

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

February 2014

Prayer for unpopular politicians?

We may not be pleased with every ministerial appointment in the new government by reason of political persuasion or purely because of personality. How do we deal with this? I often hear and read nasty and derisive remarks in such cases – also from Christians. And “venom” is spewed out. Be careful! The Bible tells us in Exodus 22 v.28: “Do not curse the ruler of your people”. Disparaging thoughts and derisive talk fall into the category of “curses” and with this we are on the path of destruction and death. Jesus on the other hand commands us to bless (Luke 6 v.28), for in this way we overcome evil. We must differentiate between the office that we should respect and political action with which we can take issue. God calls us to pray for those in authority – irrespective of their political persuasion! We cannot pray and curse at the same time, for then God cannot answer. -RS-

Answers to prayer in the January prayer letter:

1. As his first action as Minister of Health, Hermann Groehe (CDU) has made it clear that he will penalise any arranged form of assisted suicide and that he would like to promote palliative and hospice care. To this end he will propose a cross-party motion in the national parliament and members will be able to vote without the party whip. Let us continue in prayer.
2. The state parliament of Bavaria has resolved to propose - in the Federal States Parliament (Upper House) - a revision to the statute of limitations on the recovery of Nazi plundered works of art.

We are thankful for these answers to prayer! -RS-

The 14th anniversary of the Call of the Watchmen!

“Celebrate Jesus, celebrate!” Everyone who prays with us may celebrate Jesus and **thank** him:

- for the prayer awakening that came from Jesus and became a prayer network that attracted thousands, many of whom are still with us today;
- for all the encouragement we received from the Spirit of prayer when we became tired and weary;
- for the nation-wide fellowship of intercessors;
- for those who pray for Germany internationally;
- for the prayer conferences in 2007 and 2009;
- for the leadership team in Stuttgart/Berlin, the wonderful regional coordinators and many faithful local supporters; for all the love and friendship that has grown up among us;
- for the development of the “Waechterruf” into its own charitable association;
- for the many answers to prayer - for protection from terror attacks, good government, Germany’s place in the international community, etc.;
- for the well-organised website and the frequent new visitors;
- for the associated services – prayer alerts, the Prophetic Page, the Political Page, etc.;

- for the freedom from debt because of your yearly donations of 10 Euros.

“Celebrate Jesus, celebrate!” - for 14 years of grace and faithfulness! -OS-

Prayer house movement

In the prayer letter for July we mentioned a prophecy from Stefan Driess in connection with the floods in Germany. He also wrote: “We will see moves of the Holy Spirit also in certain Catholic communities which will make even the Charismatics jealous.” In January I myself experienced a move of the Holy Spirit in the prayer conference of such a community. It was the “MEHR” (“MORE”) conference of the Augsburg Prayer House under the leadership of Johannes Hartl, a Catholic theologian. Christians from all denominations were worshipping Jesus together. About 60% of the more than 3500 people in attendance were Catholic, the others were from the State Protestant/Lutheran Church and from free churches. Without denying the differences that still exist, we were all united by a great love for Jesus Christ which is lived out in the prayer house in a quite exceptional way. Corporate prayer, 24 hours a day, 365 days in the year, is the hallmark of the Augsburg Prayer House where Jesus has been honoured without ceasing since September 2011. Prayer houses of this kind are growing world-wide and also in Germany. Where Jesus is worshipped in this way, people are often healed and give their lives to Jesus – but this is not only what is happening. There are also noticeable changes in the society in Augsburg. Sex solicitation by kerb-crawling is now forbidden and there are no longer any doctors who offer abortion in Augsburg. Many young people are seeking a deeper relationship with God. The average age of conference participants was about 25!

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the uniting work of the Holy Spirit across all denominational barriers. (John 17 v.22)**
- **That more and more people are called to a life of prayer. (1 Thessalonians 5 v.17)**
- **That the prayer house movement will grow and increase in spiritual power. (Luke 2 v.40)** -RS-

Standing for the truth

The book of Malachi describes the state of spiritual decline in the people of God: God’s name was being dishonoured, God’s altar was being defiled with blemished animals for sacrifice, and the spiritual leaders were calling evil good (Malachi 2 v.17).

We are living in a similar state of confusion today. Social pressure is increasing at all levels to reject the truth about the creation of human beings as male and female. Instead we humans are re-inventing (re-designing) ourselves and have to “discover” our own sexual identity. In the new coalition agreement, on page 105, under the title “Respect for sexual identity” we read: “We will extend the ‘national action plan for Germany to combat racism,

xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and intolerance for the same, to include the issue of homophobia and transphobia."

This means that whoever disapproves of a homosexual lifestyle will be treated by the state in the same way as an anti-Semite or racist and penalised accordingly. Anyone who does not believe that the practice of homosexuality is an acceptable expression of "sexual identity" is branded as intolerant and a "homophobe". This is an outrageous course of action that will nullify the freedom of speech! Standing against these lies demands:

- Love for the truth; sanctification in the truth. (John 17 v.14-19).
- Courage to openly stand for truth and to suffer rejection. (Revelation 12 v.11)
- Active engagement in society: writing letters, contacting politicians, joining public protests, etc.

God is now calling us to stand up in this way all over Europe. The secondary school teacher Gabriel Staengle has accepted this call with his petition "Education Policy 2015" (see German Prayer Letter - Special Issue) and is getting strong opposition. He was however able to open up a broad social debate in the media.

We always want to be able to react swiftly to current developments and keep you informed by way of this prayer letter.

Prayer:

- **That the Holy Spirit gives us strength to stand for the truth. (1 Samuel 17 v.32)**
- **That the national action plan of the German government will not be extended to include the issue of homophobia. (Job 5 v.12-13)**
- **Wisdom and strength for all those already involved in standing for the truth to persevere. (2 Timothy 2 v.24- 25)**

-RS-

The new German government

Although formed in December, the work of the new German government only began in January. In the past a new government was normally given 100 days before first assessments were made publically. However, statements are already coming in of a "bumpy start" (Spiegel Magazine) and even of a "false start" for the grand coalition. And only because an inexperienced young Family Minister (SPD) would really like to introduce the 32-hour working week for young families. Or because the CSU, referring to the freedom of movement for Romanians and Bulgarians from January 1st, is threatening: "Whoever cheats must get out!" To some extent this is normal to test the limits for political manoeuvrability. The rationale may be to make a personal impression, as in this media age a politician is only what is said about him/her in the media. But more importantly the SPD wants to prove to its members that it is not again going to let Angela Merkel take all the credit - as in the last grand coalition. From now on, time and grace is needed for the development of *constructive* teamwork. We cannot take this for granted. It requires respect and mutual trust.

In Germany we have a Federal President and a seasoned Chancellor at the top. But as intercessors we know that there is a "King" over them, unseen but very effective. All our ministers have called on his help at their swearing-in ceremony. "So help me God!" HE will gladly oblige.

Prayer:

- **Blessings over each member of the cabinet (see attached pictures). (Philippians 2 v.13; 4 v.7,13)**
- **Pray for each one - for humility, for good ideas and for wisdom and prudence to put them into practice. (Micah 6 v.8)**

-OS-

Family policy

The new Family Minister Manuela Schwesig (SPD) has directed the Social Ministry in the state of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania over the past five years. She is married and after the birth of her son joined the State Protestant/Lutheran Church along with her husband where all were baptised in 2010. She is also one of the deputy national chairpersons of the SPD. She will surely try to impress a politically strong social-democratic coloured stamp on family policy. In the coalition negotiations she has already vehemently argued for the introduction of homosexual marriage and described the family allowance as lunacy. It will soon be evident that she will continue to campaign for full-time employment for mothers and fathers. As no concrete actions were agreed in this regard in the coalition agreement, we can pray that no further ideas for policies that will harm the family will be realised through her. She needs our continuous intercession and God's blessings!

Prayer:

- **For wisdom so that the minister recognises how family life can be supported. (Deuteronomy 5 v.29)**
- **That mothers, who want to be there for their children, will be recognised and valued and fully supported by family policy. (Exodus 20 v.12)**
- **For adequate support for families with children in their need for time together.**

-RS-

Marriage Week

From February 7th to 14th Christians will again be organising a nation-wide "Marriage Week" with the aim of strengthening marriage by offering a week of creative and fun events for married couples ending on Valentine's Day. (Visit: www.marriage-week.de or www.marriage-week.org.uk)
Let us pray that through these events the love between married couples will be strengthened in a new and exciting way.

-RS-

*God's blessings from
Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann*