

February 2018

The Call of the Watchmen turns 18 !

We have come of age! I marvel at God's grace: for 18 years faithful intercessors have been bringing our land before God in prayer. God rewards all who seek him! I am sure that there is great thankfulness in God's heart for every person who prays with us. And in His name I also want to say "thank you". Despite all attacks of the enemy, you hold on to the cords of love that He has wrapped around this land and will not let go. The goal of our prayers remains that God's glory and honour will be seen in this land!

Has anything changed in these 18 years? Yes! God has added to the network of intercessors a network of prayer houses with their main focus on worship and praise. At the MEHR conference in January, 11,000 mostly young people gathered with a longing to give God the glory and to learn more of Jesus. In 2008 only 100 or so were there. We can sense a move of the Holy Spirit in the land even though it is not yet evident on the outside through a change in our society. So we keep praying!

Thank you also for all your financial support. The Call of the Watchmen would be delighted to receive a birthday present this month!

-RS-

If my people will humble themselves ...

In the last prayer letter we began to earnestly seek God to once again give a spirit of repentance to the church of Jesus and indeed to everyone in our land. The Lent period of prayer and fasting leading up to Easter will begin this month (February 14th to March 31st). We want to join together with Prince Philip von Preussen, Harald Eckert and the Sisters of Mary in Darmstadt during this time in a call to repentance, humbling ourselves before God according to 2 Chronicles 7:14 and seeking His face, so that our land can be healed. By fasting we humble ourselves before God as we look to Him alone for help. We consciously make ourselves weak and dependent – on this rest great promises! As Call of the Watchmen we are calling for a 24/7 prayer and fasting chain in the first two weeks from February 18th and in the last week before Easter. The prayer calendar on our website will be activated for these weeks. How to sign up and detailed prayer topics will be announced in a special letter on February 8th. We want to pray that failure to acknowledge God and unbelief will be overcome through the power of the gospel. The increasing godlessness in our land is depressing and is of great concern. Atheistic organisations are now demanding a greater voice in the institutions in our society – in the German Broadcasting Council (Rundfunkrat) for example. More and more people are rejecting belief in God. It is not for single sinful acts that the Holy Spirit was sent to convict the world of guilt in regard of sin, but specifically because of unbelief (John 16:8-9)!

Prayer:

- **That many Christians will use this period of prayer and fasting to seek God. (Hosea 6:1-3)**

- **For a mighty work of the Holy Spirit in our land according to John 16:8-11.**
- **Pray for forgiveness for blasphemy and rejection of God and for rebellion against His good commandments (Exodus 22:28; Isaiah 1:4) – and that His "name will be hollowed" (Matthew 6:9).** -RS-

Coalition negotiations

At the exploratory talks concerning the formation of a grand coalition once again, a "Union" party (CDU and CSU), which in the light of the success of the AfD (Alternative for Germany) at the federal elections would like to be more concerned for conservative voters, met an SPD which really wants to revive itself as a more social, left-wing party in opposition. After much effort, an exploratory document was put forward, which the SPD leadership at the SPD party conference promised to amend and which the CDU immediately rejected. The will of Chancellor Merkel to remain in office and the will of Martin Schultz to remain as SPD party chairman led to the readiness of both leaders to compromise. Is this a firm basis for a new grand coalition? The SPD party conference revealed a divided party and the narrow decision of the membership to support the coalition negotiations made it uncertain as to whether they will be at all successful. If a CDU/CSU-SPD coalition should be agreed, there may still be a chance that Germany will be governed well again and that the many needs in the country will be met. It is important that our land fulfils its role in Europe and the world according to God's purposes.

Prayer:

- **That a coalition agreement will be negotiated that follows the principle of justice and fairness and will again bring more concern for one another in our society. (Psalm 33:5; Proverbs 21:13)**
- **For a genuine search for innovative, future-oriented and at the same time value based agreements in the field of politics. (Hebrews 1:8; Proverbs 8:13-14)**
- **That people will be chosen for ministerial posts who will seek God's wisdom and blessing and who will have a heart for Israel. (Psalm 33:11; Genesis 12:3)** -JB-

Anti-Semitism commissioner in German parliament

On January 18th the German parliament approved a proposal for more effective action against anti-Semitism. The next government has to appoint an "anti-Semitism commissioner". 70 years after the defeat of the Nazi regime an increasing number of Jewish people once again have anxiety about living in Germany. They fear and have even experienced verbal as well as physical attacks. "Jew" is a common swear word for school kids – often, but not only, among young Muslims. Anti-Semitic offences are still mainly motivated by right-wing extremism. Threats from anti-Semitic migrants are however also on the increase. The parliament is now calling for migrants who are encouraging hate and incitement against Jews to be deported more

quickly. On December 12th in Berlin, the burning of Israeli flags by Arab and Palestinian demonstrators caused an outcry in the media and among politicians. Nevertheless Foreign Minister Gabriel, on the next day at a public anti-Semitic event in Berlin-Kreuzberg, repeated his opinion that he considered Israeli policy in the West Bank to be that of an apartheid regime, which he first announced on Facebook in 2012. In this way he was nurturing anti-Israeli concerns and the lies that Israel is an oppressive state, while reaping the praise of Hamas. Any future anti-Semitism commissioner would have to deal decisively with such statements! The effectiveness of such an appointment is debatable, but at the same time it would be a sign that the fight against anti-Semitism is important for the government.

Prayer:

- **For conviction, repentance and cleansing from anti-Semitism. (Zechariah 2:12-13)**
- **For God's choice in the appointment of an anti-Semitism commissioner. (Proverbs 8:14-16)**
- **For the appointment of a pro-Israel foreign minister in the next government. (Genesis 12:3)** -TF-

Protection for children

The future of a country lies in its children. It is therefore especially important that they are protected. Children grow up in an environment with many dangers. Never before was the access to violent and pornographic material only a few "clicks" away as today on the Internet. Some 20,000 children yearly are now already being diagnosed as having a "media addiction" in the use of the Internet. Furthermore they are being overtaken by political and ideological influences. Those promoting the latest gender ideology are pursuing their goal to impress children at a very young age with their concept of sexual diversity.

Now the Union and SPD in their party manifestos are requiring "children's rights" to be clearly incorporated into the German Basic Law. This requirement is however problematic because, according to German Basic Law, parents (and not the state) have the primary right to raise and protect their children. One gathers from this that parents basically know better than the state what is best for their children. By the incorporation of "children's rights" in German Basic Law there is a danger that the rights of parents will be undermined and the door is open for the state to get involved against the will of the parents. The German Basic Law already grants children the same rights as adults – they do not need additional rights.

God wants to make himself known to children as early as possible in their lives and He will protect them. We urgently need a "culture for life" in which the lives of children (including the unborn) are protected and kept from danger.

Prayer:

- **For a family policy that maintains parents' rights, strengthens families and protects children. (Deuteronomy 6:7)**
- **That a person after God's heart is appointed to the office of family minister. (Acts 13:22)**

- **That children will come to know Jesus early in their lives and serve in his kingdom. (Luke 18:16; Acts 2:17)**

-AS-

Increasing violence against rescue services

Rescue workers such as the firemen, ambulance crews and the police are now often attacked, insulted, spit upon and sometimes their very lives are threatened when they are called to an incident. Rescue vehicles are not given passage on the highway; the fire service is prevented from putting out the blaze. Many helpers are just volunteers. Our society is absolutely dependent on their intervention.

Prayer

- **This month we bless all those in the police service, paramedics, ambulance crews and fire service workers and pray for their protection. (Psalm 31: 20-21)** -RS-

African swine fever

The African swine fever is causing the German farming industry great concern as it comes closer; already in east Europe cases of pigs infected with the virus have been reported. This animal disease has already been spreading in Russia and the Baltic countries for many years and could soon reach west Europe. The virus is not dangerous for humans but for animals it is deadly. There is no vaccine. As a prevention measure the population of wild boars in Germany has been purposely reduced, but wild boars could easily pick up the virus by eating a carelessly discarded sandwich with infected meat. There is great concern that the virus could then also reach domestic pigs in Germany. Overnight many farmers would lose their living. The swine fever also challenges us in our treatment of animals that we breed. Quite often these animals live in wretched conditions – only in this way can meat be offered so cheaply. God cares for his creatures (Jonah 4:11; Matthew 10:29). He has allowed us to benefit from them, but also made us responsible for how we treat them. The demand for products from animals that are fairly treated is rising. Discounters are now offering meat products from improved farming environments. Perhaps this is a first step. Many think that the outbreak of African swine fever in Germany is unstoppable. We are praying to God for a miracle!

Prayer:

- **We place our farming industry and farm animals under God's blessing and protection. (Psalm 91:1-6; Deuteronomy 28:4)**
- **For more consideration for farm animals in the mass production of food. (Proverbs 12:10)** -AS-

Dates for your diary

16.-18.02 Munich Security Conference.

18.-22.02 Plenary Meeting of the German Catholic Bishops Conference in Ingolstadt.

18.02-30.03 Prayer chain for repentance in Germany.

*God's blessings from
Rosemarie Stresemann and Team*