

## CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

January 2018

### **A call to love**

God has called us to love radically. With the command to love our enemies, Jesus gave us no excuse to say that we cannot love this or that person. I feel that Jesus is challenging us as intercessors to grow stronger in our love for the politicians in our land. This begins by not judging them but by approaching the throne of grace as priests and being filled with God's grace and mercy for them. But it must go further. I hear in my spirit that Jesus asks us to feel in our hearts for politicians as we would for our own children. To pray for them as for our own son or daughter. To pray for God's spirit to soften their hearts, to remove the hardness and blocks, so that they can be make decisions that will be a blessing to our land. And the challenge goes even further, for love is also shown in action. Therefore I ask you to allow God to show you which members of our parliament Jesus wants to bless through you. If they are in your area, go to one of their public consultation meetings, an open house or "surgery". If this is not possible, think of ways in which you can express your love practically to encourage them and show appreciation for what they do for us. Let us not only pray for Jesus' Lordship over our land, but also be faithful witnesses to his kingdom of love. (Colossians 1:13). -RS-

### **Answer to prayer**

In December we prayed especially for an end to the long and hard power struggle between Markus Soeder and Horst Seehofer (for control of the CSU party in Bavaria). They have now openly stated that they have forgiven one another. The causes of tension have clearly been resolved and they are now acting as joint leaders of the party. -AS-

### **Be a blessing in order to inherit a blessing**

How do we talk about our politicians? As a royal priesthood we are called to bless and not to curse. Blessing means to convey the life that God intended for us and His favour, and to speak out good things over those who have authority and responsibility within our land. One of the meanings of "to bless" ("barak" in Hebrew) is "to equip with healing power". Therefore in blessing we are also saying that the ones we bless will be equipped with the healing power of God – in political office and in all those areas to which we extend our blessing.

The call to bless does not mean that we condone evil as if it were good. Sin must be recognised as sin and treated as such, in identificational repentance and in intercession. However do not let us take the recognition of sin and failure to do what is right as an opportunity to join the world in condemnation, but rather let us all release a counter wave of blessing – so that our nation may inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:9).

As an aid to blessing, you will find a list of "Blessings for politicians" as an attachment to this prayer letter.

### **Prayer:**

- **Let us repent over our own inner feelings and negative attitudes towards politicians and the government, and pray that we turn to a lifestyle of blessing. (2 Chronicles 7:14)**
- **Let us carry out our priestly duty to bless all those who have authority and responsibility in our land. (Deuteronomy 10:8)** -TF-

### **Forming a government**

"Business as usual" – this is no longer possible! All the commotion and failures in the effort in the past weeks to form a government have made this very clear. It appears that God is raising a sign where he is saying: "You need me back in your land!" Germany needs to return again to God himself and to his standards and basic principles. Only then can the direction be set for the future and then talks between parties can once again succeed and a good start be made possible for the well-being of our land.

At the beginning of January the SPD and CDU/CSU parties will begin exploratory talks about forming a government. In the middle of January it will then be decided at an SPD conference if and when coalition negotiations can begin. But the formation of a minority government or the holding of new elections also remain as possible alternatives. We need men and women in key positions to lead our country out of this crisis with wisdom and with the fear of God.

### **Prayer:**

- **Let us call for the Lordship of our God over all these negotiations. Your kingdom come!**
- **That God-fearing men and women will be appointed to political offices and ministries. (Daniel 2:21; 4:27)**
- **Pray also for the appointment of those who have an understanding and want to support the State of Israel. (Genesis 12:3)** -AS-

### **Bring us to repentance**

There are more and more prophetic voices which are warning Germany that it can no longer continue on its well trodden ways of godlessness without serious consequences. There are calls for repentance to the people of God – but also to all the people in Germany and to those with political authority and responsibility.

Let us humble ourselves before God, recognising that Germany is not honouring God for his great mercy and grace to our land. We know that we do not have the strength to repent as we should, because we have allowed ourselves to become increasingly entangled in sin. We need to call on God's mercy for the strength to repent with all our hearts. We need the Spirit of God to lead us into repentance. (Psalm 86:11; 2 Timothy 2:25). Let us pray earnestly for this Spirit of repentance to come upon the church of Jesus and indeed on everyone in our land. If God lays it on your heart, pray with fasting! May God once again direct us as a nation to follow his ways.

**Prayer:**

- **Let us pray according to Jeremiah 31:18-19: Discipline us so that we will repent, because you are the Lord our God. (See also Lamentations 5:21-22)**
- **Let us invite the Spirit of God to search our hearts to reveal our "offensive" ways. (Psalm 139:23-24)** -RS-

**On what foundations is Germany now building?**

At our prayer conference in Berlin in September, which took place before the elections, we deprived our current political system in Germany of a very significant basis for their way of thinking until now, by breaking the power and influence of Marxism through prayer and proclamation. We can now perceive the failure of the first exploratory talks between the CDU/CSU, FDP and Greens parties as a result of this action. The negotiations had one conclusion in view: that the politics of each of these parties could somehow continue as before. But they should have known better as these political aims were increasingly directed against the Word of God, built on sand and would just be shattered. (Matthew 7:26-27).

We have become accustomed to parties following their own ideologies instead of the Word of God, acting according to the kingdom of this world, and expecting us to accept what they do as a matter of fact. Do we accept this? Luther, in his teaching under the two religious (and political) orders of the day, had no concept of ideologies that were directed against the knowledge of God. (2 Corinthians 10:4). Humanism, which later gave rise to these ideologies, was only just emerging. Luther only knew that such godless ideologies must be kept in check by an earthly government! And at that time the definition of good and evil was to be found only in the Bible.

This definition has been revised little by little through acceptance of humanistic ideologies – evil has been legitimised and good called evil. The ideological positions of the parties are at odds with one another. Could it be that the unity required for the building of a governing coalition will only come when the parties return to the Word of God as the foundation for their politics? Political ideologies rooted in humanism are often deceptively similar to the Christian view, because Christian values have seemingly been adopted, but the biblical foundation has been taken away. For this reason even straight conservative politics cannot survive when based on a false foundation.

Bible-based politics have never been developed on a firm foundation in Germany. German theology has laid an ethical foundation for how politics should be conducted, but has not been able to define what should be done. The challenge now is to break down our ideological structures, to clearly discern between what is truly from God and what is just a pretence, and to develop sound political concepts and solutions built on solid biblical foundations.

**Prayer**

- **For the double-edged sword – the Word of God - to divide truth from deception in politics. (Hebrews 4:12)**
- **For multi-disciplined, truly Bible-based theological study and teaching in Germany. (1 Corinthians 2:13-16)**
- **For the wisdom of God for those institutions**

**(universities, trusts, think-tanks, media, political parties, etc.) that develop, circulate and introduce new concepts into the world of politics. (James 1:5)** -KH-

**Jerusalem and the Middle East**

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, seven days after the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Resolution on the Partition of Palestine on November 29<sup>th</sup> 1947, President Trump announced the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. With this Trump has acknowledged a political reality which is also biblically based on the election of God of Jerusalem as His city and capital of Israel. (2 Chronicles 6:6; Matthew 5:35).

Jerusalem was never the capital of another nation! We are in the 50<sup>th</sup> year, the year of jubilee, since Jerusalem was reunited in 1967, and the city is now coming more and more into its God-given destiny. As the flags of Israel and the USA were being projected in celebration onto the city wall at the Jaffa Gate in the evening of December 6<sup>th</sup>, the lights went out in the Al-Aqsa mosque due to a power failure – what a prophetic sign!

While the EU and also Germany are firmly holding on to the two-state solution and plainly criticising Trump, the realities on the ground in the Middle East have been changing for some time now. The concerns of the Palestinians are no longer the focus of attention in the Arab world, but rather the conflict between the power ambitions of predominantly Shia (Shi'ite) Iran and the Sunni world led by Saudi Arabia. Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims are adherents of two separate traditions in Islam who fight each other even until death. This fight within Islam is causing Saudi Arabia to look for a strong ally in Israel against Iran and its current nuclear program. The support for Palestinians is therefore falling away.

Now that the Islamic State (IS) has been effectively defeated, the threat of war between Iran with its allies (Syria, Russia) and Israel is growing. Iran has been building a Shia military corridor from Tehran to Beirut for some time. Iran supports military bases in Syria, has been financing and equipping the terrorist organisation Hezbollah in Beirut with over 100,000 rockets (!), and also now finances Hamas in Gaza. Time and time again Iran openly threatens to "annihilate" Israel. Germany's government appears to be blindly unaware of this existential threat to the State of Israel.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray along with the following Bible verses for Israel and Jerusalem: 2 Chronicles 6:6; Psalm 147:2; Isaiah 33:20; Psalm 68:1.**
- **For German politicians to turn around and acknowledge the purposes of God. (Psalm 2)**
- **Protection for Israel from any attacks from Iran and from terrorist organisations. (Isaiah 54:7-17)** -RS-

**Dates for your diary**

**04-07.01** MEHR Prayer Conference in Augsburg. (The Call of the Watchmen will have a stand there.)

**14-21.01** Evangelical Alliance Prayer Week in Germany.

*God's blessings for the New Year 2018 from  
Rosemarie Stresemann and Team*