

May 2018

Enter his gates with thanksgiving ... (Psalm 100:4)

The Bible teaches us that the way to enter God's presence is with thanksgiving and with praise. It is not good to want to shorten this way in order to quickly get to the actual "prayer points". God is good to us all the time and therefore he deserves our thanks. In the Bible verse which urges us to pray for our political leaders, Paul says that we should do this with "thanksgiving" (1 Tim. 2:1). Therefore I suggest that, before you start praying, you do the following: take the list of the people in the new cabinet which was sent with the last (German) prayer letter and thank God for each one of them. Thank God for the gifts that he has given them, for their readiness to serve the country, for his love for them and that Jesus has given his life for each one. Could you think of at least three reasons to be thankful for each Minister and our Chancellor? Our thanksgiving should overflow and give God the glory for his abundant grace towards us (2 Corinthians 4:15). -RS-

70 Years of the State of Israel

"Give me one proof that God exists!" said Frederick the Great to his General Zieten. He answered: "Your Majesty, the Jews!" How can a people that was driven out of its land and scattered throughout the world preserve its identity, language and religion over hundreds of years? How is it possible that this people could return to its land after 2000 years? God had promised them: "For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers." (Jeremiah 16:15).

On May 14th 1948 the time had come. Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, proclaimed in Tel Aviv "by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly" the establishment of the modern State of Israel. On this one single day the miracle took place (Isaiah 66:8)!

Following the celebrations in Israel over a period of 70 hours around April 19th, the anniversary date of the founding of the state according to the Hebrew calendar, there will be further celebrations in the anniversary week of May 13th-19th by our calendar, especially in Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Heiko Haas has announced his participation and Donald Trump is sending a large delegation to attend the opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem on May 14th. Many Palestinians are staging violent demonstrations in Gaza at the border fence with Israel to protest against this anniversary. Jerusalem will once again be the central focus of world events. Celebrations are also taking place in Germany during this week. Significant conferences and prayer gatherings will be held in Jerusalem by Christians from all over the world. One of these events is the "March of the Nations" (May 13th-15th), in which a group from the Call of the Watchmen is participating. The "Jews for Jesus" mission organisation along with local Messianic congregations will be presenting the gospel to Jerusalem residents during the month of May.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the miracle of the State of Israel and its blessing to the rest of the world.**

- **Pray that the celebrations "70 Years of the State of Israel" in Germany and in Israel will be blessed and be protected and will lead to a deeper relationship between the two nations. (Genesis 12:2-3)**
- **That many secular Jews in Israel and throughout the world will see the works of their God at this time of celebration, be reached with the gospel and come to know their Messiah. (Isaiah 62:11-12; Romans 3:21-24)**

-JB-

Anti-Semitism Commissioner

In January the German parliament decided to create the position of "Anti-Semitism Commissioner of the German Government". The diplomat Felix Klein has now been appointed to this office which will be located in the Interior Ministry. He was the candidate favoured by the Jewish Central Council as he is already familiar with international Jewish organisations and the fight against anti-Semitism at the international level. For some time he has been an advisor on these matters as a special commissioner in the Foreign Ministry. Privately he has maintained good contacts with the Jewish community and is a violinist in an orchestra which plays Jewish music. Even before he had officially assumed his office on May 1st, in mid-April he already took part in the March of Life in Berlin in support of reconciliation with the Jewish community. In his speech there he said that Jewish life has always belonged in Germany. Awareness of this fact must be firmly established in our society. He sees that the opportunities to positively influence people in this direction lie particularly in the fields of education and training. He will now be the central contact person in matters of anti-Semitism and for the support and protection of Jewish life in Germany. Many separate initiatives in the land can now be coordinated through his office and gain new strength. He will now allow incidents of Islamic anti-Semitism to be recorded separately in criminal statistics. For the first time at a federal state level, there will soon be an Anti-Semitism Commissioner in Rhineland-Pfalz. Felix Klein considers such an office to be necessary in every federal state.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for Felix Klein (cf. Acts 10:22a) and pray for the wisdom to develop an effective strategy against anti-Semitism and to support and protect Jewish life in Germany. (Colossians 1:9-12)**
- **That the office of a commissioner against anti-Semitism will be introduced into all federal states. (Isaiah 49:22)**
- **That new strategies against Islamic anti-Semitism will be developed. (Zechariah 2:8-9)**

-RS-

Prayer for the Interior Ministry

Triggered by the statement of Interior Minister Seehofer that Islam does not belong in Germany, a more critical debate has taken off about how to deal with Islam, Muslims and their Islamic demands. With some 4.5 million Muslims with German citizenship, only about 10% of those in the third generation can be counted as being integrated into

German society. The existence of “parallel” societies with Sharia courts, concessions in the dispensation of justice in cases of Islamic motivated violence and continuous legal disputes about civil servants wearing a headscarf require clear guidelines from lawmakers and effective handling by executive authorities. It is essential to strike a balance, in accordance with German basic law, between freedom of religion with the right to the undisturbed practice of religion and the consequences of the obligations which result from the observance of that religion. In matters concerning the limitations on immigration and the decisions between true refugees and economic migrants and their various notions about what life in Germany offers them, clear requirements and objectives for successful integration in Germany must be formulated. Up until now discussions at the political level have been conducted mostly with the large Islamic associations which are controlled from abroad to specifically prevent the integration of Muslims in Europe. At the Islam Conference these associations determine the subjects to be discussed and who can participate.

For the period of Ramadan, which begins at sunset on May 15th, the Evangelical Alliance is again calling for 30 days of prayer for the Islamic world.

Prayer:

- **For clarity and wisdom for Interior Minister Seehofer and his team to bring an end to the political influence of Islam in Germany. (Deuteronomy 28:43-47)**
- **For clear instructions to the Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) to prevent asylum abuse and to ensure that decisions comply with the enforcement of existing laws. (Job 36:6)**
- **For Christian voices to bring the spiritual dimension into all the Islam debates with clarity, in truth and in love, and that they will be heard. (1 John 4:1-3) -KH-**

Prayer for the younger generation

Young people have the potential to change the world. They set things in motion that can influence society in a completely new way. Throughout history, major changes in society, both good and bad, have often been the result of a deep desire for change and the readiness to lay down the current way of life for a political, social or spiritual cause. We see this clearly in the German '68 movement that drew a whole generation into its ideas and ideologies which still have a significant influence in our society today.

God now wants a new generation to be equipped and arise to set new social trends and to initiate a “godly movement”. He is looking for “movers” who can instil in our society a new sense of purpose that will get us out of our current spiritual complacency and lead us into a bright new future. This is a time when our youth and young adults are ready for change and are seeking a new direction for their lives. Statistics show that 77% of decisions for Jesus are made before 21 years of age. When the young generation is gripped by the power of God, they can reach whole cities and nations. A spiritual battle is raging over this calling! The prayer support of all the generations is essential for the young generation to become spiritual “transformers”! God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – three generations.

We need the wisdom of our elders, the power and resources of the middle-aged, and the zeal of the younger generation!

Prayer:

- **That the younger generation will be radical for Jesus and bring the full measure of the Kingdom of God back into our society. (1 John 2:15-17)**
- **For a new generation that lives in love and obedience to God and his word, with a sense of responsibility towards God and man. (Psalm 119:9-16)**
- **For all the generations to join together in this spiritual battle. (1 Timothy 1:18-19a) -TF-**

Challenges within health services and the Health Ministry

We are all dependent on health care. Starting from birth, for injuries in childhood, for treatments and surgery as adults and special care on into old age. In no other occupation is genuine concern for others so personally experienced as in health care. Due to current demographic changes, more and more people will need to make use of health care services in the future. At the same time fewer people want to work in health care. Already there is a need for 17,000 more workers in the health care sector. The reasons for this deficit lie mainly in the difficult working conditions. People have to work under extreme time pressure because of the shortage of qualified personnel. This leads to a hopeless overload of doctors and health care staff. Many do not want (or are no longer able) to subject themselves to such working conditions. Moreover people have to take on more responsibility without a corresponding increase in remuneration. The crisis is particularly felt in health care for the aged. There is no longer time for warm and loving attention for older people. Health Minister Jens Spahn wants to make a career in health care more attractive. Wages and working conditions have to be improved and qualified personnel will be recruited from other countries. We urgently need a major change in our approach to and appreciation of this valuable service to our society. With the help of the Holy Spirit solutions will be found, for God has good plans for us – also with regard to the future of our health care services.

Prayer:

- **We pray blessings on Minister Spahn, that he will run his office with godly wisdom and find ways to make a career in health care more attractive. (James 1:5)**
- **For new joy and strength for health workers and for improvements in working conditions. (Isaiah 40:29)**
- **For effective solutions to the various challenges within health services through the efforts of the Health Ministry staff. (Colossians 1:9) -AS-**

Dates for your diary

09.-13.05 Catholic Conference in Muenster

09.-13.05 Prayer walk: “The Wild South”.

(www.betenbewegen.de)

15.05.-14.06 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.

(<https://www.pray30days.org/directory/>)

*God's blessings from
Rosemarie Stresemann and Team*