

May 2012

Praying earnestly

An intercessor shared with us this picture: *“I saw the earth from outer space. A huge cross had been rammed into the globe with great force. A powerful shockwave was spreading out across the entire earth. My first thought was: the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of mankind!*

After this I saw people kneeling down all over the world. They were each pushing a cross into the ground, causing smaller localised shock waves. But chaos and fear reigned over the world. I could only see peace and calm in those locations where the cross had been forcefully rammed into the ground. Here the cross was acting as a firm anchor and many were coming to faith.”

Let us be encouraged by this picture, for “the prayer of a righteous man is effective when it is prayed earnestly”.

(James 5 v.16 – Luther translation)

-RS-

Fiscal Stability Treaty – yes or no?

On March 2nd 2012, 25 of the 27 EU member countries signed up to a “Fiscal Stability Treaty”. Until then each country was independently responsible for its own national budget. Born as a consequence of having to deal with a debt crisis in one country due to the lack of proper control of the national budget, the Fiscal Stability Treaty now includes the following provisions:

- Each country – following the German model – must embody into its statutes the duty to keep a balanced budget (“fiscal austerity”).
- The enactment of this agreement into national law will be verified by the European Court of Justice.
- The budgets drawn up by national parliaments will be checked by the EU Commission and the European Council of Ministers. In the event of a breach of the rules, the country must provide justification and a course of corrective action which will be closely monitored.
- Fines by the European Court of Justice may not exceed 0.1% of GDP. The authority of the ECJ must be recognised by all.
- Additional debts must be reported in advance.

The German parliament still has to approve the Fiscal Stability Treaty with a 2/3 majority.

Over a period of 63 years Europe has slowly grown closer. Because of the common currency Europe is now facing the next step: a common fiscal and economic policy. This does not mean “fusion” but “action according to agreed principles” which can be closely monitored by all.

Why are Christians not leading the way and participating in unification initiatives in Europe as in the past? We need leaders, more accurate information without populist road-blocks, and Biblical teaching on the end times and what the role of Christians in these times should be and what it should not be. Nowhere does it say that they should hold

back, but rather should get involved in making history as the “salt” of the earth!

Prayer:

- **God give us the courage to go forward in Europe without knowing precisely where we are heading. But only with God. (Genesis 12 v.1)**
- **Whether it is the “tower of Babel” or “multinational Brussels”: “... seek the peace and prosperity of the city ... Pray to the Lord for it ...” (Jeremiah 29 v.7) and for wise decisions.**
- **That helpful ways will be found to solve the economic problems of the EU member states.** -OS-

Dealing with handicapped people

For almost 20 years, around the 5th of May, associations and organisations that help handicapped people have been staging various public activities all over Germany to bring attention to their work. In German law and also in the Bible there is a basic requirement to consider all men as equal. In real life there are many hurdles to be overcome. But every person is made in the image of God – including the handicapped!

In my work in the social sector as well as in my private life I have to listen to statements like: “You can’t let these people out ...” or “... can’t you make them go away ...” or “it would have been better had they not survived ...”. The “problem” is not first and foremost the handicap, but rather how others deal with it. Handicapped people have a right to recognition and development as a person, a right to social assistance from the state. However they have been fighting for many years to be able to take an equal place in society. Today in Germany we use the word “inclusion”. Much has been achieved, but we still have a long way to go to overcome all the hurdles. At the moment schools are challenged to put the “inclusion” requirements into practice. We need prayer for all decision making and implementation levels in government, so that support (financial and otherwise) will be available where it is really needed.

Prayer:

- **Let us repent for negative thoughts and talk about handicapped people, and for those decisions in politics and medicine that deny them quality of life. (Genesis 1 v.27.)**
- **For the legal framework to effectively support handicapped people and promote their “inclusion”.**
- **For the “handicapped” themselves, that God will make them feel special, that they experience love and that they find their true worth in Christ. (Psalm 139 v.13-16.)** -Matthias Thuemmel/RS-

Distribution of 25 million copies of the Quran

At the beginning of April the newspaper “Die Welt” reported on an unprecedented missionary campaign by

radical Islamic supporters of the "Salafist" movement. The project is called "Lies!" and was conceived under the leadership of Ibrahim A. Nagou, a businessman in Cologne with Palestinian roots. 25 million free copies of the Quran in German are to be distributed to non-Muslims, to save the German people from "eternal hell fire". The campaign has caused a sensation in the media, as "Salafism" is considered by the German security forces as a spring-board for Islamic terrorism. The apparent goal of this Quran project is to bring people into contact with the Salafist movement so as to influence them with their extremist political ideology. The danger is that their religious zeal can lead people to become militant fanatics. There is already protest action in some areas against the public distribution of the Quran. Christians see here a challenge to launch a clear counter-action.

Prayer:

- **Pray for protection from deception especially for young people in this country. (Job 33 v.14-18.)**
- **That Christians will be able to present the gospel in an even more powerful way to people who are searching, including Muslims. (Luke 4 v.18-19.)**
- **That the threat of such Islamist influence will also be resolutely opposed at the political level. -RS-**

Child care allowance

The government wants to create 750,000 care places for children up to 3 years old by 2013. According to the coalition agreement, parents who wish to care for their small child up to 3 years old in their own home or for whom a care place cannot be made available should be compensated with a 100 Euro per month (150 Euro from 2014) child care allowance. This is being strongly challenged by the opposition parties and even some in the CDU are speaking against it. They fear misuse of this additional money by less-educated families whose children might already be in need of special support. The child care allowance is also not in the interests of employers who increasingly need women workers for their production lines. Reasons in favour of the child care allowance are:

- Article 6 (2) of the German Constitution states: "Care and upbringing are the natural right of parents and their first and foremost incumbent duty."
- A long-term study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) over a period of more than 15 years, as well as the results of research into parent-child bonding, clearly indicate that even with good care outside the parental home children under 3 years old experience stress which has short and long-term health and emotional consequences.

The introduction of this allowance was already decided in the coalition agreement of 2009. But it still requires parliamentary approval. If some CDU members still say no, there will not be the necessary majority in parliament.

Prayer:

- **Thanks – for children are a gift from God. (Psalm 127 v.3-5.)**
- **That the needs of children will be recognised - they are worthy of our highest attention. (Malachi 4 v.5-6. Isaiah 8 v.18.)**
- **Pray for laws that enable real freedom of choice, so that it will go well for our next generation. -OS-**

World Prayer Assembly (WPA)

From May 14th to 18th the WPA international prayer conference takes place in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Ortwin and I will attend. Leaders and intercessors from prayer movements all over the world will meet there, covering a broad spectrum of society with their various orientations: politics, culture, business, etc. We will together ask God to reveal to us his prayer strategies for the needs of the world. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population but is currently experiencing a revival. In Indonesia and in many other countries there is a strong prayer movement among children. Over 200,000 children, trained as intercessors, are praying for transformation in their nation. As a result there will be a major focus in the conference on the working together of the generations, and another on the exchange of ideas and information and the networking of world-wide prayer movements. The connection between mission and prayer will be further strengthened. On the evening of May 17th there will be a large public prayer meeting in the national stadium that you can watch on GOD.TV or on CBN live from 09:00am CET. 20,000 children will take part. We expect that the "prayer tsunami" on this day will break through and make mighty changes in the spiritual realm. **Prayer:**

- **For a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the world-wide prayer movement. (Acts 2 v.1-4.)**
- **For a renewal of inspiration and strategic networking between all the participants. (Psalm 133.)**
- **For Ortwin and Rosemarie: protection, divinely led encounters and a fresh anointing for ministry. (Ephesians 6 v.18.) -RS-**

Keep praying

The prayer walk "Gemeinsam Beten und Bewegen" (pray and move together) sets out on May 1st in Stuttgart. During May the prayer team will walk and pray through Mannheim, Frankfurt, Limburg, Andernach and finally in Cologne. **Let us pray** for all the organisational challenges, for good health and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayer along the way.

Other events for prayer

- 06.05** State elections in Schleswig-Holstein.
- 13.05** State elections in North Rhine Westphalia.
- 14.05** I Like Israel Day.
- 16.- 25.05** German Catholic Conference in Mannheim.
- 27.05** Global Day of Prayer

God bless you

Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann