

April 2015

### Poor in spirit

Who wants to be poor? Jesus said that the poor in spirit are special – they are “blessed”. Why? Because inwardly they have a simple and natural relationship with God – which is a *mystery* that only those who have painfully and deeply experienced the poverty in themselves can understand and then say; “Oh Lord, take me as I am, poor and helpless. I can do nothing. Here I am.”

Everyone wants to present themselves before God and others with some capabilities and accomplishments. This includes Christian leaders. But alone in their quiet room they often feel inadequate and struggle with the dichotomy of a good outward appearance and inner emptiness.

But only until they find the door to the *mystery*. For to those who completely surrender to God, He will reveal Himself in a greater depth, peace and purity than they have ever known. This is what Jesus meant when he said: “...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3) -OS-

### Answers to prayer from March

Parliamentarians of all parties are now working towards a parliamentary debate on April 24<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the **Armenian genocide**. Until now the German parliament really wanted to avoid such a public commemoration event.

**Ukraine conflict:** The implementation of the Minsk II Agreement is under way. The ceasefire has often been broken, but the withdrawal of heavy weapons has now begun. **Please stay “on the ball” for both issues with thanks and further intercession.** -RS-

### Legal representation for the unborn child

The European Parliament has just adopted a report which asserts a “human right to abortion”. This goes against the legal right of the unborn child to life protection. Dieter Egert, a German design engineer in Waiblingen, has now found a legal way to represent the unborn child.

The unborn child is, from a medical and legal view point, a human being from conception. According to the German Federal Constitutional Court the unborn child therefore has a basic right to the protection of its human dignity and its life. Furthermore the unborn child has the right to be heard in court. To make this possible, Egert can be appointed as the legal guardian of an unborn child. In this way he becomes the legal representative of this child for all issues connected with abortion in so far as legal processes exist. To prevent the late abortion of a child due to a suspected disability, he prepares a “Declaration of Will and Intent” on behalf of the child that is then sent to all gynaecologists who may be involved. This document requires the keeping of medical confidentiality on any prenatal diagnosis (PND) for which there is absolutely no available treatment before birth. Additionally it forbids carrying out genetic tests on the unborn child to detect any such untreatable diseases, because, according to the law on genetic diagnosis, genetic testing is not permissible without the agreement of the patient. In addition every patient can require or revoke the keeping of medical confidentiality in his or her own case.

In March, Egert, who is a committed Christian, filed a complaint under federal constitutional law in a specific case for an unborn child and indirectly for many other unborn children. He is demanding equal rights for the unborn child and ultimately the abolition of the current German law (§218 StGB) concerning abortion.

### Prayer:

- **Thanks for Dieter Egert, who is courageously and intelligently standing up for the rights of the unborn child – pray for protection, blessing and support for his undertaking. (Proverbs 24:11-12)**
- **That doctors will respect and comply with every “Declaration of Will and Intent” concerning prenatal and pre-implantation diagnosis (PND and PID).**
- **That the complaint under federal constitutional law will reach the highest judicial level and be successful. (Psalm 58:1)** -RS-

### The Islamic State (IS) – a sign of the end times

Whoever maintains that the Islamic State and its acts of terrorism may have nothing to do with Islam should be advised to study in detail the teaching of the “Prophet”, whether politician, church theologian or Muslim. Muslims seldom know the basics of their faith such that they can make the connection between the various interpretations of the Quran and what is happening in our world today. Only about 15% of Muslims in Germany attend a mosque and are totally dependent on what they are told. The fact that after “Charlie Hebdo” many Muslims and likewise the “chorus” of the media and politicians distanced themselves from the acts of terrorism is understandable from a human point of view, as everyone wants peace and harmony in civil society. And that includes us!

But it would be better for everyone – including our Muslim fellow citizens - to face the facts. The current interpretation of the Quran by “Islamic State” (IS) clerics demands a position statement in theological terms from the Islamic community worldwide, and particularly from the Islamic community in Europe. Over the centuries the interpretation and practice of what is written in the Quran has been largely moderated. The IS however is returning to a literal interpretation which is not primarily so much of a challenge for the western world as it is a major crisis within Islam itself.

Islam also teaches that the world will come to an end. The “*end times*” will be marked by the falling away from the Sharia law. During the golden age of the caliphate, Sharia law will be restored world-wide. However only for a limited time, because the Islamic “anti-Christ” known as “Al Masih ad Dajjal” (the false messiah) will deceive many until Isa (Jesus in Islam), who is waiting in heaven, returns. Isa will then kill the “Dajjal” and will establish a reign of peace for 40 years, marry, have children and die. But not before he has accepted Islam and said the Islamic prayer. He will also present Jews and Christians with one of two alternatives: convert to Islam or death by the sword. The end times then

continue on in several stages until the final judgment. Baghdadi, IS chief and successor in the line of Mohammed, after capturing sufficient territory, has established himself on religious grounds as Caliph of an Islamic state. He now requires all Muslims in the world to subordinate themselves to him in accordance with the Quran. Boko Haram in Nigeria has recently done this.

A closing thought: Someone who is knowledgeable in Islam recently wrote to me saying that she has the impression that the anti-Christ could possibly be Islam as a political and religious world order.

**Prayer:**

- **Worship Jesus as truly man and God's Son, as Lamb of God and Lion of Judah, as the eternal Lord. He is NOT the "Isa" of Islam! (1 John 4:1-6)**
- **God's love is for everyone – hallelujah! – His love also embraces every Muslim. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)**
- **May many more Muslims experience God's love, including those who are now coming to us in Germany. (John 3:16)** -OS-

**Israel, the media and the role of NGOs**

The book written by the Jewish author Tuvia Teneboom, originally entitled "Catch the Jew!" and now available in German under the title "Alone among Jews" recently opened my eyes to a huge army of volunteers who go to Israel from every EU country to lead the fight for moral justice on the side of the "peace-loving Palestinians" and against the "evil Israelis". They join the numerous foreign NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) which, together with the left-wing Israeli NGOs, work around the clock to produce evidence that Israel is an "aggressor" state. These NGOs are financed with contributions in the millions by the EU and Germany. Foreign journalists operate within the NGO network. At the end of December a long-term employee of the news agency "Associated Press" (AP) revealed how this tie with the NGOs influences the perspective of the journalists. News items are tainted with the one-sided ideology of the NGOs. The rule for a successful piece of news is that it must support the "Israel narrative": Israelis are the oppressors and Palestinians are the victims. Any facts that contradict this narrative are purposely suppressed by press agencies such as AP. That this kind of reporting promotes hatred towards Israel, and in the long term encourages a negative attitude towards Jews in general, is painfully obvious in our land of Germany.

**Prayer:**

- **That the influence of anti-Israeli NGOs on foreign reporters will be exposed under the light of God. (Ephesians 5:11-14a)**
- **That the financial support of Germany for the activities of anti-Israeli NGOs will stop. (Eph.5:10)**
- **That those journalists who want to reveal the truth will be given support and channels for the publication of their reports. (Psalm 40:10-11)** -RS-

**Cooperation within the governmental grand coalition**

The majority of the contractual agreements between the two parties in the grand coalition have now been

implemented – leaving very few to be worked on in the remaining parliamentary term. In 2016 state elections are coming up in Rhineland-Pfalz and Baden-Wuerttemberg, so it is now important for both parties to be mobilising their own supporters and making known the differences in their policies. These include the proposal by the CDU/CSU to integrate the extra tax introduced for east-west solidarity into the regular tax system from 2020, and the idea of the SPD to control immigration with a points system after the Canadian model. The CDU/CSU does not however want a law on immigration even though it has some proponents. To put forward such controversial issues simply to raise the party profile is not beneficial to the nation.

How can the increasing gap between rich and poor be overcome? What ideas should be explored to develop the potential of our people in this land? How can our new energy policy be made to work? Let us pray that in the near future both parties will jointly agree on the urgent questions that yet need to be solved by political cooperation within a governmental grand coalition.

**Prayer:**

- **Thanks for the good cooperation within the grand coalition until now.**
- **That the Holy Spirit gives our political leaders divinely inspired ideas and plans for our land. (Proverbs 11:14)**
- **Courage for parliamentarians to propose solutions for those issues that are regarded as "hot potatoes".** -RS-

**"The Beginning of a New Europe"**

I have long waited for this book from Jeff Fountain in German and was already recommending it when it was first available in English entitled: "Deeply Rooted – The Forgotten Vision of Robert Schuman". Markus Egli has just translated it into German with great enthusiasm.

God has given us seven decades of peace in Europe. A miracle of history! But this is best understood when you look into the beginnings of this "new Europe", in which three Christian men – Schuman, Adenauer, de Gasperi – put their faith into political action, based on forgiveness and the desire for unity. This book gives spiritual encouragement to once again pray for Europe today.

The Call of the Watchmen office has just purchased 300 copies. By ordering your copy from us you will be enabling us financially to give a copy to each of the 96 German Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

**Prayer:**

**"In you our fathers [of the EU in this case] put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them." (Psalm 22:4-5)** -OS-

**Dates for your diary:**

- 12-16.04** European Union of Prayer meeting in Riga, Latvia (which currently holds the Presidency of the European Union). Led by Ortwin Schweitzer.
- 24.04** 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian genocide.
- 27.01-08.05** 100 days **"remember-repent-pray"** for Israel, Germany and the nations (Global Prayer Call)

*God's blessings for Passover and Easter from  
Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann*