

March 2015

**Praying like Abraham**

The account of how Abraham pleaded for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16-33) is well known. God intended to bring total destruction as judgement on the cities and did not hide this from his servant. Abraham did not accept this as just "for his information", but began to question God and even challenge God about the righteousness of his judgement. The result was amazing: God was ready to abandon his planned action if he could find just 10 righteous people in this hotbed of sin (see Genesis 19:4-8). This is the kind of God that we have! He is a God who hears and apparently is just waiting for priestly men and women to stand up and touch his heart by reminding him of his great mercy. Our God does not want to destroy. He wants to save and heal, and wants us to turn to HIM.

Dear priestly intercessors, this must be the foundation for our prayers: we do not despair at the dark storm clouds of his judgement - whether it concerns Germany, the Ukraine or Europe - because we know the true heart of God ... -OS-

**What's your problem, Europe?**

With the collapse of the "Eastern Block" and the resulting freedom of the satellite nations, the European Union of 15 member states was given the opportunity to open its doors towards the east. Euphoria was in the air and this culminated in May 2004 with the joyful acceptance of 10 new member states into the EU.

But what has happened to that joy in Europe today? There is now much scepticism, even rejection within the populations of the EU countries. And our political leaders are busy managing crises, one after another. It is as if Europe is now crumbling between our fingers.

What has happened since 2004?

*In 2004 something was broken in the relationship between God and Europe.* The loss of faith in God by Europeans and their general scepticism since the Enlightenment is well known. But God in his mercy has given us decades of freedom since 1945, not to mention the reunification of Europe. But then in 2004 at the height of his reconciling grace, the ruling political elite *officially* decided that they did not want any reference to this God of the Jewish-Christian Bible to be included in their European constitution.

Just living without faith in God is quite different from consciously rejecting him. One is without thought while the other is a deliberate decision. God loves the people of Europe. So what have we done to HIM? Such pain for a loving heart! This decision was a parting of our ways.

Oh God! Is there an easy way back into grace? Into blessings for Europe?

No – Priestly men and women must now stand up in the countries of Europe, who with penitent and sincere hearts will come before God, acknowledging this sin of a wrong decision with grief, tears and repentance, and comforting HIS heart with a confession of love: "You are still our loving Father, our Saviour. In Europe we have no God but You!"

**Prayer:**

- **Praise and thanks for God's unending faithfulness toward Europe. (Psalm 40:10)**
- **Pray for a right spirit where our repentance becomes an expression of love and not just a performance: with confession of guilt for breaking the father-heart of God. (Daniel 9:15-19 – but as Daniel prayed for Jerusalem, let us pray for Europe)**
- **Recognition of his harsh dealings with Europe as his way of getting our attention in love and pray for his mercy in judgement. (Hebrews 12:9-11)** -OS-

**Awakening Europe**

The event "Awakening Europe" will be taking place in the Grundig Stadium in Nuremberg from July 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ([www.awakeningeurope.com](http://www.awakeningeurope.com)).

Participants from all over Europe will be motivated and equipped to claim back the spiritual inheritance of Europe. The next generation will together advance, wanting to see the Kingdom of God break through in Europe. Fathers and mothers will be there to support them. God's children in Europe will be united, overcoming the barriers of denominations, so that together they can be equipped by God for this vision.

A new movement of young people for Europe will go out from this stadium where the "Day for Hitler Youth" took place as part of the National Socialist Party Rallies during the Nazi period. In 1935 Hitler here demanded that the German youth be: "... as swift as greyhounds, tough as leather and as hard as steel."

**Prayer:**

- **Protection, blessing and the leading of the Spirit for all preparations for this event. (Numbers 6:24)**
- **That God's redemption plans for Europe will break through. (Psalm 44:26)** -RS/Magdalena Kraft-

**Intimidation of personal thought and belief undermines freedom of speech**

There is now a whole range of subjects which are considered "taboo" and one may only make statements about them that are "politically correct". These include subjects such as abortion, gender-mainstreaming, homosexuality and Islam. Supporters of the wide range of leftist opinions, known collectively in Germany as "ANTIFA" (Anti-fascist), go out to protest at every public demonstration that does not fit within their own political viewpoints with extreme brutality and aggression. Now even Christians are closely targeted when they join demonstrations in support of pro-life and the family.

This past month it was just one thing after another: Markus Hollemenn (OeDP - Environmental Party) was not able to take up the position of Head of the Health Division in the city of Munich because as a committed Christian he had spoken out against abortion and in support of persecuted Christians. The vice-chairman of the CDU party (Christian Democrats) in the Hessen state parliament had to

resign because he had cast doubts on the peaceful nature of Islam. The public prosecutor's office in Bremen is looking into an action against Pastor Olaf Latzel for causing a public disturbance. In a sermon he had spoken of the need for Christians to clearly differentiate Christianity from other religions. Several somewhat derogatory remarks about the practices of other religions, for which he later publically apologised, contributed to his fate.

The large financial support of the state for anti-“PEGIDA\*” demonstrations in Dresden as well as the refusal to allow a “LEGIDA\*” demonstration in Leipzig, allegedly because of a lack of police reinforcements, show how the state is undemocratically influencing public opinion. At the same time however counter demonstrations were allowed. This brings back memories of state organised rallies during the communist East German dictatorship.

*\*Patriotic Europeans/Leipzig against Islamisation of the West.*

**Prayer:**

- **That politicians will have the courage to honestly come to terms with unpopular and inconvenient (for them) opinions. (Isaiah 59:12-15)**
- **That the violence of ANTIFA will be recognised as undemocratic and openly confronted. (Psalm 75:4-7)**
- **That steadfastness and courage along with wisdom, humility and gentleness would increase among Christians. (Psalm 45:4, Revelation 13:10)** -RS-

#### **Iran's nuclear ambitions**

With year-long delaying tactics and deception, Iran has succeeded in pressing ahead, despite sanctions, with its nuclear ambitions to the extent that the capability to produce an atomic bomb is now within reach. By the end of March (at the latest by the end of June) an international agreement with Iran concerning its nuclear development program has to be finalised. Germany is one of the negotiating parties along with the USA, Great Britain, France, Russia and China. In 2006 the UN Security Council was still requiring that Iran cease all its work on plutonium and uranium, but now the negotiations are only about what possibilities Iran will be allowed to retain for uranium enrichment. It seems that both Germany and the USA are prepared to make certain allowances that would in fact make Iran into a “nuclear threshold nation” that could produce an atom bomb within months.

Suddenly Iran has been identified as a “partner for the restoration of stability” in the Middle East by the USA, Germany and other European nations. The blindness of the West to reality is beyond belief, especially for Israel: Iran supports the Shiite terror militia of Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamic terrorist organisation of Hamas in Gaza. In Syria Iranian soldiers are fighting alongside Hezbollah on the side of the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has described the negotiation position of the USA as far too weak.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for forgiveness for the national leaders (including Germany's) for choosing to turn a blind eye to the nuclear terror ambitions of Iran. (John 9:41)**

- **That the tactics of Iran with all its lies will be laid bare before the entire world. (Proverbs 19:5)**
- **For success for the Israeli government when it reminds the USA and the German government of its security interests.** -RS-

#### **The Armenian genocide and Germany's responsibility**

April 24<sup>th</sup> is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide in Constantinople with the deportation and later murder of the entire Armenian upper class intellectuals. In the following months up to 1.5 million Armenians - one of the oldest Christian people groups - were driven out on the orders of the Young Turkish government, sent on death marches, starved, plundered of all they owned and cruelly murdered.

In 1915 Germany, which had long been allied with Turkey, would have had an opportunity to intervene and possibly stop this genocide. This did not happen because of more important strategic military and national interests. While the governments of 22 other countries have officially recognised this genocide and made denial in some cases a punishable offence, the German government until today has not made this step of explicitly recognising the Armenian genocide.

Christians from all over Germany now want to make a clear step towards reconciliation. The responsibility of the German Kaiser Empire for the genocide by failing to act will be confessed before God and Armenian brothers and sisters in an ecumenical service of repentance in the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedaechtnis church in Berlin on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Rosemarie Stresemann has carefully researched this subject and on the preceding Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a seminar in Berlin. Another service of repentance and reconciliation will follow on April 21<sup>st</sup> in Yerevan, the capital city of Armenia. Prince Philip of Prussia who is the great-great-grandson of German Kaiser Wilhelm II will explicitly confess the guilt of the Kaiser dynasty at both services. -RS-

#### **Keep praying**

Our land continuously needs prayer for **protection against terrorist attacks.**

It is important for **the Ukraine** - and for Europe - that the peace plan negotiated in Minsk is fully implemented in the eastern region of the Ukraine.

**Pray for all those who are responsible for making peace and for the Jews who want to make Aliyah to Israel.** -RS-

#### **Dates for your diary:**

**20-22.03** Regional leaders meeting of the Call of the Watchmen in Friedrichroda – please pray for this important annual meeting - we want to be strengthened by God and open for new direction from him for our prayer network.

**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*