

December 2014

**The prayer of the righteous ...**

If you read the Luther Bible you will know how this verse (James 5:16) continues: ... "is very effective when it is earnest." In this translation there is a clear condition: prayer must be "earnest". Unfortunately Luther has not conveyed the real meaning of this verse in his translation and has placed an unnecessary burden on intercessors. Literally the verse says: "Very effective is the *energy-filled* prayer of the righteous." In Greek the word before prayer is "*en-ergeo-*" from which we get our word "energy". So we can say that when our prayer is filled with the energy of the Holy Spirit, then it is very powerful. In this way Elijah – a person just like you and me – could pray so effectively. The effectiveness of prayer does not therefore depend on the intercessor but on the Holy Spirit. He has the effective power. Prayer is not a matter of mental effort! -RS-

**Petition against the "Education Policy" rejected**

In the middle of October the petition "No Education Policy under Rainbow [Gay] Ideology" which was signed by 192,000 supporters was rejected by the petition commission for no good reason. There was only a statement that the state government (of Baden-Wuerttemberg) was adhering to its plans to enshrine the "acceptance of sexual diversity" in the new education policy. The state parliament (in Stuttgart) confirmed this rejection in the middle of November with its "green-red" majority. The protest action is now gaining further momentum and has entered a new phase. In October about 3000 citizens in Stuttgart took a stand for the protection and strengthening of the family at one of the "Demo for everybody" demonstrations which are now taking place regularly. Last month significant articles appeared in the FAZ newspaper and in Focus magazine exposing the background to this "Pornographisation" of the school system. The link between today's sexual education and the thinking of paedophiles was disclosed to a shocked public. Professor Uwe Sielert, who is very influential in gender and sexual education, is promoting the concept that the three traditional facts of life – the core family, hetero-sexuality and the process of human reproduction (and therefore the age boundaries between generations) – are no longer "natural". This teaching, which will be incorporated into the new "Education Policy", is now increasingly coming under severe criticism.

**Prayer:**

- **Thanks for growing resistance from our population to the new education policy concepts. (1 Peter 5:8-9)**
- **For further truth-revealing articles that will have an effective and lasting impact for the protection of our children and society in general. (Job 12:22)**
- **For staying power and protection for all those who have so far openly spoken out against this new gender ideology. (2 Samuel 22:2-4)** -RS-

**Take the sword of the Spirit – the word of God!**

On Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> in Cologne, a street battle raged between 3-4,000 hooligans and 1,000 police. The number of demonstrators and the level of violence were totally unexpected.

Hooligans are generally football fans who are ready to engage in a fight with fans from other clubs. Now we are also seeing hooligans from several clubs ganging up ("together we are strong"), but mainly we see a growing association between hooligans and right-wing radicals. Together in Cologne they were yelling: "Germany for the Germans. Foreigners out!"

The message from all of them was to hunt down the Salafists that we all fear here in Germany so as to gain acceptance from the population in general.

Salafists are young Muslims who are ready to die for Allah. Many of them therefore go to fight in jihad for the Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq.

How can we describe and respond to this situation?

- Here we see two death squadrons joining forces. Behind both groups is a spirit of death, having a mindset that fully accepts the death of others as well as the death of themselves.
- Both groups have developed a set of values for themselves that justifies death through their actions. For the right-wing radicals this is *National Socialism* and for the Salafists this is the *will of Allah* from the Quran.
- Both of these ideologies are no longer acceptable.

The police are responsible that no-one gets killed. When a state does not maintain the rule of law and order, the people fall into chaos and the "law of the jungle". As much as the spirit of Islam must be restrained, so is a violent reaction against it *fleshly*.

In this situation we must act *spiritually*. Intercessors, arise! Speak the word of God into the chaos. Dare to do this also wherever you are!

**Prayer:**

- **Let us praise God according to Psalm 91:1-2. Let us proclaim victory over the powers of darkness (v.13).**
- **Pray for all those involved: politicians, police, sources of information, Internet-searchers. (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Pray also for the hooligans and Salafists.**
- **Courage for Christians to pray with authority - wherever they are. (1 Corinthians 16:3)** -OS-

**New law on euthanasia in view**

In a society that no longer recognises God as creator and Lord of life and death, the demand for a self-determined time and manner of death is growing. While in Germany active euthanasia, death on demand, is forbidden, other western nations have moved on. While two thirds of German citizens are in favour of active euthanasia, many doctors are against it.

The German Bishops Conference had quite recently confirmed its categorical "no" to all forms of active euthanasia. Cardinal Karl Lehmann stated that the right to

self-determination could “not apply to one’s own life”. The German Parliament is now planning to change the law. Currently Members of Parliament are drawing up various group proposals and these will be voted on in the middle of 2015 without a party whip. There are five groups in parliament facing each other in the euthanasia debate, each with different stringent concepts for euthanasia: from explicit prohibition to qualified permission for doctors. Three proposals want to prohibit assisted suicide but prescribe different levels of penalty. Another group wants to allow only doctors to perform assisted suicide but under certain conditions. However, professional rules of conduct for doctors in most German states basically forbid such assistance. Another proposal will allow the formation of so-called euthanasia associations, but not allow them to charge for their services.

**Prayer:**

- **Let us honour God as the Lord over life and death. (Ephesians 1:18-22)**
- **That life remains protected to the end by the new law. (Exodus 20:13)**
- **That the Spirit of God will give wisdom and a voice to those who stand up and speak out for the protection of life. (Proverbs 10:31)** -RS-

**Prayer for the politicians in Brussels**

God has put Europe on my heart and I want to thank all those who have not written off “Europe/Brussels” and are praying with me. “Brussels” is seen from outside as bureaucratic institutions. But in reality they are made up of people. And people need prayer. Where people stand spiritually will influence their work and the institutions in which they work (as for us all). There are three main institutions that have each seen major changes this year.

- On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 751 members of the **European Parliament (EP)** were elected from the 28 EU member states for a period of five years. The new President is *Martin Schulz* (who was also the previous president) and holds office again for 2.5 years. For the first time the President of the Commission was formally elected by the EP rather than being appointed by the European Council.
- The **European Council** is the institution in which the national heads of the 28 member states (sometimes national departmental ministers) come together for “summit” meetings. From their deliberations come the decisions which determine the policies of the EU and which eventually become European law. The President of the Council has also been newly appointed. He is *Donald Tusk*, the previous and highly esteemed Prime Minister of Poland. Tusk is a Christian and has a close relationship with a group of prophetic Christian pastors in Poland who pray for him.
- The **European Commission (EC)** has been re-organised. It comprises 28 Commissioners, each appointed by one of the member states, but cross-examined and then elected (confirmed) by the EP. In the same way the President, *Jean-Claude Juncker*, from Luxemburg, has

been newly elected. He has appointed seven Vice-Presidents, (one of whom is *Federica Mogherini*, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy), who each coordinate a specific area of activity as well as having their own assigned responsibilities. Juncker wants to be close to the EU citizens and to stimulate economic growth especially with a view to reducing youth unemployment.

**Prayer:**

- **Thanks for the institutions of the EU and for 70 years of peace to a large extent in Europe.**
- **Intercede for our parliamentarians and especially for the three presidents Schulz, Tusk and Juncker: to fear God, for protection, for wisdom and for good advisors.**
- **Pray for many Christians in the EU institutions and for many Christians to pray for them.** -OS-

**The tension in Israel is rising**

Since last month attacks in Jerusalem are again increasing. All attackers belong to militant Palestinian organisations. The open-ended cease-fire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip was partially undermined by a more radical Salafist terror group that fired their own rockets into Israel. The Gaza war has not solved any of the problems and Hamas is still shooting test rockets into the sea and want to repair the tunnels that were destroyed. Trouble is brewing behind the scenes in the Palestinian territories and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is again the focus of the conflict. Recently there was a near fatal attack on Rabbi Jehuda Glick who is one of the campaigners for Jewish freedom to pray on the Temple Mount – a movement that regards the Temple Mount as the centre of Israeli-Jewish identity and is preparing to build a new temple. Muslims see this as a threat to their third most holy site, the Al-Aqsa Mosque. And how are the nations reacting to all of this? Sweden is the first EU nation to recognise a Palestinian State. Spain has followed. The Palestinians are planning to bring a resolution to the UN Security Council that requires Israel to withdraw from the “occupied territories” by November 2016. The pressure on the nations to take a stand on one side or the other continues to grow.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray according to Psalm 122 and 129 for God’s protection over Jerusalem and Israel.**
- **For the work of the “European Coalition for Israel” – that God’s heart for Israel can be conveyed with much wisdom and that politicians will be ready to listen in the EU and UN. (1 Kings 8:16)**
- **Strengthening of the faith of our Messianic and Arab brothers and sisters in Israel. (2 Timothy 3:10-13)** -RS-

**A request**

Please think about your annual thank-offering to us on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Call of the Watchmen by February 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. Thank you very much in advance! -OS-

*God’s blessings for the Christmas season from  
Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann*