germany)

In the past few months 60-100 people have been demonstrating in Potsdam each Monday against the red/red (SPD socialists/Leftist parties) local state government coalition following the citizens’ action group appeal: “Policies for the centre mainstream”. The intention is to bring into the open the infiltration of politics by former Stasi members, but it has only marginally succeeded. A picket-line will now try to further break the silence. Since the formation of the new state government, seven members of parliament from the “Leftist” party alone have been proven to have had Stasi contacts, a state of affairs that is gaining an ever growing public acceptance. From a spiritual standpoint, guilt cannot be left to resolve itself, but must be brought into the open. Reparations for the victims must also be part of the process.

In this controversy we are seeing just the tip of the iceberg that symbolises the general avoidance of a proper investigation into the former East German dictatorship. Under Manfred Stolpe as first Prime Minister there was no systematic check of members of parliament for former Stasi involvement as in other German states in the east. His own personal contacts were not even questioned by the government coalition. As recently as December 2009 the East German civil rights campaigner Ulrike Poppe was appointed as the first member directly responsible for Stasi affairs.

Prayer:

- **For courage for all victims of the former East German dictatorship to speak out openly. (Psalm 44)**
- **That those in authority in politics, in the church and in society take a position that cannot be ignored; for steadfast courage for Ulrike Poppe.**
- **That the perpetrators (of Stasi related injustices) confess their guilt and that the victims receive justice.**

-KH-

Prayer for Israel

First of all let us be thankful: thankful for the governmental consultation on January 18th between the Israeli and German Cabinets – for the first time in Berlin! An historic moment! Thankful for the holocaust memorial event on January 27th in the German parliament where the main speaker was Israel’s President Shimon Peres. The speech made a deep impression on an almost complete assembly of parliamentarians.

The big question that concerns Israel and needs our intercession continues to be the threat from Iran. The question of further sanctions is in the centre of the discussion world-wide. Tensions with Syria are again on the increase.

Our Messianic brothers and sisters in Israel need our continuing faithful prayers. Although they are a small minority in the country, they are gaining respect in society, in the army and also politically. May the Lord strengthen their witness. Please pray also for protection and blessing on all efforts to strengthen the unity between the Messianic (Jewish) and Christian-Arabic parts of the body of Jesus (especially for the leaders) and in particular for Marcel Rebiai (“Community of Reconciliation”) who has assumed a special responsibility in this regard.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for all the progress in the friendship between Israel and Germany.**
- **For the decision-making process in connection with relations with Iran: for courage and wisdom (especially for Angela Merkel).**
- **For the witness of our Messianic brothers and sisters to be really effective.**

-HE-

Other events for prayer:

- 05.03** Women’s World Day of Prayer
- 18. -20.03** Islam Conference of the German Evangelical Alliance
- 28.03** Catholic World Youth Day in Rome

God bless you – Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann