

January 2013

### Thoughts on the Moravian Watchword for 2013

*“For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.”* (Hebrews 13 v.14)

We are looking for what is to come because we expect a glorious future: the coming reign of Jesus, a city from heaven, greater clarity and holiness, healing, divine peace and joy. And God is increasingly at work throughout our land. With renewed love, hope and faith – for every year comes with a new blessing – I want to appeal to you: Expect God to be working in response to our prayers:

*In former times you were gracious to your land, O Lord ... Your help is near to those who fear you, so that your glory may again dwell in our land. Goodness and faithfulness, righteousness and peace meet together.* (See Psalm 85)

Many leaders and intercessors have been through deep valleys in the last few months – and now the Lord is taking them to new heights. Even when it takes longer than expected – the Lord hears our cries. After praying six months ago for the healing of my asthma (from which I have suffered since a child), today my healing has been confirmed by my doctor. Where sin was at work, grace is even more effective; light is stronger than darkness – we stand on this in faith.

As watchmen appointed by God with his authority you can count on the fact that our land will in 2013 experience more of the future that God has planned for it.

May the Lord bless you in 2013!

-ME-

### The spiritual battle for marriage

A spiritual battle is raging world-wide for marriage. The new gender ideology as promoted by radical feminists abolishes the concept of male and female! From a high level, with a revised interpretation of the word “family” in the Charter of Human Rights, pressure is being applied through UN institutions to redefine family and marriage in law world-wide in full compliance with this new ideology. Up until now, civil marriage established the union of **one man and one woman**. The pressure is now directed at making the institution of marriage available to homosexuals. However as soon as two people of the same sex are allowed in law to “marry”, the law must eliminate the words “father” and “mother”. There is now a marriage law in Spain that refers only to “Partner A” and “Partner B”. As soon as the institution of marriage has been successfully redefined in law in this way for homosexuals, a new rule of speech will be introduced in all organisations (including schools). The words “father” and “mother” will be replaced by “Parent 1” and “Parent 2”. (Translator’s note: in German the singular of “parents” is an artificial word creation – the commonly used term is “one part of the parents”.) “Family” will be redefined: the new purpose is no longer “procreation” (father/mother) but “upbringing” (Parent 1/Parent 2). The civil union of partners still has a different legal status in most countries.

Pressure is growing world-wide to change this on the basis of “discrimination” and to make civil marriage available for all. Same sex marriage is already legal in some countries within and outside Europe. In Germany marriage and family have a special protective status under the constitution. But for how long? If it is accepted world-wide that the definition of marriage and family will be so changed such that it requires only Parent 1 and Parent 2, the constitution must then protect everyone. This right will then be used world-wide as a weapon against marriage and family as we know it.

**Prayer:**

- **We proclaim and pray Psalm 119 – his word is truth.**
- **Pray for deliverance from the lies of the new gender ideology. (John 8 v.32)**
- **Pray for courage for all who have not yet been blinded to stand firm. (Psalm 86 v. 11)** -RS-

### Making a stand for life

A calendar from the organisation “1000plus” is lying in front of me. The deadly serious subject of abortion is presented with a touch of humour. Next to the picture of a small child with his hands over his face is written: “Concerned citizen Leonardo is very worried: O God, I hope that no-one has aborted my future wife!” The magazine that came with it gets to the heart of the matter. “A pregnancy dilemma is a situation which a woman never wishes on herself. What we owe such a woman is dignity and respect, sympathy, readiness to help and, above all, neighbourly love.” Typically there is joy over the pregnancy but at the same time anxiety. In this state of inner conflict it doesn’t help when a well-meaning friend or parent says: “We will stand by you whatever”, because it places the burden of responsibility on the woman alone and at the same time makes abortion appear as an option of equal validity to all others. Clear advice is required from everyone closely involved (friends, parents, doctors, advisors) and thereby a reinforcement of the deepest desire of the mother-to-be herself. Concerns for the future must be met with concrete help that will make **both** possible: a child and a future for the mother. ([www.1000plus.de](http://www.1000plus.de)).

**Prayer:**

- **For all unwanted pregnancies – for courage to find a way forward that also includes the child. (2 Timothy 1 v.7,10)**
- **For all those closely involved – that they will take on their share of responsibility. (James 2 v.15-17)**
- **For laws to prevent children being considered as a poverty risk, especially by single mothers. (Psalm 68 v.4-6, Isaiah 58 v.9-11)** -OS-

### Occultism and its consequences

Recently there was a report on the news in Kiel: Women who were abused as young girls in a Satanist cult and

mistreated in gruesome rituals are now increasingly seeking help. Having been made submissive and addictive through drugs, forced into pornography, totally deprived of any self esteem, these victims are only able to seek help as grown adults. When victims of ritual abuse want to free themselves from a Satanist cult, they need protection from those who continue to pursue them, as well as specialised psychological help. The few institutions that can help such women are overwhelmed by the onslaught of the many who are seeking help.

Satanism and other occult practices are a very real threat, especially to young people. Occult practices are already a subject for children in elementary school. Children experiment especially with the Ouija board and pendulum swinging out of curiosity. Encouragement often comes from friends or older brothers and sisters. Nearly all the young people in high school know about these things. Satanically inspired music also has a great influence on young people. Heavy-Metal music is particularly linked to Satanism and the songs extol murder, rape, torture and cannibalism. The world is blind to the conflict in the spirit realm and sets all this to one side as "artistic expression". In this way every perverse practice is applauded. There is no youth protection against this.

The increase of occult practices is also a direct consequence of the spiritual ineffectiveness of the Christian church. Only the true light of God can break through the darkness.

**Prayer:**

- **Protection for all children and young people against Satanism and occultism – help for the victims and strength for those who offer help. (Psalm 18 v.4-6)**
- **That the Christian church will be strong in the power of the Spirit and live in the light. (Ephesians 5 v.1-20)**
- **That the light of God will expose all the works of darkness and bring repentance and deliverance. (1 John 3 v.7-8)**

-RS-

#### **Israel and Germany**

On November 29<sup>th</sup> a decision was taken in the United Nations that could have far-reaching consequences for the conflict in the Middle East. The UN spoke out with a large majority for the upgrade of Palestine to a non-member observer *state* – without insisting on the fulfilment of the criteria that were agreed upon in the Oslo Accords, including the conclusion of peace negotiations with Israel and the recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. When this is not fully understood by the international community, the negotiations under the title of "Land for peace" according to the "Road Map" (Oslo Accords) are effectively dead and buried, one-sidedly in favour of the Palestinian Authority and to the disadvantage of Israel.

From the Israeli point of view it is particularly disappointing that the German government did not keep its word from April 2011 to oppose any one-sided action such as constituted by this upgrade. Along with the

majority of EU states, Germany abstained in the vote. Israel considers this – and rightly so - as a betrayal of trust and a breach of promise. The recent consultation meeting between the governments of the two countries was overshadowed by this and by the reaction of the Israeli government to the UN vote in the form of increased settlement building in Jerusalem (and the German lack of understanding for this action). The German-Israeli relationship is at the moment under much pressure. In view of the end-times "valley of decision" (Joel 3 v.14) the German decision to go along with the EU and not to support Israel was a step in the wrong direction.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for forgiveness for our government in holding back their support for Israel. (Genesis 27 v.29)**
- **That we as a nation and our government do not let Israel down in such tests of principle in the future.**
- **That the church will wake up and exercise its priestly duty to intercede for Israel and those in authority. (1 Timothy 2 v.1-4)**

-HE-

#### **2013 – The year of the election**

It's now official: national elections will take place on Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013.

Angela Merkel, voted by 98% of her party as the leading candidate, has headed the popularity list for some time. Her challenger, Peer Steinbrueck (SPD), was nominated by a 93% vote, despite all of the tensions in his party. He does not enjoy the same popularity by far, but will score points in his election campaign on "social justice". Energy, pensions, taxes, family and children, and bank regulation will also be election issues. Opinion polls put the SPD ahead on issues, but the CDU on personalities.

Christians are not allied to parties. However they look for Biblical values in the parties and those representing them. By doing this and by expressing opinions and asking good questions, they are the "salt of the earth". Yes, Christians should be active in committees, election meetings and "letters to the editor". But how we *think of ourselves* as Christians is important! We are commonly viewed as "conservative" and "behind the times". But we who have the kingdom of God in mind should actually see ourselves as "progressive", "positive", yes, even "revolutionary". This is what Jesus meant by "salt of the earth".

**Prayer:**

- **For a fair and productive election campaign. (Matthew 7 v.12; Luke 12 v.48b)**
- **For courage for Christians to get involved, appropriately as led by the Spirit, as voters just as if they were candidates. (Luke 10 v.16; Matthew 5 v.5-10)**

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#### **Other events for prayer**

**13.-20.01** Evangelical Alliance Week of Prayer.

**27.01** Holocaust Remembrance Day

*May God bless you in the New Year - Ortwin Schweitzer,  
Rosemarie Stresemann and Markus Egli*