

## CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

July/August 2015

### What do we see?

As we as watchmen intercessors closely follow what is happening in our land, we first react to what we see with our natural eyes. This often triggers fear in us and a sense of helplessness when we are faced with disturbing developments. But then we remember the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:18: "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

The kingdom of God is eternal and transcends time. The purposes of God are eternal, bringing everything under the Lordship of Christ. When I as an intercessor fix my eyes on the unseen, then I can see God's purposes and plans, and become fully aware of the forces in the heavenly realms and what they can do. Then I see Jesus as the one who has all authority in heaven *and* on earth. Seeing things *this* way I can pray powerfully with full confidence. -RS-

### Answers to prayer

[1] For casual observers it was surprising – but for us intercessors it was a clear answer to prayer. The demonstrations around the G7 Summit all took place peacefully! The police described a thunder storm in the Munich area just at the right moment as "tactical rain". God brought his help down from heaven!

[2] Health Minister Groehe has put forward a bill for the increased support for palliative treatment. We prayed for this in January 2014. Palliative treatment will be upgraded, the financial support will be raised by one third and the health insurance will pay more for this important care. -RS-

### "Rejoice all you on this fair earth!"

(First line of traditional German hymn)

Vacation time! Every year we hope to regain a part of "paradise lost" on vacation. And then comes the great disappointment because our too high expectations are not fulfilled. What is a realistic expectation for our vacation time? The answer - "*just be yourself*" - comes from Angelus Silesius, a German 16<sup>th</sup> century poet. Who you really are does not come from outward appearances but from the inner man or woman. So the best that the vacation time can offer is the freedom to get to know yourself again and to be yourself in God's presence: to once again observe how wonderful the world, your world, is; to feel the wind and the waves, hear the birds sing and gaze at the stars by night. To take time to play with your children and talk with your partner. To bring your inner self and your outer self back into full alignment.

Then there is the other side of nature: how a thunder storm rips through fields and woods; how the wheat withers when there is no rain. How the fruit grower stands before his devastated harvest, ruined by the Asian fruit-fly for which he has no effective pesticide; or how the bee-keeper must watch parasitic mites destroy his bee colony.

What does all this have to do with prayer? Much in every way!

### Prayer:

- **Pray that we would all prepare ourselves inwardly, not only outwardly, for our vacation time. (Matthew 16:26)**
- **For a new experience of the beauty of creation and for love for one another. (Psalm 104:24)**
- **Pray with authority over the frightening and destructive aspects of nature: drought, wind, storms, pests and diseases are all subject to the prayers of believers. (Psalm 8:4-8; Matthew 17:20)** -OS-

### Rejuvenating the Call of the Watchmen

15 years ago many caught the fire and began to pray for Germany – and have remained faithful ever since. Their prayers have spread a net of protection and blessing over the land. But many were older; some have now become old and a few have passed on. Should the Call of the Watchmen gradually decline in this way? The network of prayer groups that was covering 24 hours in prayer each day of the month is already under strain in places and holes are appearing. Must it continue like this? *Definitely not!*

God's Spirit called us then and is calling us now. The Call of the Watchmen was the work of God, is the work of God, and will be the work of God. Do you firmly believe that God is once again calling younger people to pray for our land? Then please pray and consider how you can help.

Let us send you Call of the Watchmen brochures (with DVD) so you can distribute them along with a prayer letter. Ask your pastor to allow you to show the short Call of the Watchmen film (5 minutes) during a church service. Afterwards speak to people as God leads and invite them to your prayer group. If you have an Internet connection, send a prayer letter to some young people with a few encouraging words. Make them aware of our website with the "Kraft-clip" – a short video by our young assistant Magdalena Kraft on a current prayer topic. (Translator's note: this promotional material is only available in German.)

### Prayer:

- **Thanks for the "Call of the Watchmen" prayer network that has grown over the years. (Psalm 127:1)**
- **Pray for the calling of the next generation of prayer leaders – especially for men and women 40-59 years of age. (1 Corinthians 15:58)**
- **Pray for the wider prayer vision of "Germany-Israel-Europe" especially for younger people 20-39 years old - for new ideas and ways to attract them to pray.** -OS-

### Marriage or Gay-Marriage?

Our thinking is influenced by language. When a previously well defined word suddenly no longer means what it has meant for centuries, confusion sets into the mind and people are open to manipulation. The meaning of a key word in our culture based on Christian tradition is now being redefined: marriage.

In a referendum in May, 62.1% of the Irish people voted for the introduction of gay-marriage. Since then the pressure is increasing on our government to introduce gay-marriage.

What does this mean? Same sex partners get the right to a civil marriage. With the granting of equal rights and full legal recognition of same-sex partnerships by the state, the recognition of same-sex couples within our society naturally follows. There are however only 78,000 life-partnerships in Germany compared with 18 million marriages (in 2013)! So a small minority is intent on the redefinition of a relationship which is protected by the state. The Vatican called the outcome of the Irish referendum a "defeat for humanity", while the German Protestant Church Council President Bishop Bedford-Strohm would welcome it, if gay couples could also get married in Germany. He sees it as being in harmony with the command of Jesus to love one another. When the two main churches in our land have such different opinions, what position should our politicians take? Just like the Leftists, the Greens and the Social Democrats (SPD) are promoting the introduction of "Gay-Marriage". The Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) are still against it (until now) but are beginning to reconsider their position.

**Prayer:**

- **That God's Spirit will bring light into all confusion. (Isaiah 5:20)**
- **Pray on behalf of our leaders and politicians for forgiveness for every deviation from the commands and laws of God. (Galatians 6:7)**
- **Truth instead of lies; for steadfastness and strength for all politicians and journalists who are standing for traditional marriage. (Deuteronomy 20:1)** -RS-

**Is Israel losing the support of America?**

In May Netanyahu's new government was confirmed with a wafer-thin majority. It was indeed a surprise to many that his Likud Party had won 30 seats in the election. The new government is a coalition of parties, each of which for religious or nationalistic reasons clearly stands for the right of Israel to the land and for an indivisible Jerusalem. However they only have a one seat majority in parliament with 61 of the 120 elected members.

Shortly before the election Netanyahu made it clear that he would not allow the establishment of a Palestinian State during his term in office. After the election he modified his position somewhat by saying that a two-state solution might still be possible. Netanyahu does not see however any readiness on the part of the Palestinians to agree to his basic condition that they recognise Israel as the Jewish State and the indivisibility of Jerusalem.

These statements immediately gave rise to protest action in the West. US President Obama is openly threatening to no longer protect Israel in the UN Security Council. He used an interview with an Israeli TV station to get this message directly to the Israeli people. He made it clear that Netanyahu's conditions stand in the way of the peace process. He called it a "policy driven by fear". Obama meant that, with no clear prospect for the peace process, it would be much more difficult to provide Israel with "diplomatic cover", because the path to reach a settlement by negotiation would no longer be open.

It may not be long before America ceases to use its veto in

the UN Security Council to block resolutions against Israel. Right now France is trying to force Israel to accept a two-state solution by way of a UN Security Council resolution. In this case the negotiations would have to be completed within 18 months, Jerusalem would be divided and all Israeli troops withdrawn from the West Bank. If America does not veto such a resolution, then we come to Zechariah 12:1-8.

**Prayer:**

- **That the new government has wisdom and boldness to successfully deal with the many national and international challenges. (2 Chronicles 1:10)**
- **That neither America nor Germany will force Israel to accept a "peace solution". (Joel 3:1-2)**
- **Proclaim Psalm 2:10-12.** -RS-

**Events and mission outreaches**

This summer there will be two big events where especially young people from all over Europe will be equipped and motivated for mission. The first takes place in the Grundig Stadium in Nuremberg from July 9-12. Over 10,000 people from Europe and elsewhere have already registered for "Awakening Europe". There will also be evangelistic outreaches in Nuremberg during this event.

From August 1-8 the "TeenStreet" congress for 13-17 year olds will take place at the exhibition grounds in Offenburg (in Germany but close to Strasbourg). Over 4000 teenagers are expected. As well as the usual large meetings for everyone, "TeenStreet" also offers small group Bible study and individual counselling for each person so that no-one gets lost in the crowd.

Throughout the land there will be large and small mission outreaches and we want to support them in prayer.

The "Summer2go-Tour" with evangelist Werner Nachtigal, which was very successful last year, begins on July 31 in Neumuenster, moves on to Bremen and ends on August 9 in Hanover. A second tour takes place from Munich through Erfurt to Berlin in the period from August 11 to 20.

**Prayer:**

- **That a new fire will be lit in the hearts of young people in Germany and Europe. (Matthew 3:11)**
- **That our God who has announced to us his message of salvation will confirm it through signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit". (Hebrews 2:4)**
- **That the Spirit of God will prepare many hearts for salvation through Jesus. (John 6:44)** -RS-

**Dates for your diary:**

- 18.06-16.07** 30 days of prayer during Islamic Ramadan
- 04.07-05.07** "Open Doors" Days in Karlsruhe, celebrating 60 years of ministry
- 23.07-05.08** Prayer walks following four routes towards Bad Blankenberg
- 05.08-09.08** Evang. Alliance Conference, Bad Blankenberg
- 29.08-30.08** Open Days at the German Parliament, Berlin

*God's blessings for your vacation time (and prayer time)  
from Rosemarie Stresemann and Ortwin Schweitzer*

(This prayer letter covers the two months of July and August)