

February 2015

Peace in the storm

At the end of last year, as I was seeking God's purposes for the new year, I had the impression that 2015 will be a year of storms. When meteorologists announce that a heavy storm is coming, we try to find a safe place to protect ourselves from the storm. In severe cases, people must even be evacuated from the affected region. Where is a safe place for us when God releases his storms over the earth? Jesus said to his disciples: "Remain in me!" (John 15:4). But how can we be sure that we are remaining in him? One sure sign is that we have peace in our hearts. Jesus could sleep through the storm. The peace of God is a reality that has to be experienced spiritually. It is like a fortress that we may go into for safety. But we have to hand over our worries and cares to Jesus at the entrance and then not turn back. In other words, remain in him. And there we find peace in the middle of the storm. -RS-

The Call of the Watchmen after 15 years

It was a time of small beginnings in February 2000. We had a vision from Gabi Brauer, our leader at that time, which resonated in our spirits, and thus gave us the courage to launch a prayer movement to which we were fully committed. After earlier prayer initiatives had stopped, the message that this would be a new approach to "prayer for our land" then spread "as on angels' wings". Within weeks almost the entire month was covered by prayer groups and more continued to sign up to pray on one specific day in the month. Germany experienced a real prayer awakening! After 2½ years the growth levelled out at about 240 prayer groups. Regions were reorganised and leaders made responsible for local coordination. Each year coordinators met together in their region and regional leaders met in Friedrichroda. *The prayer awakening now had a structure* - which brought new life to the movement as the earlier momentum was waning. The "faithful intercessors" came forward, many of whom are still with us today. *The eyes of the Lord have been upon them all!* The two prayer conferences in 2007 and 2009 were spiritual highlights – like on the "mount of transfiguration".

In 2008 – in the middle of the financial crisis – God took good care of our financial situation when thousands of intercessors were ready to make a yearly contribution of 10 Euro. It was then possible to set up a website, make a promotional video and issue a brochure with a CD. And most importantly we appointed a full-time director to manage everything. In addition to the "Political Page" (some in English), a new team developed the "Prophetic Page" (summary version in English). The "Prayer Alert" (in German only) and the "24-hour prayer week" were also introduced. In the middle of 2013 we took the step to register the "Wächterruf" as an independent non-profit organisation – a step which the Lord has surely blessed.

Prayer:

- **Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. (Psalm 118:1)**
- **We call upon the spirit of prayer (supplication) for us**

all. (Zechariah 12:10)

- **We pray for more young people to join the "Call of the Watchmen" as intercessors.** -OS-

A time for repentance

The season of Lent begins on February 18th. The action "40 days of prayer and fasting for our land" offers some prayer suggestions on the website: www.40tagebetenundfasten.de.

We are living at a very critical time. A time of shaking that God has announced through signs in the heavens. It is important to hear what the Spirit has to say to the churches *now*.

For the years 2014 and 2015, four blood-moons (total eclipses of the moon) have been announced, two of which have already taken place in 2014 (see prayer letter April 2014 - **Signs in the heavens**). Shortly after the first blood-moon at Passover 2014, the terror organisation Islamic State (IS) appeared as from nowhere. In June the Gaza war began, the Ukraine crisis escalated into a state of war, and the Ebola epidemic in Africa emerged as a new threat to health world-wide.

God calls us to repentance and holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14). James tells the church: "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:8-9). *It's still a time for repentance!* Please take God's call to his churches very seriously. Only the Holy Spirit can show each one of us the areas in our lives where we need to purify our hearts. Priests could not serve unless they made themselves holy before the Lord. We as intercessors have a priestly duty before God for this land. Repentance and the willingness to repent and be holy start with us.

Prayer:

- **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit in me. (Psalm 51:10)**
- **That God will reveal to the church of Jesus its true condition in his eyes, so that repentance can follow. (Revelation 3:18)**
- **That God will call more and more people to pray for our land at this time.** -RS-

Increasing danger of terrorism

Nine Islamist terror attacks have been foiled so far in Germany – a gracious answer to our prayers. After the dreadful terror attacks in Paris, the level of alert has also been raised in Germany. With more and more jihadists coming back to Germany after fighting in Syria, it is increasingly difficult for the police and security services to monitor all the likely attackers. More than 230 extremists are being watched, some around the clock. Some state authorities have accrued tens of thousands of hours for this work in the past year. Their resources are stretched to the limit. From the experience in Paris, monitoring alone cannot prevent an attack with certainty. Terror attacks are not only threatened by Islamists. Right-wing and left-wing radicals also carry out attacks in our land, and we want to pray also

for the discovery and prevention of such threats.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for all the protection so far. Pray for further grace and prevention of attacks. (Job 33:26)**
- **For Interior Minister de Mazière: wisdom for effective prevention measures. (Psalm 127:1)**
- **That God sends his angels to help the security services to foil the plans of the attackers. (Psalm 35:4-6) -RS-**

Integration

After the USA, Germany is the most favoured country for immigration. In 2013, 10.7 million residents of Germany did not have a German passport and came from one of 194 other countries. The majority of them (7.4 m) came from Eastern Europe, most from Bulgaria or Romania.

In 2009, out of 80 million residents, 15.7 million had a migration background and the trend is upwards.

Although today when asked about foreigners in Germany, most immediately think about asylum seekers and refugees from Africa and the Middle East, the majority of immigrants come from states in the European Union, and are taking advantage of the freedom of movement. They are not refugees, but EU citizens. They are looking for work or enjoying their rights for family reunion. But for all these various groups there are specific rules in law which need to be reviewed and applied. "PEGIDA" (Patriotic Europeans against the Islamisation of the West) demonstrations in Germany are making everyone aware of this.

The official "Family Report" of the German government made clear in 2000 that Germany is an immigration land – something which had not been accepted until then. Today we know that demographically the future of Germany is dependent on immigration. Therefore our land must face the constant task of integration of immigrants. This has to be accomplished both in the hearts and minds of the native population locally and in appropriate legislation.

The instinctive reaction to foreigners is fear: a different language, a different culture and religion, and they look different. This is natural human behaviour and each one of us should be aware of this. We react in this way – and so does the foreigner!

Understanding this, integration requires that we approach one another in a friendly and open manner and treat each other with respect – then the fear will melt away. If we ignore foreigners or exclude them from our society, we drive them to hate us and this leads to the formation of dangerous ghetto areas and eventually to acts of terrorism. For Christians the words of Jesus: "I was a stranger and you invited me in" should also encourage us to build a "Jesus-bridge" to immigrants. Christians can then lead the way in our society.

The statement by Angela Merkel that Islam belongs in Germany (quoting ex-president Wulff without the "also") must be challenged. What she really meant was that the more than three million *Muslims* should be an integral part of our society – and that is correct! But "*Islam*" is something else. Islam is a term that encompasses all the values in the Quran in one word. And these values – and our Chancellor

would surely agree – are to a large extent irreconcilable with the values of Western Europe which have grown out of Christianity and the Enlightenment ("the guiding principle for current German culture"). With her statement our Chancellor is not actually promoting the *integration* of Muslims into our society, but rather is affirming them in their self-confident belief *that they do not need to integrate* into our society and has now officially sanctioned this belief.

Prayer:

- **Help for the politicians and all citizens to come to terms with the challenges of migration throughout history. (Psalm 87:3-7)**
- **It is not Islam but the sleeping Christian church that is endangering the survival of western culture – pray for repentance and a new awakening. (Romans 1:16-17)**
- **Pray for forgiveness for all the exploitation of foreign workers at minimal wages. (Sirach 34:25-27) -OS-**

100 days of prayer www.100-days.eu

Jewish people are being murdered in Europe just because they are Jews. The dreadful attacks in Belgium and France are also instilling fear into the Jewish population in Germany. They urgently need our prayer! In February, the weekly themes for the 100 days of prayer in Germany include the importance "for Zion's sake" of not keeping silent" (Isaiah 62:1). We cannot love and keep silent. But where are the masses who stand together to call out "*I am a Jew*" during demonstrations? Not keeping silent must also be clearly evident in the public confession of our guilt towards the God's people. There is so much that cannot remain under the veil of silence – also within our own families. Many lies about the Jews, often unknowingly implanted in our minds, keep us silent. Replacement theology, which no longer anticipates the day when Jesus will actually reign in the midst of his people out of Zion (Jerusalem), prevents many Christians from identifying themselves unreservedly with God's people. Jesus is not only God's Son, he is also the King of the Jews!

Prayer:

- **For God to forgive our silence concerning his people and to change us to make Isaiah 62:1 a reality.**
- **Pray for forgiveness that the church of Jesus has embraced replacement theology and for a breakthrough and a clear confession that Jesus is the "King of the Jews". (John 19:19-22; Matthew 3:8)**
- **That God will protect his chosen people all over the world from attacks and give them joy as they return to Zion in their land of Israel. (Isaiah 51:11) -RS-**

Dates for your diary:

- 07-14.02** Marriage Week (www.marriage-weekinternational.com)
- 23-26.02** German Catholic Bishops Conference
- 26-28.02** Christian Management Congress in Hamburg
- 27.01-08.05** 100 days "*remember-repent-pray*" for Israel, Germany and the nations (Global Prayer Call)

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