

September 2013

Nothing can hinder the Lord

Shortly before my vacation I was able through prayer to turn around three potentially disastrous situations for the good. God spoke to me directly: *Let your prayers flow with the heartbeat of heaven. Don't be concerned with the plans of the devil, but rather with what I, your Lord, have in store for you!*

As intercessors we have the responsibility to bring the plans of heaven down to the earth! God has the power to help, "whether by many or by few" (1 Samuel 14 v.6).

Be assured that in spiritual warfare you stand in covenant with the almighty God, and remain in an intimate relationship with HIM. Because of this you can receive fresh inspiration from the heart of God.

If you have lost the joy of intercession, seek His presence and ask for a new realisation of all that Christ has already done on the cross for you and for our land.

Be open to a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit – his yoke is easy and his burden is light!

Reports from evangelistic campaigns this summer are showing that the power of God along with His grace and glory are being revealed more and more in Germany.

Be encouraged!! -ME-

Answers to prayer

Increase in the birth rate: During the past year we again were praying for more babies to be born in our land. God heard our prayers: there were 11,000 more babies than in the previous year – an increase of 1.6%.

Thomas de Maizière remains in office despite all the attempts of the opposition to bring him down.

Terrorism: Raids were made on a suspected right-wing extremist terrorist cell. The potential danger is increasing both from right-wing extremists and from Islamists. More and more trained terrorist fighters are coming to Germany from Syria and Chechnya and seeking asylum.

Prostitution: The media are now increasingly taking up the issues of prostitution and human trafficking and are thereby increasing public awareness of the injustices in these trades. The German government passed a bill on June 27th to fight human trafficking in accordance with EU guidelines. Experts say that the new law is not tough enough by far. -RS-

National elections in Germany

In September internal politics will be dominated by the final phase of the election campaign. After the elections on September 22nd the coalition negotiations will then be extremely important. Two issues will be decisive:

Will the FDP (Liberals) make the required 5% threshold?

Will the SPD (Socialists) stick to their "no" to the Leftists party if Peer Steinbrueck could become Chancellor with their votes and (as in the state of NRW) a Red-Green minority government could be made possible with their agreement to cooperate?

The fact is that the FDP has been hovering around the 5% mark since the middle of June. We know from experience

that many CDU voters give their "second vote" to the FDP as they want to have a Black(CDU)-Yellow(FDP) government. Together with the CDU which is now in the best position since 1994 with 41%, they would then have 46% of the vote.

The SPD, constantly around 22% since June, and the Greens with about 14% could never come near the Black-Yellow vote without the help of the Leftists party which lies between 8 and 9%.

Should the FDP drop out and Sigmar Gabriel (SPD) does not stick to his "no" to the Leftists, the CDU would no longer be part of the government although the strongest party. If with the FDP eliminated Gabriel does stick to his "no", there would automatically be either a Black/Green or a Black/Red(SPD) coalition – both with a full majority.

The parties aside, let's look to the individual candidates. Did you know that every politician has to finance his or her own election campaign? I only learnt this recently from a candidate. The parties finance their huge billboards with some support from the state. Individual candidates have to pay for their own publicity, including personal posters and the costs for mounting them. So whoever would like a candidate to be successful should quickly find out how to also support him or her financially.

Prayer:

- **That many citizens will exercise their right to vote.**
- **That Christian brothers and sisters will receive sufficient financial support for their candidature (especially from Christian sources) so that they can come into the parliament for the well-being of the city and country.**
- **Grace and mercy for the formation of a government that will enable our society to live together according to the good ordinances of God.**
(1 Timothy 2 v.2; Exodus 20 v.1-17) -OS-

Data, dates and a date

The name Edward Snowden will go into the history books. Since his disclosure of British and American secret bugging of communication channels, a global debate has broken out over governmental surveillance and protection of the private domain. In the long term this subject is far more important than the petty-minded ping-pong political games lead you to believe.

Firstly, it concerns the protection of citizens from acts of terrorism. For this the security services must be able to listen to conversations and read emails. There must also be international data sharing since all criminal networks today operate internationally. Germany has the most stringent laws against state-run surveillance operations based on the lessons of its history.

Secondly, it concerns a race against time. In information technology, the time intervals between the releases of "new generations" are measured in months, whereas in politics the intervals are measured in legislative periods (years). This means that current data protection laws are

based on the technologies of yesterday. "The fundamental problem is that 'data' has taken on a life of its own ... economic, judicial and intellectual." ("DIE ZEIT" newspaper). In ten years the world has been completely changed by Google, Facebook and Amazon.

Thirdly, surveillance methods over networks and beyond are becoming increasingly more sophisticated. For example data can be stored in RFID chips that can be as small as a grain of sand. These chips can be attached to people without their knowledge, implanted under the skin, and the data can be accessed and modified by wireless readers. They are already being used to track the movement of products through retail outlets. In the hands of dictators these technologies can protect and maintain the totalitarian state.

Christians recognise signs of the end times. But nowhere in scripture does it say that they should try to hinder these developments. They know however that the hands on the world clock continue to move forward. The Lord is coming soon. The date of all dates/data*. (Mark 13 v.32)

(*Translator's note: "Dates" and "data" are the same word in German!)

Prayer:

- **Thanks for people like Snowden – whistleblowers who bring secret practices from the dark into the light. (Luke 12 v.2-3)**
- **May God give politicians the knowledge and wisdom to determine the right balance between freedom and the protection of citizens as well as to reach an agreement on acceptable data protection measures at an international level. (James 1 v.5)**
- **May God give us wisdom to respond to new technologies with quiet confidence as we recognise signs of the end times. (1 Corinthians 3 v.22-23) -OS-**

New peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians

In the past few months the US Foreign Minister John Kerry has been determined to get Israelis and Palestinians to the negotiating table again for peace talks. Despite the uproar, warfare and cruel infighting in the Arab world surrounding Israel, the international pressure for peace talks with the Palestinians has not abated. Negotiations are only however possible with the "moderate" Palestinian leadership under President Mahmud Abbas. Hamas is not included. To enhance the position of Abbas with his own Palestinian people, it was agreed that Israel would release a total of 104 Palestinian prisoners. The vast majority of these prisoners are convicted murderers and terrorists. For the families of the victims this was a difficult decision to accept. This was however hardly recognised internationally. On the other hand, the approval of the building of further Jewish settlements in territories that have been disputed since 1967 was condemned.

Even the EU has increased its pressure on Israel in recent weeks. For all contracts awarded to the EU after 2014, no public funding will be available for projects that involve Israeli settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem or the Golan Heights. The EU recognises only the Israel

contained within the armistice borders from 1948 to 1967. Following protests from the Israeli government, the German Foreign Minister is going to mediate in this dispute.

Prayer:

- **That the peace negotiations will be carried out in accordance with God's plans and purposes. (Psalm 33 v.8-11)**
- **That God's plan for true peace for Israel and the surrounding nations will be recognised according to his Word. (Isaiah 9 v.5-6)**
- **That Germany will be able to mediate successfully in the dispute between the EU and Israel. (Isaiah 41 v.8-14) -RS-**

Church and Israel Congress

In August 2002 over 30 organisations came together as a network to develop a common voice for Israel and the "Christian Forum for Israel" (CFFI) came into being. In 2006 the 1st "Church and Israel Congress" was held.

Now the 2nd congress will take place in Berlin from November 7th-9th under the title: "Building the future on the strength of our roots". The political developments in the Middle East, in the EU and also in Germany are challenging the churches more than ever to develop a Biblical understanding for Israel. It requires coming closer together and a strengthening of the connections to our supporting roots. Directly after this congress in the evening of November 9th there will an event to commemorate the night of destruction of Jewish synagogues and property 75 years ago in Germany in 1938, followed on Sunday November 10th by the 3rd "German-Israel-Congress". Here is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of Israel at many different levels. The "Church and Israel Congress" and subsequent events need our prayers. There will be strong prayer support before and throughout the congress. Further information (in German) at www.israelaktuell.de.

Prayer:

- **That church leaders, intercessors and all to whom God wants to speak will respond to His call to attend the congress. (Psalm 86 v.11)**
- **That a desire for a Biblical perspective on the subject of Church and Israel will grow in this land. (Romans 11 v.17-24)**
- **For protection, blessings and success for all the preparations and for all involved. (Psalm 121) -RS-**

Other events for prayer

01.-14.09 Prayer walk from Hamburg to Usedom

15.09 State elections in Bavaria

21.09 March for Life in Berlin – 1pm at the Bundeskanzleramt (Chancellor's Office)

22.09 National elections and state elections in Hessen

28.09 Holy Spirit Night with worship, Stuttgart, in the Schleyer Halle which seats 12,000 people

*God's blessings from Ortwin Schweitzer,
Rosemarie Stresemann and Markus Egli*