

November 2015

Spiritually equipped to pray in a crisis

The more critical the emergency situation around us, the more important is it for us as intercessors to honestly examine our personal spiritual perception of the issue before we start to pray. In a crisis situation the enemy will quickly seize control of our thoughts and feelings through anxiety and fear. He wants to cripple us as believers. We know from the Bible that anxiety and fear are not compatible with faith. *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.”* (John 14:1). We need to perceive the situation in faith, for: *“This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”* (1 John 5:4) and without faith our prayers are not pleasing to God. How can you build up your faith? Here are four steps:

[1] Recognise who God really is and worship him above all. He is the supreme Lord of all and our glorious Father. (Ephesians 1:17-23 and Colossians 1:15-20)

[2] Then recognise who you are in God and the authority that you have been given. You are a new-born child of God. You are a citizen in the kingdom of God and his ambassador in this world. You have the commission to proclaim his kingdom and to do all you can so that his kingdom may come and his will be done. You are still in this world but no longer of this world. (John 17:15-16). Think on these things, so that you do not get entangled in a purely worldly view of the situation.

[3] Cast all your anxiety on Jesus because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7) – and for our land! Take up the shield of faith and resist crippling fear.

[4] As a further step, think about what God has already done for our land with thanks. (Psalm 103). When you look back with thanks on the way God has guided us through previous crises, you will build up strength to have faith when faced with new crises. Now go forward in faith! -RS-

Answers to prayer

[1] The latest drafts of the contested “Education Policy” for the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg have now taken many objections of the opponents into consideration.

[2] The state of Schleswig-Holstein has blocked the introduction of the teaching material: “True [sexual] diversity under the rainbow” into its schools. -RS-

Reinforcing the guard

In this current time of crises we are again increasingly aware of why we have been called to “watch and pray”. Praying now and then is just not sufficient! God has called us to be watchmen “around the clock”. It is time to reinforce the guard. (Jeremiah 51:12). Watchmen keep a look-out not only for the coming of the Lord but also for approaching danger. Even when we believe that God can bring good out of this crisis for our land, we face many as yet unknown risks with the current influx of refugees. We need more intercessors than ever before. Think about how you can win new intercessors for our land. Speak to your pastor, prayer group leaders and your friends about this.

Prayer:

- **For new intercessors who are ready to stand for guard duty as watchmen – even during the night.**
(Ephesians 6:18) -RS-

Persecuted Christians and their current circumstances as refugees in Germany

“Open Doors” estimates that around 100 million people in over 50 countries are being persecuted because they believe in Jesus as Lord. After North Korea, Christians in the Islamic states of North Africa and the Middle East are secretly watched, abused, arrested, tortured and even killed with more cruelty than in other areas of the world. When Christians flee from these countries, the road towards martyrdom continues. In the Mediterranean, Christian passengers on refugee boats are often thrown overboard by Muslims. Having arrived in Europe, Muslim converts to Christianity still fear for their lives. The rejection of Islam is deserving of death and they suffer discrimination, humiliation and even brutal attacks from Muslim inmates in the homes. They are treated as “impure” and single Christian women are considered to be “fair game”.

Those who leave the mass accommodation in the first three months after their arrival are breaking the legal regulations even when friends or church organisations want to look after them. However they do not get the necessary protection from the security forces. Among residents where Muslims are in the majority, they often set up their own guard force that intervenes in any conflict to protect only those who think like they do. The government and media mostly blame any escalation of these conflicts on the overcrowding of accommodation. The one-sided violence by Muslims against Christians is not being taken seriously.

Prayer:

- **For the presence of God in the places where refugees are accommodated. (Psalm 11)**
- **For the German authorities to provide the proper protection for Christian refugees who are under threat in their accommodation in accordance with our constitutional and democratic law. (Proverbs 31:8-9)**
- **That Christians will always be a witness for Christ whatever the circumstances. (Romans 8:36-39)**

-Karin Heepen, Regional Leader in Thuringia-

Policy for treatment of refugees is given top priority

Angela Merkel has declared the refugee situation a top priority. The overall coordination for a political solution is now the responsibility of the Chancellor’s Office. The Office Chief Peter Altmaier has been entrusted with this task and Minister of State Helge Braun has been named as his deputy. The refugee crisis will now be on the agenda of the cabinet meeting every week. Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière was put under the control of a steering committee from all ministries. This steering group will now work daily in the Interior Ministry. All ministries must work on solutions within their areas of responsibility: the Ministry of Justice on new laws, the Ministry of Works on

accommodation, the Ministry of Labour on employment of extra workers, etc.

The committed Christian and former businessman *Frank Juergen Weise* has now taken on the leadership of the Office for Migration and Refugees, in addition to leading the Federal Employment Agency. With this he has taken on the challenge to restructure these government departments so that asylum applications can be processed much more speedily. Weise also is a member of the board of trustees of the ProChrist evangelism organisation.

Prayer:

- **Give thanks for all those who are engaged in and responsible for finding solutions for the refugee crisis. (Psalm 50:23)**
- **For constructive cooperation in all ministries and that God's counsel will be acknowledged. (Isaiah 9:6)**
- **Pray for protection, strength and wisdom for all in government offices. (Job 12:13)** -RS-

The refugee issue is political dynamite

A further influx of refugees into Germany is of great concern at all levels of society in our population. They hear reports and read opinions like:

- President of the EU Commission Juncker warns that it will be the "end of Europe" if the EU does not unite."
- Chancellor Merkel defends her "We will make it" approach but does not know what will happen next. And she does not believe that we can protect our borders.
- 80% of the refugees are men. When their wives and children come later, will we then soon have an estimated 10 million Muslims living in Germany?
- An imam at the Al-Asqa mosque in Jerusalem is calling for Muslims to take over Europe.
- Saudi Arabia does not want to take in any refugees, but wants to support the building of 200 mosques in Germany.

While some are welcoming refugees, others are basically concerned, even angry about it. "No-one asked us if we wanted to be a land for migration" said one political scientist. For some of our citizens there appears to be a blatant lack of democracy which is leading to multiple, often hate-filled protests – partly linked with racism and hostility to foreigners. There is much disagreement in the national and state governments and between the political parties. In the light of these problems and the uncertain future, we are now seeing that: "On the earth nations will be in anguish and perplexity ..." (Luke 21:25)

Prayer:

- **That the "King of kings" will be a "Wonderful Counsellor" to our political leaders. (Isaiah 9:6)**
- **Let us rise up in the Spirit against all expressions of hate, against all the plans of the enemy through Islam, as well as against division and unrest in our land. (Ephesians 6:10-20)**
- **Pray for forgiveness for how we have all strayed from God's ways – and for us to follow the way of repentance that leads to peace. (Hosea 6:1-3)**

-Johannes Blum, Watchmen Coordinator in Goeppingen-

Israel

A new wave of terrorism has seized Israel. Israeli security forces are finding it difficult to effectively fight this wave of terrorism because it mostly involves attacks by individuals acting alone. They are mainly young Palestinians between 18 and 20 years old. They stab Jews, throw stones which can kill, and provoke the Israeli security forces to react.

Prayer:

- **For protection, peace and that Germany shows itself to be a friend of Israel in this time of need. (Prov. 17:17)**

-RS-

Syria

Refugees are flooding our borders. The causes lay primarily in the civil war in Syria. Most of the Syrian refugees are saying that, when this war is over, they want to return and rebuild their country.

During the times of the so-called "Arab Spring", a revolution broke out in Syria that developed into a civil war which has cost more than 250,000 lives. On the assumption that the opposition would introduce democracy after victory over Assad, the West supported the opposition. On the other hand, Russia supported Assad with whom it has had good relations for many years. Then the opposition split into secular groups, and radical Islamist groups out of which the Islamic State Caliphate (IS) developed. The opposition and IS pushed Assad's army more and more to the west of Syria, until now it only controls a small strip on the western side. To avoid the defeat of Assad Russia has now massively intervened militarily with attacks from the air. However not only against IS, but also against the opposition supported by the West. This could suddenly turn into a confrontation between the super-powers.

The Germans, Merkel and Steinmeier, who have a measure of trust from both sides, are mediating. They are trying to bring together a contact group with all those involved in the conflict: Russia, USA, Germany, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey. And - here is the crux of the matter – with or without Assad. Everything now depends on an agreement on this issue. However the key to the end of the war is in the hands of the two super-powers, and with it the return of the mass of refugees from Europe. If not, the world faces a new arms race and a new flood of refugees.

Prayer:

- **For the recognition of God who holds everything in his hands. (Psalm 46:8-10)**
- **Desire for peace for all involved, grace for the mediation efforts. (Matthew 5:5-9)**
- **Return of the Syrians to their land after they have encountered Jesus in Germany. (Psalm 126:5-6)** -OS-

Dates for your diary:

Until 14.11 PRO-CHRIST live events.

15.11 "Open Doors" Prayer Day for persecuted Christians.

17.11 "Pray Day" for schools.

18.11 Repentance and Prayer Day (Holiday in Saxony only).

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