

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

December 2011

“ ... apart from me you can do nothing”

We all know this verse from John Chapter 15 Verse 5. We profess it individually and together in our groups. Then we say “amen”, stand up and “get on with our real business”: washing up, servicing cars, office duties, etc. But where is John 15, 5 now? And when I am writing this letter ... ?

The fact is, we cannot even pray without him, as Paul admits in Romans 8, 26. If this is true for him, how much more for us!

Many of us pray because we have signed up for the Call of the Watchmen and want to be faithful to our commitment. But we are basically tired and would really like to give it up. If this is the case, then let us work through this together:

- Tell me how you really feel.
- Do you feel that you have just had to “persevere” in prayer? And that it was really “in your own strength”? This way leads to spiritual burn-out.
- Relax! Simply be a branch on the vine. Then let the nourishing sap of the Spirit flow in and through you.

-OS-

Prayer is on the rise

We have a “Round Table Prayer” meeting where various prayer movements in Germany come together twice a year to share experiences. The latest meeting was in November and we were encouraged to learn that there is a move towards an increase in prayer in Germany. For example, the number of 24/7 prayer houses is growing. In Augsburg there is now a Catholic 24 hour prayer house that has every hour around the clock covered. The 24/7 movement in Germany also reports that prayer weeks with 24 hour watches have been held throughout the year in different places.

At the “Youth Prayer Congress” (YouPC) next year, 1000 young people will meet for training in prayer as a life style. The GGE (Protestant Charismatic Renewal) movement has begun a “Germany is praying” initiative and wants to start 1000 new prayer groups. The TOS (stands for “Frontline City Mission in Tübingen”) churches share their experiences at conferences about how they have been practising 24 hour prayer for many years. And last but not least, some young people have planned a three month prayer walk through Germany from May 1st to August 1st in 2012. They want to pray for unity, renewal and awakening in the churches and our communities and raise a spirit of hope. (See www.betenbewegen.de)

Prayer:

- **Thanks for an increase in prayer activity in Germany**
- **Pray that the young people will be baptised with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (Matthew 3 v.11)**
- **For every congress and initiative that encourages prayer.**

-RS-

Terrorist activity by right-wing extremists

Within a period of 10 years a right-wing terror group in Germany murdered nine immigrant people, raided at least 14 banks and remained undetected. What does this mean in spiritual terms for our land?

The “demonic spirit in brown” of National Socialism has not yet been defeated! I believe that a wake-up call from God is going out to the nation so that we can come against right-wing extremism in a much more determined way. Just recently experts have confirmed in a report that anti-Semitism “to a considerable extent” is deeply rooted in German society. Right-wing extremist ideas are reaching young people more and more through the Internet. Those who are not secure in their own identity yield very easily to the temptation to seize every opportunity to denigrate Jews and anything else foreign to them. The greater the insecurity the greater in general is the success of right-wing extremist propaganda. Only the love of God can drive out the fear!

More than a third of the 25,000 right-wing extremists in Germany are prepared to take violent action and the number is increasing. Until now there has not been any new request to ban the NPD (Nationalist Party) because of their many agents in government security departments who first need to be removed. The question must also be answered as to why the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (the domestic intelligence agency) has so miserably failed to act in this regard. To what extent has the state perhaps not been responsible for aiding the growth of the right-wing extremist culture by actually recruiting such agents who are very well paid? The newly appointed Federal Advocate General Harald Range (63) now has the challenging task to clarify these and other questions. Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich has taken the first steps to come against right-wing extremism more resolutely. There will be a “central intelligence agency for right-wing affairs” to collate the various information from the police and secret services in all countries.

Prayer:

- **We stand in the gap for our nation to confess the sins of blindness and cover-up in respect of right-wing violence. (1 John 1 v.5-10)**
- **Lord, break the power of false gods – rule in our hearts so that your perfect love will drive out fear. (1 John 4 v.18)**
- **For the Federal Advocate General Harald Range, the Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich and other political leaders, that they will know what measures to introduce to combat right-wing extremism.** -RS-

Europe at the crossroads

The current crisis was foreseeable and is necessary. It is forcing the Euro states and also the whole European

Union to make a decision concerning the future direction of Europe which is also closely connected to the overall vision: what kind of Europe do we want?

Since the beginnings of collectivisation with the Coal and Steel Community (1950) and the Treaty of Rome (1957), European politics have been moving as in an ellipse around two focal points: "centralisation" (giving up individual national rights to the community) and "nationalism" (defending these rights against "Brussels"). When we look back on the previous path in Europe, we can recognise a growth in mutual cooperation: dismantling of border controls, goals for climate protection, the fight against criminality, etc. The rule has been: whatever works better together than separately, we do together.

A common currency was agreed upon in Maastricht in 1992. A common "Ministry of Finance" (or "Treasury Department") to manage the common currency was avoided. Since then, without supervision and the possibility of intervention or sanctions, all of the Euro states have been operating in parallel to one another. With this in mind and as a precautionary measure, it was stipulated in the Lisbon Treaty of 2007 that no state would have to jump to the rescue of another if it ran out of money.

This is the cause of the current crisis: the unmanaged monetary policy. Many European states have incurred debts beyond their capacity to repay. In the end, the Lisbon Treaty had to be broken, because it had to be recognised that the bankruptcy of one or more states could actually drag down all of them.

The resulting options now are:

- more of Europe, which means a central fiscal policy with management authority ... or
- less of Europe, with the break-up of the Euro and a return to national currencies.

Germany has increasingly taken the lead in this crisis. The concept of Angela Merkel is definitely "more of Europe", combined with some encroachment into the budgeting and tax rights of other states, especially those with large debts.

Prayer:

- **Sing to the Lord who reigns over history!**
(Read Psalm 46).
- **For decades we have all danced around the "golden calf" of growth and prosperity and have incurred debts at the cost of the next generation.**
As in Exodus 32 v.1-20, God's commands have been disregarded with all the ensuing consequences.
Sincere and honest repentance is required.
- **Let us lay claim to the Christian heritage of Europe once again in the seen and unseen worlds.** -OS-

70 years after the Wannsee Conference

On November 22nd there was a reception in the Knesset for Christian organisations from all over the world which have in particular helped Holocaust survivors in Israel. In

many cases these people live in poverty and are dependent on outside support. The recognition of Christian organisations shows how strongly the confidence of Israeli government institutions has grown in Christian supporters of Israel. In the context of the coming 70th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference in Berlin a further deepening of this relationship is planned.

70 years ago, on January 20th 1942, in a villa in Wannsee, Berlin, the systematic mass extermination of 11 million Jews was organised in fine detail. 70 years – a spiritually significant time period!

Christians, Holocaust survivors and the state of Israel are equally interested in an appropriate commemoration in Berlin. Various events have been planned by the "Christians for Israel" and "January 27th Initiative" organisations on January 20th and 21st:

- A public memorial event with special guests from the German government, the Jewish community and high-ranking representatives from Israel.
- A reception and evening of friendship to honour Holocaust survivors.
- A memorial, prayer and repentance conference in a church in Berlin.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the growing confidence of official representatives from Israel in Christian supporters.**
- **Blessings and protection for all the preparations – that all the good purposes of God will be fulfilled in these special events in Berlin.**
- **For the future impact on German-Israeli relations through the cooperation and contacts that are now being established. (Genesis 27 v.29)** -RS-

23,600 Euro

This is the amount, dear friends, that you contributed to the Call of the Watchmen between December 2010 and April 2011. With your one-time gift of 10 Euro for the 10th birthday of the Call of the Watchmen on February 1st, we have been able to cover the costs of printing, postage, office and personnel throughout the year. Exceptional costs for brochures and new projects were also covered. We are now commissioning a three minute film on the Call of the Watchmen that you can show in your church or group. It will also be available on our website and on YouTube. New intercessors are visiting our website daily, as well as some from outside Germany! And we look forward to your free-will gifts again in 2012.

Prayer:

- **That the Holy Spirit will make use of all possible technological means to call intercessors for Germany.**
- **For joyful givers for our birthday action in 2012.** -OS-

Other events for prayer

- 28.12 - 02.01** European Youth Mission Congress in Erfurt.
- 28.12 - 02.01** International Taizé Youth Meeting in Berlin.

*We wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas season
Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann*