

June 2017

Find your strength in God

“But David found strength in the Lord his God” (1 Sam. 30:6)
 In crisis situations David first looked to God and *“found strength”* in just being with him. He wanted to keep his focus steadfastly upon the face of God and not primarily on the crisis. (Psalm 16:8). David is an example for us to follow. How do we find our strength in God? By keeping our focus on him, staying calm and consciously knowing his presence, his love and his concern for us. When we have found renewed strength in knowing that we are under God’s loving care, then we can start praying. When God’s face is reflected in ours, we are again equipped to intercede for our land with love and confidence. -AS-

German Prayer Conference in Berlin - September 1st-3rd

For this prayer conference we have been guided by the word of God from Isaiah 57:14: *“Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”* God has much in store for our land – but he does nothing without us and our prayers. It is a privilege to be involved in his plans at this time! We want to build a road for the Lord and to clear all the obstacles out of the way. Together we are calling out for this. One obstacle that we can already see is the *“68 Movement”* (a major protest action by young students in Germany in 1968) with all its consequences. The Holy Spirit wants us to build a road for a *“revolution of love”* (1 Corinthians 13) to change our society so that he can capture the minds and hearts of future generations in an even more powerful way.

The website www.gebetstkonferenz.de has all the important information. Please register and book your accommodation early. (Note: Website and conference are only in German.)

Prayer:

- **That God will call and equip many intercessors to build up and prepare the road. (Isaiah 57:14-19)**
- **Blessings and success for all conference preparations – practically and spiritually. (Psalm 90:17)** -RS-

More births – but fewer midwives

Since 2012 the birth rate in Germany has again been increasing. We had prayed long and hard for this in the Call of the Watchmen. But now whoever is looking for a midwife before childbirth must expect many refusals. More and more free-lance midwives are leaving the profession because they can no longer afford to pay the unbelievably high contributions for personal liability insurance, even though subsidies are now provided by the state. Therefore the midwife association is asking for a fund to cover liabilities for self-employed midwives. Full-time salaried midwives have another problem: most of the time, their working conditions allow them no time to rest.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the increasing birth rate. Blessings on each new born child. (Psalm 127:3)**
- **For a fundamental improvement in working conditions for midwives and help with personal liability insurance. (1 Timothy 5:18)** -RS-

Prayer for good advisors at this time of national elections

Leading politicians are on the front line in public affairs, but their achievements are to a great extent dependent on how well they are supported behind the scenes. They need a good senior and advisory staff. The senior staff of leading politicians is made up of an extensive team of state secretaries, office managers and experts. Team members in party-political positions are most often replaced when there is a change in political leadership. In the Chancellor’s office alone there is a wealth of experts in six specialist divisions with numerous departments who take care that political issues of the day are adequately dealt with and that the necessary background information for decisions by the Chancellor and the cabinet is always at hand. Behind the scenes with their expertise and proposals, these *“advisors”* exercise no small influence on the decisions of leading politicians. Our land needs able and trustworthy men and women for these important tasks.

In the Bible we read about Joseph and Daniel who, as advisors to the rulers of their time, could divinely influence the destinies of nations. We need such people in the various political offices at the national and state level, which are to be filled once again after the elections.

Prayer:

- **For God-fearing, astute and wise advisors to be alongside our politicians. (Daniel 1:20)**
- **That already in the run-up to the elections, God will be preparing future advisors. (Isaiah 11:2)**
- **That ungodly advice, damaging to our people and land, will not find a receptive ear. (2 Samuel 17:14)** -AS-

Holiness should fill our land

In the next few months the *Christopher Street Day* (CSD) event will take place in over 50 cities in all 16 German states. The CSD is a parade for homosexuals and a demonstration for sexual freedom within the wide variety of sexual orientations. Originally a protest march, the CSD has for some time now become a kind of popular festival which draws tens of thousands onto the streets. Out of simple curiosity, families with their children watch blatantly erotic displays as the procession passes. Each CSD event is a (spiritually motivated) statement and expression of a demand for the community and its political leaders to give even more place in society to this life style.

As intercessors we stand on behalf of our cities before our God, who by his commands and ordinances always wants to grant life and freedom to all people. Marriage and family are the cornerstones of every society. New life comes only from the relationship between a man and a woman. Let us take action in prayer and make *another kind* of statement in our cities. Here is a chance to pray on the streets and parade routes in these 50 cities, to declare God’s Word, and in songs of praise to proclaim who our God really is!

Prayer

- **We repent for our land and ask God to cleanse our land from unrighteousness. (Psalm 51)**

- For a “yes” to life – to marriage, to family and children – in our society. (Genesis 1:27)
- That our land will be increasingly open to and filled with the spirit of holiness. (Psalm 51:11-12) -AS-

Right-wing extremism and the German army

At the end of April army officer Franco A. was arrested and accused of planning violent and subversive action. An attack against high-ranking individuals was being devised in such a way that refugees would be held responsible. Franco A. had lived an incredible double-life: as an army officer and as a known (!) fugitive from the war in Syria. Despite having written a masters degree thesis with right-wing extremist content, he was able to become a professional soldier and make a career out of it. In the meantime evidence for the existence of right-wing terror cells in the German army is building up – two more men have now been arrested. How could something like this remain undetected when there is a special secret service for the armed forces? Politically, Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been made responsible to deal with this. She however regards the problem as a wrong understanding of “esprit de corps” (team loyalty) among the troops, whereby superior officers cover up for subordinates and take it upon themselves to prevent anything like this from leaking out. It is therefore not easy to break through such a wall of silence. And when – as is now happening increasingly – even sexist attacks, brutal training practices and wilful use of Nazi-type propaganda come to light, they are dismissed as “isolated cases”. Frau von der Leyen now wants to confront this problematic “esprit de corps”. That will not be easy.

Prayer:

- Wisdom for the Minister in her task. (Proverbs 7:4)
- For a breakthrough in the wall of silence – for courage to reveal wrong-doing. (Ephesians 5:11)
- That right-wing extremist thought patterns will no longer be tolerated among soldiers. (Proverbs 8:13) -RS-

March of Life – a clear statement against anti-Semitism

The “March of Life” movement has now been active for 10 years. It began as a small local initiative by Pastor Jobst Bittner and the TOS church in Tubingen, and has developed beyond expectations across the world such that since 2007 there has been a March of Life in over 350 cities and 14 nations. At the beginning, the marches took place mostly on the routes of the “death marches” where prisoners from concentration camps (which were rapidly abandoned in 1945 as the allies approached) died from exhaustion or were executed by the Nazis as they were marched out of the camps. Today the marches are taking place in many cities in Germany and world-wide on or around Israel’s Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom HaShoa) in April/May. These marches bring together, in an act of remembrance, the descendents of holocaust victims with the descendents of Nazi perpetrators who express their deep feelings of distress and responsibility for the past, so that they can together face the future through reconciliation.

From the beginning there were three main objectives:
Remembrance – Reconciliation – Make a clear statement –

for Israel and against modern forms of anti-Semitism. Stephan Kramer, a former Secretary-General of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said at the conclusion of the March of Life in Berlin in 2015 that these marches achieve so much more in reconciliation between Germans and Jews than any political statements: they reach into their hearts. The momentum of this movement continues unabated. This model for making a clear statement against anti-Semitism has also been “exported” from Germany. The movement has been officially recognised twice by the Israeli Knesset. In May 2018, an international March of Life will take place for the first time in the city of Jerusalem. (<http://mon2018.com/>)

Prayer:

- Thanks for the March of Life movement which makes a clear statement against anti-Semitism. (2 Cor. 5:18)
- That more churches in Germany will organise such marches in and around Yom HaShoa. (Isaiah 62:1)
- That in 2018 a large delegation from Germany will come to Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:2-3) -RS-

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World (Ramadan)

During the fasting month of Ramadan, many Muslims are very open for spiritual encounters. In Sure 37 of the Quran it says that Abraham had to sacrifice his son. According to those who interpret the Quran, this was Ishmael and not Isaac. When pregnant Hagar was maltreated by Sarah, she fled into the desert. The unborn child Ishmael therefore already felt, along with his mother, a sense of rejection and isolation. When he was 14 years old, Sarah wanted to send him and his mother away because only Isaac should have the inheritance. Abraham was very distressed because he loved both of his sons. (Genesis 21:8-14). Ishmael was then sent away by his own father and again experienced rejection and abandonment. It appears that the descendents of Ishmael (Arabs) have collectively remembered these feelings, mixed with jealousy and anger, and that Mohammed exploited these strong emotions to found his new religion. Just as Abraham no longer had his son, Muslims do not acknowledge that God has a son. Allah is unapproachable, a distant creator and judge.

Prayer:

- That healing flows into the deep wounds from a sense of abandonment by one’s own father. (Exodus 15:26)
- That God will reveal himself as a father to many Muslims during Ramadan. (Psalm 44:20-21) -JB-
(If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God have [looked into what had happened], since he knows the secrets of the heart?)

Dates for your diary

- 17.05-21.06** Silent vigil on the market square in Wittenberg, Wednesdays 3-7pm, for the removal of the “Jewish Sow” sculpture on the outside wall of the church of Martin Luther.
- 27.05-25.06** 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World
(Prayer Guide: <https://www.pray30days.org/order/>)
- 05.06** International Day of Prayer for Jerusalem

*Blessings from Rosemarie Stresemann,
Alexander Schlueter and Team*