

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

April 2010

Call for the wailing women!

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Consider now! Call for the wailing women to come; send for the most skilful of them. Let them come quickly and wail over us till our eyes overflow with tears and water streams from our eyelids.” (Jeremiah 9 v.17-18)

I have been concerned for a long time that we as the body of Jesus have not learned to lament (wail) before God for the plight of this land that is so serious. By this I do not mean that we just complain, but that we should pour out our deeply heart-felt pain for the land. The first expression of this pain is a cry for words to describe the pain. If the one who is asking is deeply moved by the pain, this leads to flowing tears, deep sobbing or loud howling. In the face of the coming judgement, God tells Jeremiah to call prophetically for wailing women. With loud crying and lamenting, these women would cause everyone else to also openly shed tears.

Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to help us wake up from our slumber in the face of the moral decay in this land and the devastating effect on our children. May he lead us intercessors to cry out for God’s mercy on our land with rivers of tears. (Lamentations 2 v.18) -RS-

Child abuse

New cases are reported every day. It is as if the cover of a deep black pit is being opened that has been tightly closed for decades. The cover of silence is now off and the mistreated and the abused are cautiously venturing out. They speak of their pain from the past and the effect on their lives. This is now their time and hopefully help will come.

It is dreadful when the ultimate path of refuge to God is blocked by the abuse of a priest or minister in the church. And what impression of the church is formed in the heart and mind of the child: fear, defensiveness, withdrawal.

The children and youth know among themselves what is happening. They talk about it. They are all subject to a common destiny. But what about the children – and these are by far in the majority – who are abused in the domestic situation and are completely isolated. The cases in residential institutions which are now coming to light are only a small insight into the never-ending suffering of children which extends to abuse before the camera (child pornography) and the ritual abuse of children in so-called Satan cult ceremonies.

There is a sense of horror and guilt in the country. How should we pray? At the deepest level we must take up our priestly duty to repent before the Holy Spirit and “stand in the gap” for our land.

Prayer:

- **“Arise and shine” (Isaiah 60 v.1). Let us bring our land before the Lord and let light shine into this darkness of child abuse:**

- for protection, wherever the children live
- for healing of wounded hearts and minds
- that all the horrors of child abuse will be brought boldly into the open: in families, in residential (church) institutions, in satanic cult groups and above all in child pornography circles
- For help and support for devastated hearts and minds
- For the clarification of the relationship between church and state when it comes to the criminal prosecution of perpetrators
- For the perpetrators themselves: pray for deep self-awareness and repentance
- For the Catholic Church: that it can be open and honest, and be protected from generalised condemnation by the world (and world press)

-OS-

The economic crisis takes on new dimensions

In the current crisis governments are clinging to the announcements of increasing economic growth and the hope of rising financial prosperity, and as a result countries world-wide are taking on even more debt to “stimulate” the economy. A wager on the future! But when there is no real economic growth, it may happen that the state cannot pay back the debt. Not only banks, but also states, can go bankrupt!

When monetary union was enacted in the EU, all participating countries had to sign up to a long-term sound budgeting process in a stability and growth pact. To make a long story short, the pact has not been adhered to. At this present time Greece is facing state bankruptcy!

The international finance industry is now trying to earn money by playing the market with Greece’s bankruptcy. This makes credit extremely expensive and therefore aggravates the situation even more. After the rescue of the banks, the financial rescue of states is now being discussed in the EU behind closed doors. Theoretically, according to the Maastricht Treaty, no EU nation may assist in paying the debt of another. In reality, the financially strong EU countries must however jump in to avoid the bankruptcy of a state. Not only Greece, but also Portugal, Italy, Ireland and Spain are heavily in debt. New solutions are being sought feverishly to avoid a collapse of the monetary union. France is proposing a European economic regulatory body – Germany does not support this. What is God’s answer? We need a new culture that practises moderation and stays within the limits!

Prayer:

- **Pray for forgiveness where the thinking and planning of individual and entire nations is directed towards ever increasing growth and prosperity at any price (Matthew 6 v.33, 34)**

- **That the criteria of the EU stability pact will be observed by all governments**
- **That the Holy Spirit will open eyes to the sins within the economic system (e.g. greed) and to sinful practices (e.g. excessive financial risk taking) (John 16 v.8)**

-RS-

The ship of state is reeling

It was the Chancellor's most desired coalition: but the opposite of her expectations became the reality. Almost every issue is contested, mainly from the stand point of the FDP, as if they were the opposition. After just four months in office, the FDP slid in popularity from 14.6% to 8% and none of its five ministers had more than 37% of support. Was this the reason for Westerwelle's sudden return to domestic politics? In a personal campaign he spread over the country criticism of the Hartz IV social support system (program for the long-term unemployed) and its beneficiaries as if they were all lazy and work-shy. After two weeks Angela Merkel finally came to terms with this behaviour and reprimanded him publically: "These are not my words and not my style." When has such a thing happened before? The reasons for the distancing between the CDU and FDP are:

- The CDU changed during its coalition with the SPD – "social-democratised" the FDP calls it angrily.
- In opposition the FDP could hold onto policies that they traditionally held in common (like tax reduction) but is now disappointed that Angela Merkel no longer supports these.
- Then in the meantime there is a financial and economic crisis that requires a different approach to the budget. "The FDP must first come back to reality" says the CDU.
- In the coalition negotiations, Angela Merkel too easily accommodated the wishes of the FDP. The differences should have been handled at that time.
- Westerwelle had to do something to prevent his party falling apart.

A good government must find the middle way between the ideals of each party for, according to the constitution, the German Federal Republic is both a democratic and a social state. Freedom of the individual (FDP) and the social responsibility of the state (CDU) *must* be reconciled.

Prayer:

- **Thanks that we can live in a state where both freedom and social care are valued**
- **Pray for Angela Merkel, for wisdom in dealing with opponents and courageous determination, when necessary, to use her authority in matters of general policy**
- **Pray for better legal regulations concerning income from work on the one hand and social benefits on the other, so that work always brings the greatest rewards**

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State elections in North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW)

The outcome of the elections on May 9th could also have an important influence on the policies of the national government. With the possible loss of the majority of the current coalition of CDU and FDP, the majority of the CDU, CSU and FDP in the State Representative Parliament (Upper House) in Berlin would also be lost. The last elections in 2005 already had far-reaching consequences on national politics. Because of the heavy losses of the SPD in NRW, the red-green national government at that time called for new elections for the national parliament, which led to the fall of the Schroeder regime. Whoever builds a coalition in the most heavily populated state in Germany sets the stage for possible coalitions in the national government. The SPD has not ruled out a coalition with the Leftist party. Finding solutions for some of the debt-ridden local authorities will be a major issue in the election campaigning.

Prayer:

- **That many representatives will be elected who are committed to Biblical values.**
- **That an effective coalition can be formed to serve the best interests of the state**
- **Protection against the plans of the adversary: that God's good purposes for our land will be fulfilled through this election**

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European Union of Prayer

Prayer leaders from many nations of Europe are gathering for the 9th meeting of the "European Union of Prayer" from April 12th to 17th in Madrid. There, together as Europeans, we will pray for the continent, the EU, its people and its problems. **Prayer:**

- **For unity in the Spirit and love for one another despite our various cultural and theological backgrounds and above all despite different political opinions.**
- **That we will know what is on God's heart**
- **For many participants, also from Spain**
- **Thanks for what God has done in Spain during the past five years**

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Keep praying

Violence motivated by right and left wing extremists is on the increase in our land. Pray therefore not only for protection against Islamist terror attacks but also for a fall in acts of violence by extremists.

Berlin and Hamburg need special protection from riots on May 1st.

Other events for prayer:

- 05. – 10.04** "Spring" Christian Community Festival
- 10.04** NRW Day of Prayer
(in the Prayer House in Luedenscheid)
- 18.04** Harz Day of Prayer

God bless you

Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann