

September 2016

A burning desire

During our vacation the Spirit of God touched me and so refreshed my spirit that revival was suddenly no longer a “prayer request” but a reality: “So that’s what it’s like! Is there more?”

Oh how my heart burns for revival in the place where I live, for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that His touch would also be felt by others, that there would be a deep and real conviction of sin, and that a love for Jesus, an unending love for Jesus would break out, because HE alone is our Saviour and Redeemer, my Rock and my Hope for ever. “Oh the joy of the redeemed!” (Traditional German hymn title.)

I received life, new life, and now everything is so much more wonderfully new and fresh in me than I could ever have expected! Am I dreaming? No! My heart, you have just stepped into the land of revival; you were ready to leave the old familiar life behind and to enter into God’s immediate presence, the presence of God that was seen in full measure in Jesus. It’s that simple. So let us now pray together to have such a burning expectation. -OS-

Answer to prayer

Wuerzburg – Munich – Ansbach – three attacks in July, one quickly after the other, but God’s protection was also evident: in Wuerzburg a special unit of the police “just happened to be there” and could immediately respond. In Munich two plain-clothed policemen were in the immediate vicinity and immediately chased down the attacker. A police unit in Munich had also just completed training in how to respond to such a shooting rampage. The attacker in Ansbach was prevented from entering the folk festival and the worst was averted. He was also planning further attacks. Relevant important mobile phone data could be retrieved and revealed the way in which lone attackers can receive instructions remotely from the Islamic State (IS).

The attacks were not averted – **but we thank God for what we recognise as his gracious intervention.** -RS-

Terrorist strategy of the Islamic State (IS)

Until now many think that the series of terrorist attacks are intended “only” to spread fear and alarm. But now more is coming to light – behind these attacks is a more complex strategy. Islamic State strategy documents have been discovered and statements from key witnesses in Germany have revealed the following:

The IS wants to provoke a religious war. The motives of refugees must be regarded with suspicion, fear of them must be stirred up, and attacks on them by Neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists provoked. The state is expected to react with drastic measures. This is intended to make the Muslim minority community in Western Europe feel discriminated against, alienated and isolated, and consequently be more prepared to fall into line with and support the global campaign of the Islamic State.

There are now in Germany three people who have returned from Syria and who have broken their silence. From their statements it has become clear that the IS leaders are

aware that especially in Germany and Great Britain they have few sympathisers who are ready to sacrifice their lives. Thanks be to God!

However a demonically inspired strategy is beginning to take hold in Germany. The “government”, the “Muslims”, the “refugees” are increasingly being regarded as “enemy agents” and a split in our society is also growing. The search for the right solution is now also causing a split between the CDU and CSU (centre-right parties in the government coalition). Hate-speech is on the rise, death threats are giving cause for politicians to resign from office.

Prayer:

- **Penitence and repentance for wherever we in Germany have chosen the way of death instead of the way of life (Deuteronomy 30:19,20) and have sown seeds of hate. (Exodus 22:28)**
- **Pray for deliverance and protection from the schemes of the evil one. (Matthew 6:13; Psalm 140:1-8)**
- **Pray for the best strategies for our security forces to avert terror attacks.** -RS-

Situation with refugees

As it goes with anything new, so it is happening in the work with refugees. The butterflies have flown and the worker bees remain. Those responsible for the work confirm that the commitment of our citizens has become more consolidated and even more professional.

We helpers have overcome our unease with foreigners, primarily with Muslims; we have heard their stories, haltingly expressed, that numbed all our emotions; we have experienced disappointment when they have not come to us even when they promised to come; we were the target of their frustration with the endless German bureaucracy.

We also heard how Christian refugees continue to be harassed and our authorities are doing nothing about it. And are the protesters (those who never visit refugee homes) right to throw a blanket suspicion on all Muslims because of these attacks?

A pastor and good friend (Peter Wenz) has just written to other pastors and church leaders about this: “And another request on this matter: please do not be held back from working on the great assignment from our Lord by all the warning letters in circulation and by scare-mongering. Of course not everything is under control in our land. Of course our government is also making mistakes. Of course we have a price to pay for all we try to do. But that is indeed normal and in accordance with the scriptures. If we have to face persecution as a result, we must not be afraid. God is with us! As the church we want to do what He tells us to do, driven by His love. And we are already seeing the fruit - *everywhere!*”

Prayer

- **For divine courage, godly patience and healing love in the body of Jesus in Germany for the refugees. (Ephesians 4:21-24)**
- **For better protection for our brothers and sisters in**

their refugee accommodation and for new ways to implement solutions to the problems of harassment.

- **For visible fruit and blessings from all that has been invested in the refugee situation - humanitarian, financial, spiritual, political. (1 Corinth. 15:57-58) -OS-**

Relationship between Germany and Turkey

Since the Armenian resolution on June 2nd the tension between Germany and Turkey has been growing. After the failure of the attempted coup by the military in mid-July, it has become clear that the Turkish President Erdogan is bringing his political opponents to account with extreme measures. Erdogan's claim of power and authority to deal with his opponents has reached Germany. The Turkish government is requiring the extradition of Turkish supporters of Muhammad Fethullah Guelen – currently living in exile in the USA – as well as Turkish judges and public prosecutors who have flown the country.

In this political shake-up God is bringing long suppressed issues to light in such a way as to enable the necessary corrective actions to be taken. This will require wisdom and courage on the part of our political leaders, as Erdogan has a great following among the three million people of Turkish descent who live in Germany. Turks and politicians with a Turkish background who think differently are being treated with hate and have been threatened with loss of Turkish citizenship and even death. In about 900 mosques in Germany the preachers are imams who are paid as employees of the Turkish government. Until now the German government has tolerated this influence of the Turkish state on religious education in Germany. It is now clear that this state of affairs needs to be changed.

In terms of foreign policy, the agreement with Turkey over the handling of the refugee situation and the negotiations regarding EU membership are being put to the test. If all this was going in the wrong direction – what now is the way forward according to God's purposes and plan?

Prayer:

- **That political leaders in Germany will recognise God's purposes and seek His advice for the relationship between Germany, the EU and Turkey, and act accordingly. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Psalm 33:10-11)**
- **For wisdom and courage for the leaders in the national and state governments to tackle these long suppressed issues. (Matthew 10:26-28)**
- **Pray Psalm 24:1-6 over our land – for God's blessing, political consensus and peace within our land. -RS-**

Who will be standing for election next year?

"I swear that I will dedicate my efforts to the well-being of the German people, promote their welfare, protect them from harm, protect and defend the constitution and the laws of the nation, conscientiously fulfil my duties and administer justice to everyone. So help me God." This oath will be spoken by the future President on February 12th 2017, and the future Chancellor and the government ministers following the elections for the national parliament in the autumn of 2017. It is not yet clear, which candidates will be presented as successor to Joachim Gauck, and which

candidates for chancellor will be put forward. Whether Angela Merkel will be standing for a third term is as yet undecided. Some of the candidates for the national parliament have already been nominated by their political parties, but most will be nominated in the next few months.

Prayer:

- **That the presentation of candidates will be subject to God's guidance and that those who stand and are elected will perform their duties in office in awe of God and for the good of the German people, and not for personal ambition or protection of party interests. (1 Samuel 2:30)**
- **That candidates for the national parliament will be nominated who are "only subject to their conscience" (German Basic Law, Art.38) and are totally committed to serve our land.**
- **That God will reveal clearly those candidates who are "devout and God-fearing" like the Roman centurion Cornelius in Caesarea. (Acts 10:1-48) -JB-**

Israel and the US presidential election

The up-coming US presidential election urgently needs our prayers. In the past the influence of the US President on the support for Israel has been of great importance. No less important are the political decisions within the USA for the world in general. America has until now been a dependable friend of Israel, even though some of the political decisions in the recent years have thrown doubt on this relationship. The nomination of Clinton and Trump as presidential candidates can scarcely be less controversial. This is true for the domestic reactions and opinions as well as for the relationship with the State of Israel. As former Secretary of State, Clinton was involved in the controversial "Nuclear Deal" with Iran. She is known as a critic of Israel's settlements policy and a proponent of the two-state solution. Domestically she is campaigning amongst other things for abortion to be a basic human right. Furthermore the influence of religion and church is for her a thorn in the flesh. Trump on the other hand is regarded as unpredictable because of his frequent harsh and controversial statements. At the moment no-one can safely gauge His attitude towards Israel. This election is very critical for the future of America and Israel, but also for Europe.

Prayer:

- **That the Holy Spirit will show us and the Christians in America how we should pray. (John 16:13)**
- **Father, install a US President who will stand firmly on the side of Israel. (Daniel 2:21)**
- **Have mercy and let Your kingdom come; Your will be done! (Matthew 6:10) -AS-**

Dates for your diary

- 04.09** State elections in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- 17.09** Pro-Life March in Berlin
- 18.09** City/state elections in Berlin
- 30.09-03.10** Congress "Pfungsten21" in Wuerzburg

Blessings from

Rosemarie Stresemann and Ortwin Schweitzer