

## CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

December 2010

**“Arise, shine, [Germany!] for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”** (Isaiah 60 v.1)

We are not in the Call of the Watchmen to make us feel good but so that the glory of God will be made visible in Germany, be celebrated, and so that the deeds of God will become everyday conversation – as in 1989/90.

Dear intercessors, I am not blind. Of course I see what it goes on to say in verse 2: **“See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, ...”** This is the darkness of secularism with all the sin that results. It is so important for us that the prophet also sees this darkness. But he does not stop there. He raises his eyes and, as with a trumpet call, announces a divine BUT: **“... but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.”**

The last word over Germany is not its present situation, but God’s promise. Intercessors take hold of this – until it finally becomes true! -OS-

### Depression – a social disease

Four million Germans suffer from depression. At this dark time of year, those who are depressed find it especially difficult and a sense of loneliness oppresses those old people who live alone even more. Many no longer see a purpose in living. Let us be concerned for the people in our area, pray for them and take every opportunity to speak to them or visit them. For all those who suffer in this way, here are a few tips for body, soul and spirit:

- Good memories warm the soul. (Psalm 103 v. 1-5).  
Or a good book? A piece of music?
- Bring joy into someone’s life today.
- Pray that God will bring to mind Bible verses or the words of songs that encourage you. (Ephesians 5 v.19)
- When you think that no-one can help you, do not give up – then pick up the phone to the best counsellor! (2 Corinthians 1 v.3-4)

### Prayer:

- **Let us pray during Advent for the joy of Jesus to fill saddened hearts. (Hymn: Macht hoch die Tür)** -OS- (Translator’s note: **“Macht hoch die Tür”** – “Be lifted up, you ancient doors, [that the King of glory may come in.]” - see Psalm 24 v.7ff - is a traditional German Advent hymn from 1623. Let us insert here the English carol: **“Joy to the world, the Lord has come!”** from the same period with the tune Antioch from G.F.Handel!!)

### Immigration

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon. Hunger, war and poverty drive people from the poorest areas of the world to the rich countries – and that includes Germany.

For decades the political parties have refused to regard Germany as a land of immigration – until the problem could no longer be ignored. Coming to terms with this suddenly undeniable reality was handled in one of two ways: the political left embraced it as no big deal, saying

that we are enriched by other cultures (“Multi-Kulti” is the common German term). The political right reacted with abrupt hostility to the point of criminal violence (Germany for the Germans). Both approaches ran into trouble as neither provided the atmosphere necessary for proper integration: the right wing for obvious reasons and the left wing because they required no efforts to integrate in return for the “welcome”. In the meantime there is a move to find a healthy “middle-of-the-road” policy. On the one hand the acceptability of a national consciousness also for Germans has again come into being in the past 10 years. Consequently we can again speak of the fundamental culture of this country – characterised by history, constitutional law and language – to which immigrants are required to adapt. Training courses for integration are available and examinations must be taken. On the other hand criteria are now being developed for the admission of new immigrants. The official state authorities must however be relieved of the enormous “red-tape”, as highly qualified immigrants are frustrated and are now leaving the country, although they are urgently needed here for the economy. Overcoming the administrative hurdles for the recognition of qualifications is for many just too difficult.

### Prayer:

- **Thanks for the restored sense of self-worth in the German people.**
- **Thanks for the German constitutional law that protects those who are persecuted. Pray that persecution because of religious belief will be fully recognised within the law in Germany.**
- **Pray for the government to be ready not only to enforce integration but also to provide adequate financial resources and to simplify the process of law-making and enforcement for foreigners.**
- **Pray for many Muslims to turn to Jesus Christ.** -OS-

### Heightened danger of terrorism

The German government sees a heightened danger from terrorism in our land. All citizens have been alerted to be increasingly aware. The so-called “soft targets” such as airports, railway stations and other locations where many people assemble are now under increased observation. But these areas are particularly difficult to monitor. In November, explosives were discovered in two air-freight packages. Security lapses in air-freight procedures were recognised. There were indications from abroad that terrorists were planning an attack in Germany at the end of November and that they were already on the move. Within Germany the authorities are watching over an increasing number of potentially violent Islamists.

### Prayer:

- **Thanks for safety from terrorist attacks until now (Psalm 105 v.1-5) and pray for God’s further gracious protection (Psalm 118 v.8,9).**

- **God's divine support in the work of the security and police forces.**
- **Exposure of terrorist plans in the light of the Holy Spirit and with the help of angels. (2 Kings 6 v.8-12)**
- **For wisdom and knowledge about how to effectively close the loop-holes in security procedures.** -RS-

#### **Right of adoption for homosexual partners?**

The consequences of the law concerning registered civil partnerships from 2001 are becoming increasingly clear. There is now scarcely an area in which homosexual partnership is not treated equally to marriage in law. This has often happened in Germany through pressure to implement the anti-discrimination guidelines of the European Union in the applicable areas of jurisdiction. The latest contested area concerns adoption where homosexual partners are still excluded. The Justice Ministers of the German states have now spoken out for the general right of homosexual partners to adopt children and are committed to enact the necessary legislation in the government. The destruction of marriage and family is moving forward at an even greater pace. Our children are being exposed to the confusion of genders without protection. What can we do? In the face of the might of fascism in 1936 Reinhold Schneider wrote:

"Only intercessors can now succeed / to check the sword hovering overhead; / to wrest this world from the coming dread / through a way of life that's consecrated indeed."  
(Translator's note: Rhyming follows original German text.)

#### **Prayer:**

- **Let us like the persistent widow (Luke 18 v.1-18) approach God and beg for grace to save our children from being the victims of the increasing confusion of genders.**
- **Let us stand in prayer against a change in the adoption law in Germany.** -RS-

#### **24-7 Prayer: Germany faces a challenge**

"24-7 Prayer" is an international prayer and missions movement that is committed to righteous living. The triplets – prayer, mission and righteousness – are at the heart of the vision to mobilise the church to reconcile the world with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5 v.19) It came from a prayer room about 10 years ago. Inspired by the Herrnhut community of Count Nikolas von Zinzendorf which prayed non-stop for over 100 years, young people in Chichester in the south of England began to pray 24 hours, 7 days a week. They creatively decorated a room, divided the day into 24 shifts and in prayer God met with them in a new way. What was initially planned for three weeks ended only after three months – temporarily!

The prayer virus spread rapidly worldwide over the Internet ([www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com)) and infected countless other people including many in Germany.

Now that Markus Laegel has given up the leadership of

24-7 Germany, a new leadership structure must be established – and this critical phase needs much prayer for protection.

#### **Prayer:**

- **For a new leadership team for 24-7 prayer in Germany. (1 Corinthians 12 v.28)**
- **For the setting up of a new German website for Germany, Austria and Switzerland.**
- **Multiplying of prayer rooms and praying communities that lead to mission and righteous living.** -Louisa Natterer 24-7 Germany-

#### **Israel**

The pressure on Israel is increasing. Turkey is aligning itself with Iran. The USA is putting pressure on its allies against Israel. Germany reacted with a problematic, cross-party resolution that required Israel to lift the Gaza blockade. This caused a lot of political damage.

But there is good news. While the international trend to tell Israel how to behave is increasing, the true friends of Israel are gathering. On October 31<sup>st</sup> there was an historic meeting in Frankfurt of over 1,000 friends of Israel from Jewish, Christian and political/secular communities. The sponsorship included over 80 organisations of which about one third was Christian! The event aroused positive awareness in Israel, in the political scene in Germany and further afield.

#### **Prayer:**

- **That the network of supporters would grow in a positive spirit and would gain ground at a regional level.**
- **That Christians in prominent positions use their influence both spiritually and practically. (Matthew 5 v.13)**
- **That the Chancellor, the government and political community in Germany will either demonstrate solidarity with regard to Israel or seriously reconsider their position once again. (Genesis 12 v.3)** -HE-

#### **Our anniversary draws nearer**

Again and again, wherever Rosemarie and I (Ortwin) go, we hear how thankful you are for the "Call of the Watchmen" and that you are praying for us – which means a lot to us.

It is also a great blessing to us when you can donate just 10 Euros at this time in the year as a cheerful and free-will offering to the Call of the Watchmen. Our anniversary is actually on February 1<sup>st</sup> but we are thankful to those who have already given. The bank account details are shown below in the page footer.

*So we now thank you all for your faithfulness throughout the year and wish you a very blessed Christmas.*

*Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann*