

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

February 2012

Words of encouragement

On the 12th anniversary of the Call of the Watchmen, let us take encouragement from the words of the hymn by a German aristocrat and one of the fathers of Pietism in the 18th Century in Germany. Christoph Karl Ludwig von Pfeil sheds light on a different aspect of prayer in every verse. Take delight in it! Enjoy!

1. *Intercessors, sanctify yourselves with sacred oil!
Let the Spirit of Jesus flow into your heart and soul!
May your mouths overflow in sacred ways
With supplication, prayer and praise.*
2. *The prayers of the saints, the pleas and requests,
Are poured out on the altar before God's throne,
Where Jesus Christ is our great high priest
Who for all his servants will atone.*
3. *If the prayer from one of the faithful souls,
When it touches God's heart, cannot miss its goal;
What now if they all come together before his throne
And present their prayers in unison!*
4. *Oh what amazing power is in our prayers indeed.
Without this nothing can be done
In good times and in need.
Step by step it assures the victory of friends,
And to those who oppose it brings an end.* -OS-

12th anniversary of the Call of the Watchmen

Anniversaries are normally celebrated with flowers. Here's a "bunch" of good news!

- There are now 290 prayer groups in the Call of the Watchmen and many cover 24 hours. Germany is encompassed night and day by watchmen's prayer.
- Around 400 people registered in 2011 as intercessors.
- In 2010 our Website had 22,318 visits – and in 2011 this rose to 35,106 visits!
- There is now a prayer group in Denmark and in the USA (IHOP Kansas City). There are individual intercessors all around the world.
- Effective immediately – on our 12th anniversary – there is a "virtual" Watchmen's Call prayer group on the Internet that "meets" on the 4th Monday of each month. This is especially for individual intercessors!

And the last flower in the bunch:

- Thank you for your 10 Euro thank offering!

Prayer:

- **Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!**
(Psalm 107 v.1-3, Psalm 111 v.1-3)
- **For further growth in all these areas.** -OS-

Our Federal President (as of January 19th)

We have never seen so much mud-slinging against a Federal President. As there has been no indictable misconduct, no legal action to dismiss him from office is expected. So what is this really all about?

1. Christian Wulff calls for high moral standards that he has also required of his political opponents. These

convictions are now being held up against him. What is happening here is the fall of a self-righteous man. The Lord says: "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you – and even more." (Mark 4 v.24.) God is putting this man "through the mill".

2. In a democracy the citizens expect politicians to stay independent. Dependency arises from gifts and benefits of not insignificant value. In this regard Wulff has not been sufficiently wise and sensitive to the issues which have not just arisen from some early friendships of his youth, but involve later friendships formed on his way up the ladder. "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God ... and it will be given to him." (James 1 v.5.)
3. Federal President is a position of trust in our democracy. He should be an example to the people and stand on behalf of the people as a discerning voice in the corridors of power. Despite his good work in the past, Wulff will now have a more difficult task in being a cautionary voice in our nation. He has however admitted his mistakes and publicly apologised. "A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honour." (Proverbs 29 v.23.)
4. But all this hype about Wulff begs another question: Who is in control of the media? We only see a politician as the media portrays him and not the real person. The analysis of the affair in the BILD newspaper and also the sort of language used in other papers shows what the destructive power of the media can do. This is *not* about the freedom of the press but the arbitrary opinions of single journalists! Who is really in charge in this country? "Woe to those who plan iniquity, ... because it is in their power to do it." (Micah 2 v.1.)

Prayer:

- **For the presidency of Christian Wulff to continue in an open and honourable way.**
- **Wisdom in the office of the President.**
- **For all who work in the media; for honesty and an approach with humility and self-examination.** -OS-

Germany policy towards Iran

The latest report of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) has clearly confirmed for the first time that Iran is pursuing its nuclear program with military intentions. As a result the tension between Iran and the rest of the world has reached a new peak. It is feared that Iran will be able to build an atomic bomb within one year. As Iran is the only country in the world that has officially adopted an anti-Semitic and Holocaust denial policy in government and also promotes the total destruction of Israel, the danger of war is becoming more certain. The only possibility to avoid a pre-emptive attack on Iran by, for example, Israel and/or the USA is seen in tougher sanctions. Germany is however holding back because it

does not want to endanger its trade relations with Iran. Therefore our country is now playing a decisive role. When Reza Shah came to power in Iran in the 1920s, he looked to Germany for help to build up the state and its industries. In this way German engineering know-how and manufacturing systems became the foundation of Iranian industry. Still today two-thirds of Iranian companies are dependent on German spare parts. Within the EU, Germany stands as the largest exporter nation with more than two billion Euros in export volume.

Therefore Germany contributes decisively to the economic stability of the greatest enemy of Israel and its technical ability to build the bomb. While the USA, Great Britain and France have agreed tough new sanctions to cut off the Iranian Central Bank from foreign cash flow, Germany is holding back from falling into line. While other governments are withdrawing support, the German Foreign Minister Westerwelle welcomed the Iranian Foreign Minister in Bonn in December 2011.

Prayer:

- **For a clear change of German policy towards Iran to support tougher sanctions. (Genesis 27 v.29)**
- **Pray for forgiveness for all the worship of the idol of mammon – let us only desire righteousness. (Proverbs 14 v.34.)**
- **May God bring about a political change in Iran so that war will not be necessary. (Joel 3 v.16.)** -RS-

Israel and the Palestinian organisations

While the so-called “moderate” leader of the PLO Mahmud Abbas has had no success so far with his Palestine State membership bid in the UN, the radical Islamist Hamas organisation could celebrate the agreement to release Gilad Shalit as a great success.

Now that the uprisings in the Arab countries have led to the strengthening of the position of the Islamists there through free elections, the prestige of Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas as Prime Minister in Gaza is growing. He is now considered as the true representative of Palestinian interests. The PLO and Hamas are contending for political dominance over the Palestinians. They did however conclude a reconciliation pact last year in May. It allowed for a joint interim government with elections in May 2012. Because of disagreements, they have not yet formed this government. Now Hamas, whose charter calls for the elimination of Israel, wants to join forces with the “Islamic Jihad” group of the PLO. This raises the struggle for power to a new level. Until now the PLO was the negotiating partner in the peace talks with Israel. The entry of Hamas will lead to a radicalisation of the PLO. And the terrorist organisation Hamas would become a member of an internationally recognised organisation. This will have consequences for the relationship between the PLO, Israel and all the other nation states. Germany will also have to take a clear position.

Prayer:

- **That God brings all the schemes of the evil one**

against Israel to nothing and that any link between Hamas and the PLO will not succeed.

(Psalm 33 v.10-11.)

- **That all the nations will wake up to the current growth of Islamism in Arab lands. (Proclaim Psalm 68 v.28-35.)**
- **That Germany does not pressurise Israel to negotiate with a PLO that has been strengthened by Hamas terrorists.** -RS-

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for our Land

Since 2004 around 70 prayer movements and initiatives from various denominations in Germany have been calling Christians to pray together for many different spheres within society in our land during the 40 days before Easter. The prayer initiative this year begins on February 22nd. The call to prayer is from Luke 10 v.2: “Ask the Lord of the harvest...” with the underlying theme: “Evangelism and Prayer” in special cooperation with “ProChrist”.

Weekly prayer cards can be ordered from: Neues Leben Stiftung at www.werte-stiftung.de.

The 40 days will end with a **national prayer conference** for all generations on Easter Monday in Kassel. There will be motivational addresses from Ulrich Parzany (ProChrist) and Ortwin Schweitzer and we warmly invite all intercessors to come! (Jesus Zentrum Kassel, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Strasse 27 – 11am to 4:30pm.)

Prayer:

- **That more and more people will feel called to pray and fast for our land during these 40 days.**
- **That God’s glory will be revealed in our land. (Isaiah 40 v.5.)**
- **That evangelism and prayer will be more often linked together in our land.** -RS-

Prayer for spiritual leaders

The following prayer points are from the “Prayer Calendar for Germany 2012” (Neues Leben Stiftung - see above.)

- **To be role models of leadership in their churches.**
- **For God’s protection from hostility and temptation.**
- **Strength for the spouses and families of preachers.**
- **Protection and strength for missionaries in other lands, especially those working in areas affected by natural or man-made disasters.**
- **Healthy balance between ministry, family and friends**

Other events for prayer

07.02- 14.02 Marriage Week – support for marriages. www.marriage-weekinternational.com

27.02- 01.03 Spring General Assembly of the German Bishop’s Conference in Regensburg.

Political Page: Spiritual insights into Germany’s historical connections with Islam and the consequences. The full text of the publication “The Death Pact” in English can be requested from: international@waechterruf.de.

God bless you all

Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann