

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

October 2012

The fear of the Lord is...

...is what? I think that each one of you will have already completed the sentence in your own mind. For example: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 9 v.10) But what do our fellow citizens say? It concerns me very much that here in Germany there is no longer any fear of God and that Christian faith is mocked more and more. Caricature artists have recently excelled themselves with blasphemous drawings (front page of Titanic Magazine, Caricatura poster in Kassel). There is no longer fear of any form of punishment, not from the state and certainly not from God! God is my judge – what an old-fashioned idea! Have we Christians not contributed to the demise of this image of God? Fear of God has never really been an issue in my church. This could get people upset – therefore we only talk about a loving God. Jesus said: *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."* (Matthew 10 v.28) Whoever fears God lives differently. (Proverbs 8 v.13) I pray for myself and our people that we again "above all things, fear, love and trust God" - as Luther expressed it.

-RS-

The love of God for Europe

Europe is on God's heart. For this reason he waits longingly, as a father, for his children to come to him to return his love and to thank him for this beautiful and prosperous continent. I do not believe that God has turned his back on this continent, but rather that he loves it. How do I know this? Because I have been praying for Europe for a long time and together with like-minded friends from many countries I have been "standing in the gap" for the sins of us Europeans. We have travelled throughout Europe. We have already been in 13 countries – and everywhere God has said something good about this land to us, something that we did not know before. Every country is for God like a person, with its own character and destiny, which he addresses personally as "O" or "you", as in Biblical times: "O Israel", "O Moab", "you Capernaum".

Whoever prays for Europe will perhaps have to weep with the heart of the Father, but will thereby feel the warmth of his love. Let us sense the purposes of the love of God and pray them into being over the land: the salvation of millions, getting the spirit of reason as ruler of this world off the throne, unity of the churches, revival amongst Muslims, and more.

Our view of Europe is today totally wrapped up in the financial crisis and all the efforts to solve it. But the experience of intercessors is that God will provide so amazing answers, often from one minute to the next. And we sometimes understand them only after the event, even though we all but doubted God's power at the time.

Prayer:

- **Let us discover your heart for Europe – your strong and compassionate love. (John 3 v.16)**
- **"God, your salvation let us see" (line from a well-known German hymn) in the past and today in Europe and give you thanks. (Psalm 103 v.1-4, 8-13)**
- **Pray for God's best solutions for Europe (ESM, regulation of banks, fiscal union, etc.) that he has already prepared in heaven. (Matthew 6 v.10)** -OS-

Our Members of Parliament

The German parliament has 622 members, of which 204 are women. It is made up of five parties: CDU/CSU (239 members), SPD (146), FDP (93), Leftist Party (76), Greens (68). The largest professional group with 155 members are Jurists/Lawyers, followed by Independent Professionals (135), Economists (94) and Teachers/Researchers (88). Of the 622 members, 403 are married, most with 1-4 children, 99 are single of which 8 have one child, and 18 are divorced, 14 of which have 1 or 2 children.

"Lazy, incapable and inherently corrupt" – this is how the members are seen by many German citizens according to a recent survey. But their work is not easy. A particularly heavy burden on them is the constant changing between two types of work: two weeks of parliamentary sessions in Berlin and two weeks in their constituencies. When in Berlin, they have to be present in plenary sessions of parliament (100 Euro fine for an unexcused absence), in party gatherings, committee meetings and various other meetings. At the weekend in the constituency many appointments await them which totally depend on their personal attendance, so this soon amounts to an 80 hour week. Where is the time for family life?

The next national elections take place in autumn 2013. The party committees are now selecting candidates for each state and determining their listing order. A very critical time for setting the future direction of our land!

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the commitment and work of our members of parliament. (Matthew 25 v.14-30)**
- **Pray for good health, wisdom, good understanding and insight – and good advice from their staff. For protection of their marriages and families.**
- **Pray for the best candidates for the listings in each state from all parties. (Matthew 7 v.15-20)** -RS-

Israel

The next few weeks are very critical for Israel – for three reasons in particular:

1. The conflict with Iran is rapidly moving towards the point of decision. In this regard the relationship between Israel and the Obama government is extremely tense.

2. The intentions of Egypt towards Israel are not clear. The country is trying to position itself again as the leading power in the Middle East.

3. The civil war in Syria poses a real danger for Israel, especially with regard to the fact that biological and chemical weapons might get into the wrong hands. (Syria has by far the largest arsenal in the Middle East and Hezbollah in Lebanon would like to make use of it.)

Let us perform our priestly duty and fulfil our calling as watchmen with confidence and trust in the "Guardian of Israel" (Psalm 121), who has the best in mind for Israel as well as for the neighbouring nations in all conflicts, and in these "birth pangs" is preparing for the return of the Messiah (on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem).

Prayer:

- **For the Israeli government and other decision makers in Israel: for the necessary wisdom on one hand and the need to act decisively on the other.**
- **Please pray for the morale of the Israeli people in these times of tension and conflict, and that the Messianic (Jesus believing) congregations in Israel receive supernatural favour, wisdom and strength from the Lord, not only for themselves to come through these difficult times, but also to be "salt", "light" and a blessing for the people around them.**
- **In view of these conflicts in the Middle East, pray that the German government does not allow itself to be influenced by lies, manipulation and propaganda, but rather supports the legitimate security interests of Israel in all its international political dealings.** -HE-

Exposing the latest "gender" ideology

Since the beginning of the 90's courses on so-called "gender studies" have been introduced into many universities in Germany and Europe. In German "gender" is a very enigmatic and unclear term that was very much used at the beginning of the feminist movements. In English "gender" is typically used to refer to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones.

According to a radical gender theory, men and women are no longer different by God's design, but the differences are only a "social construct" that can be overturned by a more appropriate application of the term "gender". A biological basis for the difference between a man and woman is being denied. Everyone should be able to choose their own gender – the confusion is deliberate and its destructive consequences are well advanced. But now a very well-known comedian in Norway has succeeded in exposing this pseudo-scientific ideology as "brain-washing". His seven part series of TV documentaries "Brain-washing" demonstrates to a wide audience that the so-called "gender-scientists" are not carrying out their research scientifically but are simply presenting their preconceived opinions. Watch the film:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5LRdW8xw70 .

As a result, the Norwegian parliament decided to close the "Nordic Gender Institute" that was supported by

public funds at the end of December 2011. God has creative ways to expose deception! In this country this development is still being covered up – let's pray that this will change!

Prayer:

- **That the lies of gender ideology will be exposed also in this country and that "gender studies" will be abolished. (Romans 9 v.19-25)**
- **For an effective resistance by Christians and non-Christians alike against all attempts to suppress opinions that are inconvenient or disagreeable. (Psalm 12)**
- **We lift the name of Jesus over every stronghold of the mind. (2 Corinthians 10 v.4-5)** -RS-

Keep praying...

Since December of last year we have been praying that light will shine into the darkness of the activities of right-wing extremists in our land. We have been praying for the people involved and for those responsible for political action. More and more facts are now coming to light through the work of the parliamentary investigation committee both nationally and in the various states. The preparation of a document to ban the NPD (Nationalist Party of Germany) has definitely made headway. We want to thank God for this – but continue to pray for further discoveries.

Let us also continue to pray for protection against terrorism, from right-wing extremists as well as from Islamists. A well-known Salafist ring-leader, who has now moved away to Egypt, has just called on his followers in a video message to organise terror attacks in Germany. -RS-

Other events for prayer

- 03.10** National Day of Thanks and Prayer for 22 years of German Unification
- 07.-28.10** XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome. Theme: "The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith"
- 16.-21.10** As part of the prayer initiative for European capital cities (Operation Capitals of Europe) there will be a week of prayer in and for Berlin with intercessors from many countries. A week of prayer then follows on in Moscow. (See "OCE Berlin Moscow Flyer" posted with the September prayer letter.)
- 18.-21.10** 24-7 Prayer Movement Euro-gathering in Frankfurt
- 21.-28.10** Alpha prayer week for evangelisation in Germany. (www.alphakurs.de/leiter/gebet)

*God's blessings from Ortwin Schweitzer,
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