

December 2012

Intercessors and the presence of God

According to Luke 11 v.1, Jesus' prayer life was so impressive that his disciples really wanted him to teach them about prayer. They had already learnt to act with his authority – through them the sick were healed and the possessed set free. This is now also happening more and more in Germany. But what did the disciples still want to learn in addition to the authority to minister in this way? What were they seeing at that time in Jesus?

There must have been a powerful closeness of Jesus' heart to his Father, a deep relationship between Father and Son, a presence of God in the prayers of Jesus, such as the disciples themselves had never experienced even in mighty miracles as they preached the good news. There is an important difference between an anointing for ministry and a permanent closeness of heart with God. Let us desire both, for us personally and for Germany!

Beloved and faithful intercessors: the Father in heaven is calling us to a new level of relationship with our God in prayer. If our prayers are immersed in this new relationship, there will be new authority in our prayers.

The two must be inseparable: the presence of God and our prayers! -ME-

Move of the Spirit in our land

It is becoming increasingly apparent that God is hearing the cry of his children for revival. There are encouraging signs of a new hunger for God and for prayer. This can be seen especially among the youth who are coming together to pray and praise, crossing all denominational boundaries. In October 6000 teenagers and young people gathered in Stuttgart at the "Holy Spirit Night" to praise God together. About 1000 young people had to be turned away as the hall was completely full.

At the youth prayer congress "YouPC" at the end of October in Schleswig-Holstein, with over 250 participants between the ages of 14 and 35, a growing enthusiasm for prayer was clearly evident. New prayer groups in schools are now being started.

Many in our land are unaware that churches formed largely by immigrants are contributing to an increasingly strong spiritual awakening in Germany. Newly established churches by immigrants from Africa, the Middle East and Russia now represent 36% of all registered Pentecostal churches. These churches are for the most part strongly characterised by their faithful commitment to prayer and regular prayer nights are part of church life.

For the first time there was a prayer day in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in September, organised jointly with the Call of the Watchmen. The response exceeded all expectations. Also at our prayer day in Schleswig-Holstein in November many more intercessors came compared with last year.

In the last 10 years in Berlin over 80 new Christian initiatives have come into being, each seeking to serve a particular neighbourhood, community or area of the city. Here another move of the Spirit is apparent, one which is looking for a transformation within the society.

Prayer:

- **Give thanks for the move and work of the Holy Spirit in our land which we can clearly see. (Ephesians 5 v.20)**
- **Thanks for the immigrant churches in our land and their devotion to prayer.**
- **Come Holy Spirit, be poured out more and more – revive what is dead in our Christianity! (Luke 11 v.13)**

-RS-

National Prayer Conference 2013

To begin the period of "40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for our Land", the "Round Table Prayer of the Lausanne Movement in Germany" is again organising in Kassel a national prayer conference for all generations with the title: "Ask the Lord of the harvest..." Evangelism must be strengthened through prayer. The conference program will have six "modules" in which one can also selectively participate. It will begin on Friday evening, February 15th, at 7pm with an opening session for everyone until 10pm and then continues with a night of prayer until 6am. On Saturday from 10am to 6pm there will be a series of inspirational messages leading to times of prayer. From 7pm the prayer will be led by the young people. From 11pm there will be a second night of prayer. On Sunday morning the prayer conference will end with services in various local churches. Registration for the conference is required. Further information (in German) is available at: www.40tagebetenundfasten.de.

Prayer:

- **That the Holy Spirit will call the intercessors to this conference. (1 Thessalonians 5 v.17)**
- **Wisdom for all the necessary preparations and protection for all participants.**

-RS-

It cannot go on like this!

On October 10th the Federal Statistics Office presented its official figures for 2010 and 2011. And the numbers are alarming:

- Germany has the most aged population in Europe! Only 13.5% are under 15 years old. For every 100 gainfully employed people, 34 were already over 65 in 2010 and this is expected to rise to 53 in 2030.
- The number of child births is about one half of what it was in 1964. There is also a new record: in 2011 there were no children at all in more than 70% of private households!
- Life expectancy has grown since the 60's by 11 years for both men and women.

- By 2060 Germany will have lost the equivalent of the total former East German population of 17 million.

The traditional population age pyramid is now standing on its head! A dark cloud hovers over the land. Is Germany "a nation that is dying out"? (Words of the German dramatist Heiner Mueller).

In a similar situation in Uganda, when the World Health Organisation predicted that the population would be decimated by Aids, Christians started to cry out to God. And God answered. Uganda lives on!

Therefore we will keep praying against the death of our nation and will do this over the long term, as this issue is a "stronghold". God knows the root causes. And we will name them one by one in as far as we understand them.

The first, perhaps decisive cause for most couples is the need for a sustainable and stable relationship. Where this is not assured, the woman avoids a pregnancy, even when she would like to have a child. Years go by. And when the relationship finally appears to be stable, it's already too late for a baby. (The abortion factor comes next.)

Prayer:

- **Children are a gift from God. (Psalm 127 v.3-5)**
Where is our sense of thanks and amazement?
May God bless our land with a great love for children and with lots of them!
- **Pray for young couples to be able to form strong relationships and to venture to trust one another. (Psalm 128 v.1-4 – a model for stable parenthood.)**
- **Pray for comfort for broken hearts and relationships.**

-OS-

The situation in Israel

Please keep praying for Israel according to Psalm 124 and include in your prayers the relationship between the American President Obama and the Prime Minister Netanyahu. Uncharacteristically for a politician, Netanyahu had shown favour for Romney before the election. The two government leaders were not able to get along well until now. Israel is for all that still dependent on America.

-OS-

Answers to prayer

1. In the middle of its most serious crisis, the European Union received the **Nobel Peace Prize** for its contribution to six decades of peace in Europe. For those of us who wrestle in prayer for European unity, this surprising honour is an encouraging answer to prayer.
2. The proposed **law on circumcision** by the German Cabinet was also supported by the States Council and must now only be passed by the National Parliament.
3. The Coalition has reached agreement with **joint resolutions** in committee on contested matters such as the issue of child support allowances for which we were praying in May.
4. Despite the crisis in the EU, the **German economy** is strong.
5. The country has been spared from terrorist attacks.

Prayer: Thanks for every answer to our prayers!
(James 5 v.16)

-RS-

ProChrist – the campaign has begun

A new and unusual ProChrist campaign for the Christian faith called "Your Request to God" begins on December 1st. Users of the frequently visited websites (gmx.de and web.de) will be encouraged to make a personal request to God. They will be shown a list of people from which they can select their personal intercessor. I have myself been prepared as an intercessor in an online training session and I was impressed by how thoroughly this campaign has been set up. 1400 intercessors have already registered to take part. They will take each request received to God in prayer and give the person who made the request a response as a result of their prayer. You can follow this campaign which aims to bring people into a relationship with the living God at www.zweifel-und-staunen.de (roughly translated: "www.question-and-be-amazed.de"). The climax of this campaign will be the ProChrist evangelistic event from March 3rd to 9th, 2013.

Prayer:

- **Protection and blessings for all participants and for smooth running of the campaign and technical support. (Psalm 62 v.1-2)**
- **That through this campaign many people will come to know that God answers prayer and be encouraged to take the next step in faith. (Deuteronomy 26 v.7)**
- **For a new evangelistic breakthrough in our land. (Acts 5 v.42)**

-RS-

And God is able...

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

With these words I would like to motivate you as before to make your yearly contribution to the Call of the Watchmen (say 10 Euro). Last year you enabled us to make a promotional DVD (in German) for the Call of the Watchmen, which is now available from us at no cost, and to develop the prophetic side of our work for 2013. May blessings abound in you according to 2 Corinthians 9 v.8!

Prayer: - that the spirit of joyful giving will continue within the Call of the Watchmen prayer network. -OS-

Keep on praying...

- With regard to the coming national elections, continue to pray for the selection of candidates by each party.
- Contrary to our report last month, the merger of the AUF and PBC parties did not happen. Pray for internal differences within the parties to be resolved.
- Pray for the continuing work of the parliamentary investigation committee into the National Socialist Underground (NSU) movement and all efforts to expose the network of right wing extremists in Germany.

*We wish you a blessed Christmas season and God's clear direction in the New Year - Ortwin Schweitzer,
Rosemarie Stresemann and Markus Egli*