

April 2012

On the railway platform

I was standing there, waiting for my local train. "Is this train going to the airport?" he asked me. Next to me was a stocky little man with a foreign accent. We started talking: Turkish, migrant worker for 15 years, now on his way home to his family in Istanbul. The train came and we sat opposite each other in the train although it was quite empty. He was no longer working. Early retirement. "I have Hodgkin's disease." His eyes were sad, his face expressionless. "Do you believe in life after death?" I asked him. "Yes." "Do you believe that you will go to heaven?" "I don't know if I have done enough good deeds," he replied. He had already told me that he did not go to the mosque. I seized the opportunity – we still had 15 minutes – to tell him about our God that Jesus said was also our "Father". "And he loves you as well – right here and now!" He looked at me with big eyes. Still five minutes to go. I asked: "Can I pray for you and this disease?" He nodded. I laid my hand on his on the window ledge and prayed, especially against his Hodgkin's disease. "Amen!" He just looked at me. I smiled and gave him my card and said: "Write to me when your Hodgkin's disease is gone." He nodded.

Only 15% of Muslims go to a mosque, the rest have no spiritual home. They are wide open to talk about their faith. Let us lay aside our fears and seize the chance to share the gospel with them! -OS-

State elections

One state election in 2012 was sure: Schleswig Holstein in May. Unexpectedly there was an election in Saarland in March because of the collapse of the ruling coalition and now in North Rhine Westphalia because of the failure of the minority state government. In all three states the fall of the FDP (liberal party) to below the required 5% mark is expected and therefore they will be excluded from the parliaments. At the same time a strengthening of the "Pirate Party" on the political left is expected along with their entry into the state parliaments.

What does all this mean at the national level, now and in 2013? Here also it looks like God is shuffling the cards again. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Prayer:

- **Let us join with our brothers and sisters in these states and pray that the result of the elections will be for the good of the state in the long-term. (Isaiah 54 v.8-9)**
- **Again we place our national government under God's protection and guidance and pray that it does not fall apart under the strain. (Jeremiah 29 v.11-14a)** -OS-

God has great plans – G.O.D.

On Saturday June 2nd something will take place, the like of which has never happened before – the greatest global evangelisation – not promoted by a famous evangelist

with televised transmissions, but organised and run by God's people around the world. Following on from the "Global Day of Prayer" on Pentecost Sunday, May 27th, the people of God will set out on the next Saturday to share the gospel with millions. Like a tsunami, a wave of proclamation will go around the globe. The special thing for us Germans is that this spiritual impetus for global evangelisation originates in our land. Nothing like this has happened since the days of Zinzendorf (and the Moravian community in Herrnhut).

Werner Nachtigall from Berlin who carries the vision has been travelling around the world for a year and has experienced so much grace and confirmation through "coincidences" and open doors. Never before have global mission organisations been so ready to work together in this way. Many organisations are together participating in the call for this Global Outreach Day (G.O.D.) including Youth With A Mission (YWAM), Alpha International, Christ for all Nations (Reinhard Bonnke), E.A.Adeboye's Church in Nigeria, Call2all and of course Global Day of Prayer.

Work is already underway in 18 offices and 21 countries. Support material in many languages is already available, including a super pocket sized booklet that leads the reader along a path of commitment of their life to Jesus. In Germany there are two offices: Berlin and Kempten. More details from www.globaloutreachday.com.

Prayer:

- **For the world-wide church to be mobilised for evangelism – especially in Germany – by the Spirit of God. (Psalm 115 v.1-2. Psalm 98 v.1-4.)**
- **Release of funds in the millions for the translation and production of support material. (Psalm 115 v.3,11.)**
- **For more workers at all levels. (Matthew 9 v.37ff.)**
- **The G.O.D. team ask for prayer, especially for the work with computers. (1 Corinthians 15 v.58.)** -OS-

Prayer walk through Germany

Supported by a broad inter-church sponsorship team, young Christians are putting into action the call of God to permeate this country with prayer.

Under the banner: "Gemeinsam beten und bewegen" (literally: Collectively pray and move) there will be a three month prayer walk through Germany from May 1st to August 1st, in which both young and old can take part. The prayer walk starts out in Stuttgart, continues through Frankfurt, the Ruhr area, Hanover, Berlin, Leipzig, Nuremberg and ends back in Stuttgart. A torch will be carried during the entire walk as a symbol of the light of God. In the host churches along the way there will be prayer for Germany together with those locally who are not able to actively take part in the walk. The prayer topics will be: unity, renewal and awakening in the churches and in our society. They are still looking for people who can be available for at least two weeks to one

month to drive the escort vehicle, and for 4 or 5 young or young-at-heart people who are available for the three months to walk the entire route. They are also looking for people to present the vision in their churches and to encourage participation in the walk for one or two days. Prayer partners are also extremely important. For more information and the registration form, see: www.betenbewegen.de. Please be aware of the closing dates for registration!

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the faith, courage and obedience of those who are sponsoring and taking part in this walk. (Hebrews 11 v.1.)**
- **That all organisational issues can be taken care of during this month.**
- **That many Christians will take part and that our land will really experience healing from God as a result of this prayer walk. (2 Chronicles 7 v.14.)** -RS-

The right to life from conception

Just imagine that all the children conceived in the last 10 years had come to birth and none had been deprived of the chance to live. We would now have over one million more children in our land! More than 100,000 unborn babies are brutally killed each year by abortion – and since the reunification of Germany this amounts to 2.5 million according to official statistics!

In fact 2.5 million more people could be enriching our country with their talents and capabilities. How much innocent blood is crying out to God from this land? (Genesis 4 v.10.)

From April 21st to 28th there will again be an ecumenical “Week for Life” to re-awaken awareness for the dignity of human life. Only those who believe that we are made in the image of God are able to stand up today for the dignity of human life which is so under threat.

Just last month it was admitted that two academics had argued in the professional magazine “Journal of Medical Ethics” that a baby is not a “real person” and therefore the mother and father have the right to kill their baby, even when the baby is only a few days old! Given that a human being has no worth or dignity at conception, it can be now be argued that the baby can be killed even after birth!

To stand for life takes courage. Christians are providing support in many different ways in cases of unwanted pregnancies. One such initiative is “1000plus” (see www.1000plus.de) which promotes the acceptance of God given new life with counselling and practical help.

Prayer:

- **... and forgive us our sins: the sins of the millions of murders of unborn babies. (Exodus 20 v.13.)**
- **Awaken in our land a turning towards a culture that chooses life (Deuteronomy 30 v.19) and bless all who stand for life.**
- **Grace and support for all mothers and fathers who are facing a decision between life and death.** -RS-

Keep praying for Israel

Under the pressure of a European oil embargo and other sanctions as well as the threat of an attack by Israel, Iran is again playing for time and has declared that it is ready for new negotiations over its nuclear program. The EU Representative for Foreign Affairs, Catherine Ashton, will lead the negotiations. The German, Helga Schmid, is now preparing for the meetings of the contact group. Israel fears a series of endless negotiations that will give Iran the chance to continue to build an atomic bomb without further hindrance. After coming under renewed heavy rocket fire from Gaza, the probability is growing that Israel will again have to take massive military action in the Gaza Strip for its own protection.

Prayer:

- **For genuine cooperation on the part of Iran in the negotiations.**
- **Wisdom for the government of Israel in all its military decisions including those regarding Gaza.** -RS-

Citizens’ discussion forum

Since the spring of 2011 the Federal Chancellor, Angela Merkel, has been holding discussions with more than 120 experts in areas of theory and practice on questions that concern the future of Germany. Alongside this an Internet site was set up: www.dialog-ueber-deutschland.de. Until April 15th, every citizen can post here suggestions under three broad subject areas:

How should we be living together? (Society, family, security)
From what should we be living? (Economy, jobs, innovation)
How should we be learning? (Personal, professional and social values, development and education)

The focus is on specific and practical suggestions. On the website every citizen can vote for a suggestion to be pursued further. The proposers of the 10 suggestions with the most votes will be invited to the Chancellor’s office to discuss their ideas when the website voting is ended.

Christians have recognized that this is a major opportunity to bring government attention to their specific issues. (“Public funding of abortion” and “Motherhood as a full-time profession” are examples.)

Prayer:

- **Thanks for news ways for citizens to become involved in government planning for the future.**
- **That those specific actions which will open up the best opportunities for our land will be recognised. (Jeremiah 29 v.11-12)**
- **For the suggestions from Christians to receive proper attention and go forward for further discussion.** -RS-

Other events for prayer

- 09.04** National Prayer Conference in Kassel.
- 09.- 14.04** Spring – Church family holiday.
- 15.04** Harz Prayer Day, Braunlage.
- 17.- 19.04** Regional Coordinators Meeting, Thuringia.

God bless you

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