

June 2014

Be reassured

Recently a really gifted prayer leader said to me that he always enjoys his times of prayer together with others. But after the prayer time he often felt suddenly alone as if he were in a void. Then when he prays by himself, it all seems so dry and like hard work and he really feels bad about it. He is not the only one who feels like this. Let me reassure you with God's word.

1. God does not want you to condemn yourself. Read 1 John 3:19-20. "For God is greater than our hearts and he knows everything." Say to him like Peter in John 21:15: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He knows this and believes in you - more than you believe in yourself.
2. Know that when you find yourself alone, he is already waiting for you. He enjoys being with you. Talk with him as with an old friend. He says: "My son, give me your heart..." (Proverbs 23:26). -OS-

Germany under the "rainbow" flag?

Between May 30th and August 30th the so-called "Christopher Street Day" (CSD) will take place in 13 (!) German cities. Every year thousands of homosexuals go onto the streets to claim their rights as a minority group in society and government. The symbol they use to identify themselves is the "rainbow" flag. This flag often hangs in front of town halls and other government buildings in place of the city or state flag. The sign of the rainbow as God's covenant of grace with his creation is now misused to represent an ungodly way of life. "Unashamedly XXL" - the slogan for the all-night party at the first event in Dusseldorf - goes for the parades as well. Citizens see it as a kind of carnival procession. Prominent politicians gladly take part. And Christians? Probably many had no idea how successfully this group would be able to assert their minority rights. This is now a wake-up call. What can we do? In Berlin there is a small group of intercessors who, since 2005, have been asking for God's mercy on this day. In preparation they mostly pray along the route of the CSD. Last year for the first time they organised 24 hours of praise and worship, broken only for times of corporate intercession. This year for the first time there is a rift in the homosexual scene and a counter-event to the CSD has been announced. There is a dispute over money and the naming of the event.

Prayer:

- **That Christians in cities where CSD is planned will take up the responsibility to fill the local areas with praise and worship. (John 4:23)**
- **We bow and ask for forgiveness on behalf of the CSD organisers for all the perversion and misuse of God's covenant rainbow sign. (Genesis 9:15-17)**
- **Proclamation of the truth of God's word. (Hebrews 4:12)** -RS-

Ukraine – let's keep praying!

Recently I watched the video clip: "A Nation Called to Prayer" (<http://vimeo.com/91460652> in English). I saw men and women in groups of four kneeling and praying on the stone pavement of the large square in the centre of Kiev. These hard and difficult times are uniting God's people: Baptist, Charismatic, Pentecostal churches, Catholics and Orthodox believers are coming to pray. They are praying for freedom to be a sovereign nation and to govern themselves. They are praying for Russia. "We don't want war and we are sure that the Russian people also don't want war." They say the only freedom is in Jesus Christ and that is why they pray.

They report that people are now open to listen. They are setting up prayer tents, serving tea and talking with them. "Who can give people hope, when we don't do it!" So they share the gospel and encourage them.

"Even though we do not have all the answers, we believe that God has a plan for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people and also for the Russian people; we believe that God can use Ukraine, a Christian country, to influence both the east and the west."

"Freedom" is the key word that is in every mouth in Ukraine. Christians are proclaiming Jesus, the source of freedom. True freedom. Today we want to pray for and with our brothers and sisters who are kneeling there on the ground.

Prayer:

- **For the salvation of many people and freedom in the land. (1 Timothy 2:3-6)**
- **For a great witness of the Christians in Ukraine through their newly gained unity. (Philippians 4:5-7)**
- **For wisdom and authority for the new president and his government over the entire land of Ukraine. (2 Chronicles 1:7-12)** -OS-

Negotiations for a USA-EU free trade agreement

The American government and the EU Commission have been negotiating for greater harmonisation in standards and procedures in transatlantic trade. This involves the removal of trade barriers between America and the EU and requires the mutual recognition of standards, control and approval procedures. If free trade between the two continents becomes a reality, current restraints would no longer apply, product specifications would be harmonised, and public contracts could be awarded across the Atlantic Ocean. There is already a huge trade in goods to the value of 1.8 billion Euros every day (!) between the USA and the EU that would continue to grow as the result of the planned free trade agreement. Proponents argue that economic growth will be boosted and that many new jobs will be created. On the other hand critics fear a fall in environmental and consumer protection standards and too much power in the hands of private enterprises. They are concerned that the negotiations are being held in secret.

The European Parliament is only informed about certain issues with no voice in the matter. Politically a free trade agreement is supported by most parties, but some issues are contested. The negotiation leaders are Ignacio Bercero for the EU Commission and Dan Mullaney for the USA. Since this agreement involves many opportunities but also risks, it requires our prayers and God's guidance.

Prayer:

- **That in these negotiations, potential risks for people and the environment can be recognised and averted. (Ecclesiastes 8:5)**
- **Wisdom for the negotiation leaders. (Psalm 90:17)**
- **That no legal loopholes will be overlooked that could be exploited or abused. (Matthew 6:13)** -RS-

An umbrella organisation for groups that support Israel

Until now Christian associations that support Israel have been linked informally by the Christian Forum for Israel (CFFI). In order to be able to represent Israel issues in politics and society more effectively and with a common voice, it was decided at a general meeting of CFFI to form a registered charity. This would be an umbrella organisation for groups that support Israel. The current board of CFFI will support the leadership of the new organisation in an advisory role and as spiritual fathers. We want to create an opportunity for a team of new leaders from the next generation, who have both the calling and the motivation, to take CFFI to a new level of unity and effectiveness. The registration of the new organisation is planned for December.

In a time when many people in this land are turning away from supporting Israel, such a clear step forward in unity is necessary and needs covering in prayer.

Prayer:

- **Guidance from the Holy Spirit and unity in the selection of new leaders who have been called to serve Israel. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)**
- **Clear realisation of how this unified work for Israel can be effective in politics and society. (Joshua 1:8-9)**
- **For practical and financial support for all the steps that need to be taken. (Psalm 34:10)** -HE-

Whom do we worship?

Many people in our land are turning again to the old pagan godheads and worshipping them. Old practices of witchcraft are coming back to life during Walpurgis Night – partly due to commercialisation and partly due to the resurgence of those who openly call themselves “witches”.

God has put the desire to worship a higher power into the heart of every person. The spiritual battle in our land is about *whom we worship*. Satan wants to be worshipped on this earth and also wanted Jesus to worship him (Matthew 4:8). Jesus revealed to us that God is seeking those who worship him in spirit and truth (John 4:23). Even larger worship festivals for the enemy are taking place in Germany: Gothic Wave in Leipzig at Pentecost and Wacken Open Air in Schleswig Holstein at the end of July are just

two of them. Consciously or unconsciously Satan is openly being worshipped and his name is being proclaimed over our land. Christians will be evangelising at these festivals. But we need more: our land should be filled with the worship of God!

Prayer:

- **That the worship of God, day and night, increases in this land. (Deuteronomy 6:13)**
- **For the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit during the evangelistic outreaches. (1 Corinthians 2:4)**
- **Deliverance of people from the bondage of satanic worship. (John 8:12)** -RS-

Global Outreach Day – G.O.D.

June 14th, the Saturday after Pentecost, will be “Global Outreach Day” – for the third year running. What happens on this day?

The vision of Global Outreach Day is to inspire Christians throughout the world especially on this day to share the gospel with someone in whatever way they feel led. Everyone can reach out to someone! It is particularly encouraging that our fellow believers will be doing this in more than 200 nations in the world. During the first G.O.D. in 2012, over 25 million people heard the gospel and over three million decided on this day to give their lives to Jesus. In 2013 there were even more. As “watchmen” we want to support this day in prayer. Firstly because this idea came out of Germany (Berlin), and secondly because prayer and evangelism go hand in hand. We encourage you to be active on this day of world-wide outreach. It is important to commit ourselves to prayer. Then God may also show us with whom we should speak.

Excellent material for personal evangelism or in groups is available at www.globaloutreachday.com - it is much more fun to do it together. May everyone see good results!

Prayer:

- **Courage, good opportunities and great joy on this day for everyone who takes part.**
- **That many people come to know Jesus through proclamation and prayer. (Matthew 9:35-38)**
- **Pray for Christians in other parts of the world whose lives are in danger because they share their testimony. (Hebrews 11:32-38)** -OS-

Dates for your diary:

- 08.06** Global Day of Prayer
- 14.06** Global Outreach Day (see above)
- 19.06** “Christustag 2014” in Stuttgart
- 12.06-13.07** Football World Cup 2014 in Brazil (evangelistic outreaches)
- 28.06-27.07** 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World during Ramadan (www.30-days.net/)

*God's blessings from
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