

July/August 2010

A prophetic vision

I saw Germany in front of me. A band of bright light shone right through the middle of it - from the bottom (Austria/Switzerland) to the top (Denmark). It was about 1/5 of the width of Germany. The 2/5 on the left and right of the light band were dark. Then I saw people at the edge of the light. They were facing the darkness with hands raised in prayer. They were coming and going. When there was a break in the line, a new person filled the gap. This picture was sent to us by an intercessor and shows us the reality and the extent of the darkness in our land: four fifths! In the west as well as in the east. "See," (look carefully) "darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples ..." (Isaiah 60 v.2a).

But for all that, why does this picture still encourage us? Because God has done something in this dark land: he has laid a wide band of light right through the middle of the land. This is the place in which we live for God. It does not lie just anywhere, God has set it right in the middle. It is like a *shaft of light* for Germany. The light must take up its position and realise its spiritual significance: this is how God wants to use the "Call of the Watchmen" in Germany. The intercessors stand at the edge of the shaft of light, in the front line, and pray into the darkness. As in the Call of the Watchmen prayer network, one prayer shift replaces another, they come and go. With raised hands, they command the darkness to flee and bless the land.

-O.S./Bernd H.-

The situation in the German State of North Rhine Westphalia (NRW)

The state of affairs in NRW is of great concern. Hannelore Kraft and the SPD stand alone with their concept to manage a new state government by building parliamentary majorities from the various party representatives according to the particular issue at hand. Their partners, the Greens, clearly want to be part of a minority government. Never has a German state suffered such chaos after an election. A more fundamental reason for the debacle is the rise of the Leftists, who make it impossible for both major blocks (centre-right/liberal and centre-left/green) to form a majority (over 50%), but are themselves not considered as a coalition partner – at least not in the west. But the worst thing of all is that NRW might only be a preview of the state of affairs at national level after 2013 or sooner. Then what? NRW chaos?

It is urgently necessary for the church of Jesus in Germany to take seriously its duty, according to 1. Timothy 2 v.1-4, first of all to pray for those in authority, and not to leave it to the Call of the Watchmen intercessors. This should once again be an integral part of the service on Sundays!

Prayer:

- **That the church of Jesus will wake up and exercise its responsibility for those in authority**
- **We bow before God amidst all the failures of our rulers and commit our land to his mercy**

- **For clear majorities in NRW and nationally** -OS-

Protection for the National Cabinet and the Federal President

Recent events have clearly indicated how much the national government and the new Federal President will need our constant prayers of blessing. There are no parliamentary sessions in July and August. The members of parliament will spend time in their constituencies and can take some vacation.

We therefore pray in these vacation months for protection for people in politics. We set them under God's blessing and proclaim the lordship of Jesus over them!

Some of the ministries are currently facing major political problems and we want to specifically pray for solutions.

- Federal President:** insert the name of the newly elected Federal President (as yet unknown)
- Federal Chancellor:** Angela Merkel (CDU) - maintaining strong leadership
- Foreign Minister:** Guido Westerwelle (FDP)
- Finance:** Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU) – austerity measures, financial crisis
- Home Affairs:** Thomas de Maizière (CDU)
- Defence:** Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg (CSU) – changes to military service
- Family:** Kristina Schroeder (CDU) – long term care, child day care and care allowances
- Health:** Philipp Rösler (FDP) – reform of the health service
- Building, Transport:** Peter Ramsauer (CSU)
- Labour, Welfare:** Ursula von der Leyen (CDU) – Harz IV, reduction of social budget
- Justice:** Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (FDP)
- Economy:** Rainer Brüderle (FDP) – economic recovery
- Environment:** Norbert Roettgen (CDU) – extending the life of nuclear power stations
- Education:** Annette Schavan (CDU) – national investment in training
- Development Aid:** Dirk Niebel (FDP)

Prayer:

- **Blessings on the new Federal President as he takes office**
- **For the ministers, their families and their staff: rest, relaxation, protection and blessing on family life, and for an encounter with God**
- **Pray for the individual ministries and their governmental duties (see above) and according to Colossians 1 v.9.**
- **Invite the Spirit of God to come as the counsellor to show the politicians the actions that best serve our land**

-RS-

Nuclear threat from Iran

The name of the country "Islamic Republic of Iran" suggests that it actually allows free elections, but the democratic liberties are monitored and limited by the religious authorities. Thus the supreme head of state Ali Khamenei is at the same time the life-long religious leader ("Ayatollah"), who has the final say in all matters. Under him since 2005 is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of Iran and head of government. When he was re-elected on June 12th 2009, it was surprisingly clear to the world that Iranian society is deeply divided. On one side stood Ahmadinejad and his arch-conservative well-armed revolutionary guard, and on the other side the reformers with their candidate Musawi.

Ahmadinejad, who publicly denies the Holocaust as a pure fabrication, is working with determination on the development of a nuclear bomb. He openly admits that his main goal is the annihilation of the Jewish "entity" (he avoids the word "state"). With the aspiration to own an atomic bomb, he is aiming to win political supremacy in the Near East region for himself.

There is the danger that Israel will make a pre-emptive (nuclear?) attack that could plunge the entire Middle East into war. The global community has been trying for years without success to persuade Iran through negotiations to abandon its plans. On June 9th the UN Security Council at last imposed rigorous sanctions on Iran. What happens if these also fail?

At the same time we hear from reliable sources that in recent months thousands in Teheran have become followers of Jesus who has appeared to many of them in dreams or brought healing. About 100,000 Christians meet secretly in house churches. They are persecuted, thrown into prison, tortured and many simply disappear without trace.

Prayer:

- **What negotiations and sanctions cannot do, the power of God can; may his power flow into this land; may it change the political aims of the land which depend closely on the person of Ahmadinejad while he remains in office. Pray for the strengthening of the reform movement before it is too late.**
- **Protection for Israel from the Iranian nuclear bomb and the Iranian auxiliary forces of Hezbollah and Hamas.**
- **Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Christians in Iran. Pray for courage, wisdom and protection.** -OS-

Looking out for one another

Recently I saw a film which showed how German soldiers were preparing for a tour of duty in Afghanistan. An important part of the training was learning not only how to fight the enemy but how to look out for one another. They learnt to always keep one another in sight and to protect each other. This was for me a reminder: in the Call of the Watchmen we are a spiritual army and should have the same concern for one another. (Hebrews 10 v.24-25).

Even when we do not list specific prayer points, please always be praying for protection for us in the leadership team, for the office staff, and for all the intercessors.

Prayer:

- **Protection for body, soul and spirit (see Psalm 23)**
- **Intercession for all who are involved in any way with the Call of the Watchmen (Colossians 1 v.9-12)** -RS-

30 days of prayer for the Islamic world

From August 11th to September 9th, during the Islamic month of fasting for Ramadan, there will be a 30 day prayer call for which the German Evangelical Alliance is publishing a prayer guide booklet. Muslims are increasingly coming to Jesus but they cannot live their faith openly and are often threatened with death. (See www.ead.de for details – or www.30-days.net for English).

Prayer:

- **Protection for all Muslim converts to Christianity**
- **The revelation of Jesus to the Muslims in Germany**
- **More support for Christians in Islamic countries by our government** -RS-

Vacations and summer camps

This summer many children will hear the gospel perhaps for the first time at a children's or youth camp. Decisions that are made by children and young people at this age in life influence the rest of their lives. The young generation desperately need Jesus!

Prayer:

- **That many children and young people will make a clear decision for Jesus**
- **For families and single parents who will be taking a vacation with their children: that relationships will be strengthened**
- **For strengthening and protection of marriages** -RS-

Action Nineveh

The Catholic charity "Aid to the Church in Need" is starting in Germany, together with monasteries, convents and other religious communities, a prayer initiative named "Action Nineveh" which will continue for one year (June 10th 2010 to June 3rd 2011). This is a call for representative prayer on behalf of the church for repentance and for intercession for renewal and purification within the church. (See www.kirche-in-not.de – Aktion Ninive).

Prayer:

- **That the fire of the Holy Spirit will purify, heal and renew the body of Jesus in Germany.** -RS-

Notes

- *Due to the vacation period, this letter also covers the month of August.*
- If you know of any prayer events planned for October 3rd (see June prayer letter), please let us know or enter the information online at www.3-oktober.de.

God bless you

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