

October 2013

### Knowing the times

In what times are we now living in Germany? God deals with our world in specific times and seasons. It is very important for the body of Christ to understand God's times, because we cannot make God act before his appointed times and before the fulfilment of his times.

"But when the time had fully come...", wrote Paul, "God sent his Son..." (Galatians 4 v.4). Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19 v.41-44) because its people did not recognise the time of God's visitation. So it is possible to allow an appointed time to go by and to miss an outpouring of his grace. At this time, by revelation through his prophets, God is blessing Germany with a season of grace. Let us reach out in prayer and in complete faith to take hold of it!

*This is what the LORD says: as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them. (Jeremiah 32 v.42)* -RS-

### September 22<sup>nd</sup> – the votes have all been counted

The voting is over. Winners and losers take stock. Comparisons with all the predictions and forecasts will be drawn, the way people have voted will be analysed and the consequences for individual candidates debated. But at the same time it is necessary to look forward: to arrange discussions to explore the possibilities for various government coalitions and to determine the basic issues for negotiation.

After every election there are always the jubilant and the disappointed. *As citizens* we have placed our cross against a particular party and, like everyone else, have a sense of satisfaction or frustration. *As intercessors* however we have prayed for God's hand in and through these elections. And God has no problems with democratic elections – he just directs hearts like watercourses. We did not pray for a Christian party, but for Christians and people of integrity within the parties. From this perspective we may now see the finger of God in the election results.

Paul urges us to pray for "kings" (leading politicians) and "all those in authority" (government officials and staff, for example). The kings in Paul's day were despots (!!) – today they are people in whom we place our confidence with a majority vote. We have progressed! And even when they do not have our trust, the Biblical requirement remains anyway – just with more urgency!

What should we now pray for after the elections?

Firstly, for a sustainable coalition with a secure majority. Secondly, for a coalition agreement that includes an agenda that is pleasing to God (social justice, minimum wage levels, family allowances and child day care, health care, commitment to Europe, friendship with Israel, etc.). Thirdly, for the appointment of ministers in the cabinet and secretaries of state.

### Prayer:

- **Thanks for God's sovereign control of history.**

(Isaiah 55 v.8-9; Jeremiah 29 v.11-14)

- **That the good will of God be done when the content of a coalition agreement is negotiated. (Jeremiah 29 v.7)**
- **For the appointment of the most able people for ministerial and other government posts.** -OS-

### Germany's roll and duty

Leipzig, June 2013: prayer conference "A New Season". It was all about Germany. The highlight of the conference was the challenge to our land clearly spoken out by Geri Keller from Switzerland: "Jesus is asking you: Germany, do you love me?" "Lord, you know that I love you." "Take care of my sheep among the nations." We Germans were deeply moved to hear how brothers and sisters from around 20 nations respect us, expressing their confidence in us, asking for forgiveness, blessing us, and asking us to take a leadership role among the nations.

All this was confirmed by God with a picture: Germany had received from heaven the insignia of its mandate among the nations: in the left hand there was an ornate sceptre, and in the right hand there was a shepherd's crook which was coated from top to bottom with gold. So should Germany act: exercise a leadership role (sceptre), but in the gentle manner of a shepherd.

In May a survey by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) of 25 countries revealed that Germany is the most favoured country in the world (59%). In June a leading British newspaper described Germany however as "the hesitant European power" and challenged Germany to take a leadership role in Europe.

Let us pray that this may now actually happen after the elections with the new government and that Germany will lead both with strength and humility.

### Prayer:

- **That God would deliver us from all pride and from every inferiority complex. (1 Corinthians 15 v.10)**
- **That the new government will exercise its authority with godly wisdom to confidently take part in making decisions internationally. (James 3 v.13-18)**
- **That Germany will increasingly learn to share its talents, historical development, experience, and material wealth with others. (Hebrews 13 v.16)** -OS-

### Disclosure

The Bible says: "For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household..." Following the disclosure of secretive acts of child abuse in the Catholic and German Protestant Church and in educational establishments, we now are hearing about the toleration and even encouragement of similar offences in political parties. In particular, many from the protest movements of 1968 who espoused a life of unlimited sexual freedom ended up in the party of the Greens. The "National Association for Homosexuals, Paedophiles and Transsexuals" campaigned for the abolition of articles in law which made sex with minors and dependents a criminal offence. In 1984 this

association was upgraded to be part of the “Law and Society” committee of the parliamentary Greens party and was financed by the national party and the parliamentary party. The now well-known politician Volker Beck was a member of this committee. In the Greens party paedophiles could freely pursue their sexual leanings and were supported in their political demands. This scandalous affair is now being investigated and it has come to light that paedophiles were already receiving support from the FDP (Liberal Party) before the Greens party was formed. Around 1978 paedophile groups joined with homosexual movements and were involved politically in the FDP and in the Humanist Union (HU) where Justice Minister Leutheusser Schnarrenberger (FDP) was a member of the advisory board. Until the year 2000 the HU openly campaigned for the decriminalisation of paedophilia. And in the FDP the demands were not only supported by individual Liberals, but also the parliamentary representation of the party was a convenient point of contact for political demands from paedophiles.

**Prayer:**

- **Thanks for all disclosures and pray that there will be no cover-up of responsibility. (John 1 v.5)**
- **Pray for mercy and forgiveness for all ungodly abandonment of sexual restraint in our society. (Romans 1 v.18-27)**
- **That the negative consequences of the “sexual revolution” in 1968 – abortion, prostitution laws, homosexual marriage, etc. – will come more clearly into God’s light and that there will be corrective measures at all political levels. (Isaiah 55 v.7)** -RS-

**New influx of asylum seekers**

The flow of asylum seekers into Germany has doubled compared with the previous year and is growing. The reception camps are almost full. Cities and municipalities are having to open up new places for them to live. This gives radical right-wing extremists the opportunity to stir up trouble and to take advantage of the concerns of local residents for their own ends. In addition to the more than 5000 Syrian refugees that Germany will take in, there is currently a rush from Chechnya, many of whom are really economic migrants. After the German government placed tight restrictions on the right of asylum in 1993, the number of those applying for asylum has dropped significantly. Since then asylum seekers who arrive by land can be deported to the safe third-party country through which they entered Europe. Spain, Greece and Italy are now unable to cope with the influx of refugees. The EU must better manage its refugee policy as the burden is unfairly shared across Europe.

In Germany the asylum seekers are not living in a land of milk and honey. The asylum application process can take 15-20 months. During this time the applicant cannot earn any money. They have a right to social security payments which are predominantly received as benefits in kind. For those willing to work the waiting period is an unbearable

time of doing nothing. They are not allowed to leave the district in which the authorities have assigned them accommodation. Protest action is common. Although the economic conditions in our land have greatly improved, our politicians do not see any need to lift the ban on working or to relax the residency rules.

**Prayer:**

- **That asylum seekers in Germany will find increased support, acceptance and a new home more easily and quickly. (Matthew 25 v.35)**
- **Wisdom for the judges to differentiate between genuine refugees (including persecuted Christians) and economic migrants.**
- **That the burden of the refugee influx will be better shared within the EU by the coordination of asylum legislation between countries.** -RS-

**Stormy weather**

The worst floods of the century on the Elbe, Oder and Danube, a tornado in Aalen and hailstones larger than tennis balls in Wuerttemberg – we are now facing weather patterns that we have not seen before. Whatever the causes – it is clear to us: Jesus is Lord of the weather. Then and now. Jesus rebuked the storm: “Quiet! Be still!” The wind immediately died down.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2001 in Neufrankenrode hundreds of people from all over Germany gathered to take part in the raising of a giant cross to stand in the middle of Germany. It started to rain. The tent was too small for everyone to shelter. I was asked to pray for the weather and took authority. I climbed onto the stage and prayed: “You who once rebuked the wind, you also speak today: clouds be gone!” By the afternoon the sun was shining. A clear sign for everyone present.

*Please take authority against the impending storm as messengers of Jesus, command the weather and as Christians protect your localities and regions!*

**Prayer:**

- **There is such a command according to Mark 4 v.35-41**
- **There is a request for grace and protection according to Psalm 18 v.9-15 and Psalm 46 v.1-5.**
- **There is a prayer of supplication for a change in the weather as in 1 Kings 18 v.41-45.** -OS-

**Keep praying for:**

- the situation in Syria and protection for Israel.
- the preparations for the Church-Israel-Congress in Berlin in November.
- protection from terrorist attacks.

**Other events for prayer**

**03.10** Day of German Unity – thank, celebrate, pray!

**06.10** Global Day of Prayer for Jerusalem.

**18.10** European Day against Human Trafficking.

**31.10** Reformation Day.

**31.10** Watchmen Prayer Day in Erfurt, Thuringia.

*God’s blessings from Ortwin Schweitzer  
and Rosemarie Streseemann*