

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

March 2018

Pure hearts

A pure heart is of eternal worth. Whoever has a pure heart will see God. (Matthew 5:8). Our heart is also the wellspring of life. (Proverbs 4:23). Therefore it is so important to guard our hearts with care. David regularly did a check-up on his heart so that it would always be in tune with God. "Search me, test me, purify me" was his constant request. (See Psalm 139:23 and Psalm 51:10). We can pray in this way every day and be cleansed by the blood of Jesus – especially during this time of Lent with prayer and fasting. The heart of an intercessor is often overcome by the many needs and the injustice around us. It must not become hardened but rather remain soft so that it can beat in rhythm with God's heart. Let us pray for God to create in us a pure heart! -AS-

Prayer for the formation of the new government

At the time of writing this prayer letter we do not yet know whether a grand coalition of CDU/CSU and SPD will after all be formed. The coalition agreement had been negotiated with a view to win the approval of the SPD party membership. Straightaway after this however, there was no more talk about the content, as Martin Schultz stepped down as party leader. He was not able to get his party to agree with his claim to be first in line to become the next foreign minister. Since then there is a power struggle within the SPD. The final count of membership votes will be announced on March 4th. There is concern in the world that our country is politically paralyzed. At the moment there is no way for Germany to get involved in the ever increasing conflicts in the world with a strong voice. Basically we are in a major transitional phase politically. The established political parties are each increasingly losing the ability to form a unified front and will have to make changes internally and in personnel.

How can we pray for this? It is not about offering our own political solutions to God. I sense that God wants to draw us to know what is on his heart. Only the Holy Spirit, who searches all things, even the deep things of God, can reveal to us the thoughts of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10). Only then can we know the love of God for this lost world. He will not break a bruised reed. (Isaiah 42:3). He has a hope and a future for our land. He will always show us a new way and he knows those whom he will use for this. Let us be still and know that God is Lord (Psalm 46:10) and with this knowledge in our hearts let us pray.

Prayer:

- **Proclaim Psalm 46:10.**
- **Thanks for God's love and for the future which he has already made ready for the formation of a new government. (Jeremiah 29:11)**
- **That God's favour will rest on those whom he has chosen to shape this future. (Luke 2:14)** -RS-

Asylum for Christian converts

Since the end of 2016 we have been praying for Christian converts in Germany whose applications for asylum were

being rejected in great numbers by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). Consequently there were talks with the leader of the BAMF at the time and his successor Jutta Cordt and dozens of refused applications were submitted for review. As a general rule the decisions on applications were not re-examined or revised by the complaints office of the BAMF despite admitting that mistakes had been made. Meanwhile about 90% of the Christian asylum applicants from Iran and Afghanistan are not accepted and will have to leave the country.

In this way the BAMF is making decisions which are not in accordance with the German Constitution, against the Geneva Refugee Convention, and which send these Christian converts back to persecution and death in their Islamic home countries. Using standardised text to give the reasons for the rejection of the asylum application, the sincerity of the conversion to Christianity is regularly brought into question. The attraction of certain churches and mother-tongue baptismal classes for applicants is also highlighted and the testimonies of the asylum applicants to their conversion to Christianity are considered to be "just empty words". Certificates from church offices are ignored, and it is taken for granted that the responsible pastors are making false statements and are in fact providing assistance for fraudulent asylum applications.

About two-thirds of the decisions to reject an asylum application are referred to an administrative tribunal where almost half of the claimants are successful in overturning the decision. But the BAMF regularly lodge an appeal and often win the second time around.

Prayer:

- **That we as the body of Christ stand up and shake off our indifference and inaction, and actively support our persecuted brothers and sisters and those who counsel them. (Galatians 6:9-10)**
- **For full and comprehensive support for Christian converts in Germany. (Ephesians 6:12-13)**
- **For a new Minister of the Interior: that asylum will be governed and administered according to the law and justice. (Micah 6:8)** -KH-

Back to life

Abortion is actually forbidden by law in Germany. According to counselling provisions, a termination of pregnancy is however not punishable during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy when requested by the mother and she can give evidence of taking counselling advice. In this way almost 100,000 children are killed in the womb each year. A doctor is now publicly offering abortion on her website. For this the court recently convicted her with a fine. "A termination of pregnancy should not be discussed publicly, as if it were a normal matter", said the judge. Advertising for abortions is not allowed. Some politicians are standing behind the doctor and are taking this case as an opportunity to demand the cancellation of the law forbidding the advertising of abortion services (§219a). Several draft

proposals have already been submitted. From the start of the '68 movement in Germany the call for legal abortion has been steadily growing. We need to turn back to recognising the value of life! Our land must no longer choose death. The fight for life is above all a spiritual one and can therefore be won! Let us now ask the Holy Spirit to lead the way.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for all in this land who stand for the protection of life, do not give up and keep watch. (Exodus 20:13)**
- **That the prohibition law will stand, the legal position on abortion in Germany will not be further weakened and that we choose life. (Deuteronomy 30:19)**
- **For new courage and spiritual and practical strategies to protect the life of the unborn. (Zechariah 4:6) -AS-**

Networking with houses of prayer

Prayer houses have been established in many towns and cities in Germany in the last few years. This is a wonderful work of God! When the Call of the Watchmen began in the year 2000 there was no country-wide continuous 24/7 prayer initiative. Now 18 years later we see how the prayer network in Germany is growing. At the same time the growing network is complemented by many prayer houses and movements with a calling to focus on different areas of concern in prayer.

The Call of the Watchmen has a specific calling to intercede for politics and society. Many houses of prayer also support this prayer focus in one of their prayer groups which are dedicated to intercession on a particular subject and which meet regularly as part of their overall schedule of prayer and worship. Here we can see a point of contact where the Call of the Watchmen and prayer houses can support and complement each other. We would really like to make contact with prayer houses in your area. Is there a prayer house in your region with an interest in working with us? Or perhaps there is already a Call of the Watchmen prayer group within a local prayer house. Please let us know.

Prayer:

- **For many to recognise how the Call of the Watchmen and prayer houses can work together. (Amos 3:3) -RS-**

Leftist anti-Semitism and its consequences

At the prayer conference in Berlin we discussed leftist anti-Semitism in detail – both from the GDR (former East Germany) and from the new leftists in the '68 movement. The Marxist attempt at world enlightenment, which until today has influenced how people view Israel, leads to a blindness to the purposes of God with Israel. This blindness is very dangerous. For years it has influenced reporting and increasingly foreign policy. On January 31st our Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said in a speech at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv:

“Also in Germany, even as openly said in my own party, young people are less and less inclined to accept what they consider to be unfair treatment of Palestinians. And it is becoming more and more difficult for people like me to give them reasons why our support for Israel should continue”.

Through the Marxist eyes of all those with a leftist-liberal leaning, Israel is regarded as an oppressor that opposes the will of the Palestinian Arabs for freedom. Zionism as a

movement to enable the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland is not accepted in any way. Seen through leftist eyes, Israel is a racist state (Gabriel says “Apartheid”), an occupying force, and the Palestinians are the victims. With such a blinded vision, our Foreign Minister makes such statements about support for Israel. But God’s Word offers sufficient reasons for it! Let us call out in the Spirit over our land and our young generation in our prayers:

Prayer

- **Proclaim: Exodus 6:2-4; Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Psalm 105:6-11; Psalm 102:13-16; Isaiah 41:8-11.**
- **Blessings on all those who reveal God’s heart for Israel to the young generation. (Isaiah 29:18)**
- **That the eyes of blinded politicians will be opened to see the destiny of Israel and Jerusalem. (Psalm 147:2)**

-RS-

Reunification of Korea

For many years there has been prayer world-wide for North Korea and for a peaceful reunification of North and South Korea. In Germany alone there are numerous intercessors and initiatives that have been praying here for decades.

2018 is the 70th year after the partition of Korea – a significant time period in biblical history.

Alongside the growing threats by the USA because of North Korea’s nuclear programme, 2018 has just seen a fully unexpected rapprochement between North and South Korea. This had its climax as athletes marched together in the opening ceremony at the Winter Olympic Games and as a meeting between governmental representatives of both countries took place concurrently.

At this time of such amazing events, God is calling several hundred Christians from all over the world to a “Global Gathering” in South Korea in March to pray together with Korean brothers and sisters for the reunification of Korea. The German intercessors there will certainly be bringing along their faith that a peaceful reunification is indeed possible.

Irrespective of the motives of the North Korean government in their efforts for rapprochement, God can use this to bring his plans into effect – as the fruit of many years of prayer!

Prayer:

- **For a truly fruitful development of any further talks between the two governments. (Psalm 133)**
- **That the Global Gathering from March 20th-24th in South Korea will have a powerful spiritual impact. (Ephesians 3:20-21)**

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Dates for your diary

23.-24.03 Munich Prayer Conference - “The City Reformers”

25.-31.03 Last week of the Watchmen prayer chain in the Lent period of prayer and fasting for Germany.

30.03 Good Friday service with the Sisters of Mary in Darmstadt to conclude the period of prayer for Germany. (See: “**If my people will humble themselves ...**” in the February prayer letter.)

*God’s blessings from
Rosemarie Stresemann and Team*