

December 2017

**Remain in Jesus**

*“If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5).

In turbulent times when things are rapidly changing around us we need to spend much time with Jesus. We must “remain” in him – our hearts must “cling” firmly to *His* heart so-to-speak. All wisdom, strength, joy and authority flow out of a close relationship with *Him*. With Jesus we are safe in every storm and at the same time we have the authority to calm the storm. Jesus is forever the source of our peace and strength. Let us remain in him when we pray for the needs around us. Apart from *Him* we can do nothing, but with *Him* everything is possible. “Jesus is with us, our strong redeemer.” (Words from a German hymn.) -AS-

**Answers to prayer – but keep praying**

On December 9<sup>th</sup> it will be one year since the terrorist attack on the Christmas market in Berlin. The level of alert for a possible terrorist attack remains high in Germany and it is only by God’s grace that there have been no further incidents since the knife attack in Hamburg in July. But people suspected of planning an attack are constantly being detained. Recently, on November 21<sup>st</sup>, six Syrians who had been planning an attack on a Christmas market in Essen were arrested.

**Prayer:**

- **Thanks for protection so far and pray for further early detection of plans to carry out an attack. (Psalm 127:1)** -RS-

**And forgive us our sins**

As watchmen and intercessors let us use the uncertainties that we are currently experiencing at government level to encourage us to seek God more earnestly.

*“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.”* (Proverbs 14:34). This is how the word of God measures the status of a nation. Our country is turning further away from God – church attendance is falling rapidly. We desperately need forgiveness for our sins! The vote for “marriage for all” in parliament is also an indication of a weak church that no longer takes the word of God as a standard even for itself. Let us bow before God for our own sins and the sins of the church of Jesus in our land. Where do we ourselves need to turn back to the Lord? Let us pray more for God’s light so that we can see where we really stand before God. Do we have the love of God in us for a lost world and does this drive us to pray more? Can we pray for our politicians in a personal way as for one of our own lost children? Lack of love is no small thing in God’s eyes.

Let us therefore sincerely forgive those who sin against us – especially those who are (politically) responsible for governing our land and often fail to carry out this duty.

**Prayer:**

- **Come Holy Spirit and lead us to return to the Lord. (Lamentations 3:40-42)**
- **Pray according to Psalm 51.**

- **That God’s call to “seek me and live” is heard in our land. (Amos 5:1-7)** -RS-

**Crisis in the formation of a government (as of Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>)**

The exploratory talks between CDU/CSU, FDP and Greens to form a “Jamaica” (black/yellow/green-flag) coalition have fallen apart and Germany now finds itself in an unprecedented governmental crisis. Two months after the federal election it has not been possible to form a new government. Where do we go from here? Federal President Steinmeier now must submit a proposal to parliament for the election of the next chancellor in a reasonable period of time, as prescribed in the German constitution (Art.63). Everyone expects this to be Angela Merkel. If she does not get an absolute majority of the votes, the parliament can propose another candidate. If this second election does not lead to an absolute majority vote, a third election is held and a simple majority is enough to become chancellor.

Then at the discretion of the President, he either dissolves the parliament and calls for fresh elections or approves the formation of a minority government. But the resumption of exploratory talks or the formation of a “grand coalition” of CDU/CSU and SPD is also theoretically possible. President Steinmeier is in a key position at this time. He needs wisdom from God.

At the moment the old government is continuing with executive responsibility, but it cannot take any important decisions and must hold back at the EU level. This brings further instability within the European Union.

The times of stable majorities with the larger traditional parties appear to be over. The challenge is now to find agreement between several smaller parties. The strong polarisation of political opinion in the parties is now being reflected in society in general.

Open and frank discussions between parties must be given space and time to allow exploratory talks to succeed. But progress can only be made in a spirit of cooperation. Despite all differences we need a common vision for all the important questions concerning the future that we face in Germany. For this we need God’s help more than ever and we must turn back to him – a simple “business as usual” is no longer an option. We have to seek the Lord with all our hearts.

Predicting how the political process will develop in Germany appears to be getting more difficult and we must remain in prayer for further crises.

**Prayer:**

- **In trust we submit the formation of a new government to Jesus who is seated at the right hand of God far above all rule and authority, power and dominion. (Ephesians 1:20-23)**
- **For wisdom for Federal President Steinmeier in the decisions that he now has to make. (Proverbs 21:1)**
- **For healing of the wounds in our land, where political polarisation has brought division into our society. (Psalm 60:2)** -AS-

### **Generational changes in political parties**

Handing over responsibility to the new generation in a good way, within families, businesses, and also in political parties, is often a major challenge. Within political parties this opens up opportunities for new ways of thinking and for making changes when, alongside courage and eagerness, a transfer of experience and knowledge takes place from the older to the younger generation.

God loves it when generations work closely together. And new ways of working are also necessary. New people at the top can act quite differently from the previous leadership. There is also a special blessing for the party if responsibility is passed on freely to the next generation as a precious inheritance and not seen as simply being “snatched” away from the older generation. In the past, successors have often seized office from their predecessors through “political assassination”, only to experience the same tactics against themselves later. In fact a scheming take-over of power within a party blocks the formation of a healthy line of succession. In the CSU there is currently a power struggle for leadership between Horst Seehofer and Markus Soeder. In the CDU Angela Merkel must very quickly make an effort to allow potential successors to come forward. It requires a gracious approach to enable the older leaders to let go of responsibility at the right time in order to encourage and promote the next generation. May the hearts of the fathers and mothers and the hearts of the sons and daughters be turned to each another also at the political level, so that God can bless our land. (Malachi 4:6).

#### **Prayer:**

- **For a successful transfer of responsibility between the generations in all parties in the coming months and years. (Proverbs 6:16-19)**
- **For the generations to work together in politics and be a blessing to our land. (Malachi 4:6)**
- **For a change of heart in all those involved in scheming, manipulative ways in politics. (Lamentations 5:21) -AS-**

#### **March of the Nations – will you be there?**

We live in times of fulfilment of Biblical prophecy for the people of Israel. The most important events in this year have already been celebrated. The UN vote for the Partition Plan for Palestine 70 years ago on November 29<sup>th</sup> 1947 was the last milestone on the way to the recognition of a state for the Jewish people. With the end of the British Mandate for Palestine on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948 David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel.

70 years later, on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, the “March of the Nations” will take place in Jerusalem as a recognition of the friendship of the nations with Israel today. This is an initiative of the “March of Life” movement of the TOS Church in Tübingen which has already organised many such commemorative and reconciliation marches in Germany and internationally in some 20 nations.

A preparatory conference will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. (See: <http://mon2018.com> ). There is also an Israel Tour Package in English and in German.

Call of the Watchmen intercessors are invited to join the German tour from May 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> which will be led by

Stefan Haas from the TOS sister church in Leipzig and Rosemarie Stresemann will be offering to lead special times of prayer and intercession during the tour. The tour includes the conference and the March of the Nations. Prices from Germany start at €1515 per person with hotel accommodation in Jerusalem and flights from Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin. The final date for registration is December 29<sup>th</sup> 2017.

(See: <https://is.gd/LFYiXu> for details and registration).

#### **Prayer**

- **Give thanks for the opportunity for the nations to once again go up to Zion. (Micah 4:2)**
- **That a large number of participants will come together from Germany to honour Jerusalem and Israel. (Isaiah 62:1-3)**
- **For protection and wisdom for all who are planning and preparing for the march, the conference and the tours. -RS-**

#### **Blessed growth in the prayer network**

We want to warmly thank everyone who has supported us this past year in prayer and with donations. Without your support we would not have been able to sustain the dynamic growth of the Call of the Watchmen Prayer network which also challenges us financially. Through our Prayer Conference for Germany in September and the new prayer seminars in various locations around Germany we have been able to build closer relationships within our network, for which we are very thankful.

Next year we want to concentrate on reaching the next generation of intercessors. For this we want to take time and make contact with young people to develop new ways to involve the young generation in intercession for our land. There will therefore be no prayer conference in 2018, but the seminar work will be continued and expanded. To support this strategy and reduce the load on our managing director, his assistant’s time in the office will be increased. Please consider if you can possibly support our office with a regular donation each month to help us in the overall planning of our work. We would also ask once again for you to continue with a yearly donation of €10 or more towards our operating expenses.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Thanks for the strong sense of “belonging” which is felt in our Call of the Watchmen network. (Psalm 100).**
- **Pray that every donation will be a blessing to the giver and also to the Call of the Watchmen as receiver. (2 Corinthians 8:13-15) -RS-**

#### **Notes:**

- The prayer letter in English is currently sent to 180 intercessors in more than 20 countries!
- Next year the prayer letter in English may arrive a few days into the new month as the editorial team want you to get the very latest information for your prayers and we need some days to translate the letter into English.

*God’s blessings for the Christmas season and the New Year  
from Rosemarie Stresemann and Team*