

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

September 2011

**“Not by might nor by power ...”**

In times of crisis, when people are increasingly reacting with fear, hate and violence, the Word of God shows us how deliverance comes about “... by my Spirit.” (Zachariah 4 v.6)

In recent weeks we have all been shaken by the events in Norway. It is hard to understand how someone could act in such a brutal way. He wanted to “save” Norway.

Pent-up rage, feelings of hate, self-righteousness and great presumption – an inner spiral of emotion which grew unabated in Breivik to the point of mass murder. Yet there is only one person who has had the victory over evil – Jesus! He saves through love and sacrifice.

*“A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.” (Psalm 33 v.17-18)*

We look for deliverance through God’s Spirit as we hope in his unfailing love as we pray. Begin your time of prayer by reading Psalm 33. -RS-

**In the wake of the financial markets**

While in the financial crisis of 2008 the banks were facing ruin, the current Euro crisis is totally different. Then the state governments came to the rescue. These were considered as worthy of credit without limit. But now state governments themselves are facing ruin and must be rescued with even greater bail-out packages. Everyone knew that this approach would reach its limit if Spain and Italy also needed help. This has now happened with Italy and the Euro-zone can no longer absorb the debt. And France is also now wavering. The political system has so far not found an effective means to deal with the greatest crisis in Europe since the war.

Adding to the current crisis, a serious problem has occurred in the USA at the same time. America is in debt to the tune of 14 trillion dollars, has high unemployment and is on the brink of a recession. And what is worse – the political leaders are more deeply divided than ever. That is the real reason for the lowering of the credit rating by one level – an unprecedented move!

Germany is economically strong at the moment. But because of the interdependence within international markets, Germany is in danger as the largest creditor in the Euro-zone of being pulled into the maelstrom of excessive debt. The next weeks will show whether Europe is moving in the direction of a federal state with a common financial and economic policy, or whether the Euro-zone will break apart and the community (EU) disintegrates once again into individual nation states. “In the end” writes Stern magazine (33/2011) “in God we trust.” The way it is in the USA. And now here in Europe.

**Prayer:**

- **Give thanks for all the good political decisions that have been made in this country for which we must continue to pray. (Jeremiah 29 v.7)**

- **Let us call on God’s wisdom and lordship over the future of Europe. (Jeremiah 29 v.11-14)**
- **Repent for the whole present culture in Europe: after the breakdown of moral values, God now allows us to experience the breakdown of our financial values. We pray for mercy in his judgements. (Isaiah 26 v.8,13)** -OS-

**Israel under pressure**

Not since the creation of the state in 1948 has Israel been in such danger as now in September 2011. During the next General Assembly of the United Nations, a unilateral declaration for the Palestinian areas to become a nation state is scheduled for confirmation on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A majority vote in favour is expected. Even if this vote has no legal consequences, since the state of Israel will remain within the cease-fire lines of 1967, it does show the prevailing mood within the world and highlights the international isolation of Israel. The psychological pressure on Israel branded as an “occupying power” and a “terrorist regime” will also gain the semblance of legitimacy.

The legal position is however as follows: in 1922 the League of Nations (forerunner of the UN) unanimously assigned under international law a national homeland to the Jewish people in the areas of Samaria, Judea and Jerusalem, the borders of which were to be determined. After the War of Independence in 1949, only “cease-fire lines” were agreed – not borders. These were *expressly* provisional, just as the new lines in 1967 and 1973. For this reason UN-Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) called for both parties to resolve the actual border issues by *negotiation*. Until today this has never happened! The unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state would nullify these UN resolutions – and this through the actions of the UN itself. Incredible!

**Prayer:**

- **That the vote in the UN does not take place and that our German government takes a clear stand against it and convinces other countries to do the same. (Genesis 12 v.3)**
- **Great fortitude for Prime Minister Netanyahu to withstand the pressure and to strengthen his people. (Nehemiah 4 v.8 and 6 v.16)**
- **Purification of Israel through this adversity, and that they would cry out to God and to Yeshua, the Prince of Peace. (Nehemiah 9 v.30-33)** -OS-

**Ten years of civil partnership law and its consequences**

Ten years ago homosexuals were able for the first time to enter into a civil partnership by law. In the meantime this has had far reaching consequences for society and the raising of our children which are becoming increasingly apparent. The law has created recognition for a way of living which is now being promoted as “normal” and of equal value through state supported campaigns. These promotions are justified as an action in support of anti-

discrimination. A campaign is running right now in Giessen aimed at the young: "Love as you like". The message to young people is that not only is a sexual relationship between a man and woman normal, but also every kind of sexual orientation and relationship between women and between men. The Evangelical Alliance has begun a petition against this campaign.

In Berlin a "Resource Kit" has been developed in cooperation with homosexual associations entitled "Family, Ways of Living and Sexual Diversity" with which children from the first grade (class) can be made familiar with homosexual life styles through play. The aim is once again to present every kind of sexual behaviour and partnership as being of equal value. Lessons on homosexuality are being included in the school curriculum in more and more states in Germany. Representatives from homosexual associations are invited to schools to devise their own lesson plans. They encourage the young people in the art of "Coming Out".

It is important that parents are alert and take appropriate action against school programmes that try to present something as of equal value when it is not.

**Prayer:**

- **Give thanks for God's design and plan in creation and for the mystery of marriage. (Ephesians 5 v.31-32)**
- **Pray for forgiveness for all forms of idolatry and their consequences. (Romans 1 v.18-32)**
- **That there will be increasing resistance from our citizens against "re-education" campaigns that are promoted and sponsored by the state.** -RS-

**The heavy load on parliamentarians**

The first session of parliament after the summer break begins on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Many politicians commute between Berlin and their home states. With two or three week-long sessions in each month, they are mostly separated from family and close friends.

A member of parliament's work in the local constituency could involve decisions about a new fire station, but in the national parliament he or she must take responsibility for decisions to save the Euro. Many are over-stretched with the complexity and multiplicity of the issues. Recently with the important crisis issues (financial crisis, nuclear power plant closures), solutions have to be found so quickly that there is no time to properly read the government draft papers, much less to understand them. A high workload combined with frustration and a sense of helplessness is a dangerous mixture and can lead to an addiction. In July a CDU parliamentarian openly admitted his alcohol addiction. Dependence on alcohol appears to be not uncommon among politicians.

**Prayer:**

- **Wisdom and sound judgement for politicians, so that no errors will be made in the rush.**
- **Strength and power for the weak. (Isaiah 40 v.29-30)**

- **That the parliamentarians find their security in God.** -RS-

**The Pope is visiting Germany**

Pope Benedict XVI is visiting Germany from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2011. This trip is in response to an invitation from the Federal President. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> he will make a speech in parliament and later conduct a mass in the Olympic Stadium. He will then go on to Erfurt, Etzelsbach and Freiburg. The schedule will include meetings with representatives of the Jewish community, of Islam and the Orthodox Church.

In Berlin a large demonstration is planned by a group of activists under the leadership of the Lesbian and Homosexual Association against the Pope's "inhumane stand concerning gender and sexual issues".

**Prayer:**

- **That the Pope's speech in parliament will be received with open hearts. (Psalm 81 v.8-9)**
- **Protection against incursions or attacks during his visit. (Psalm 91)**
- **That despite all opposition, blessings remain on our land after the visit. (Psalm 86 v.9-10)** -RS-

**Further help for intercessors**

We are often asked if we can recommend material to inspire intercessors and provide information and teaching about prayer. A new book has just been published in Germany by ASAPH Verlag entitled: "Gebet Non Stop. Die Gebetshausbewegung." (Non-stop Prayer. The Prayer House Movement.) by Rainer Harter.

As well as a guide to starting Houses of Prayer, it gives much Biblical and historical information about 24 hour prayer and the "Tabernacle of David". A book that will certainly benefit us in the Call of the Watchmen. -OS-

**Translators note:** We have been encouraged by the publication "The Watchmen" by Tom Hess which covers similar valuable information for the intercessor and is available in many languages (including English) from: [http://www.jerusalemhouseofprayer.org/online\\_shopping.html](http://www.jerusalemhouseofprayer.org/online_shopping.html)

**Other events for prayer**

- 04.09** State elections in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.
- 17.09** March for Life in Berlin. [www.marsch-fuer-das-leben.de](http://www.marsch-fuer-das-leben.de)
- 17.-24.09** Meeting of the European Union of Prayer with Ortwin Schweitzer in Warsaw, Poland.
- 18.09** Elections to the Berlin City Parliament.
- 22.-25.09** Pope's visit to Germany (see above).
- 22.09** Regional prayer conference in Kiel – organised by Call of the Watchmen in Schleswig-Holstein.

**Note:** The Call of the Watchmen is now on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/waechterruf](http://www.facebook.com/waechterruf).

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