

July/August 2018

Not by might nor by power

Zechariah prophesied to Zerubbabel, the leader of the returning exiles, who together with the High Priest Jeshua was responsible for the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." (Zechariah 4:6). So did they in fact not need any might or power? Did they not need a team of watchmen prepared to defend the work? Of course! But when something has to be done according God's plan, the most important thing for God lies in the fact that, behind all our best human efforts, it is the Holy Spirit who actually makes it happen. This also applies to our prayer. We are committed to pray – and this requires time and energy. The more room we leave for the Holy Spirit to guide us, the more effective our prayers will be. Come, Holy Spirit, fill all our prayers as watchmen! -RS-

Answers to prayer with thanks

- The State of North-Rhine-Westphalia has announced that it will no longer cooperate with the Islamic Institute "DITIB" until it releases itself from dependence on and the strong influence of Turkey.
- During the recent visit of Israeli President Netanyahu to Germany, Merkel referred to the impact of Iran's activities in the Middle East on the security of Israel as "cause for concern". "Iran must never be allowed to get nuclear weapons", she said. Moreover, the consultations between the governments of the two nations which were cancelled last year will now be resumed on October 4th of this year. -AS-

The priority of Israel within the nations

With the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel a significant time period has come to an end and a new season has begun. The way in which God has blessed and protected Israel is now clearly challenging the nations to affirm God's order of priority in his dealing with the nations. God has set an order with respect to the nations. Israel is the firstborn son. (Exodus 4:22). The establishment of other nations and the setting of their boundaries were made in direct relation to the people of Israel. (Deuteronomy 32:8). From the beginning God wanted to set Israel "high above all the nations" (Deuteronomy 26:19), and indeed for its own praise, fame and honour. Through this people salvation will come to all nations. And God will raise up the King of the Jews (Jesus) to be "King of kings and Lord of lords". All nations are subordinated to Israel in God's plan of salvation and have been given the task to serve Israel. Isaiah foresaw, as did many other prophets, the judgment of God coming on the nations which despise Israel and stand against his chosen people: "For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined." (Isaiah 60:12). God calls the nations to help to bring about his plan of salvation with Israel and thereby also to the whole world. God calls prayer watchmen from the nations to the walls of Jerusalem, and invites the nations to help in the rebuilding of Israel and in the return of his scattered people.

We continue to pray concerning the call of Germany to stand on the side of Israel. This calling is actually for all nations. However, because of our history, we in Germany have a double responsibility to fulfil this calling! Each nation has its own special gifts for this task. Our nation has been given the gift of strong leadership – but in which direction are we leading? For two years starting in 2019 and as a non-permanent member, Germany will have a seat on the United Nations Security Council, the most important decision-making body in the community of world nations. How will Germany take advantage of this opportunity?

Prayer:

- **We confess in identificational repentance the rebellion of our people against God's order of priority for the nations and our unwillingness to serve Israel with all our hearts. (Psalm 2)**
- **Pray for humility in our government in all its decisions concerning the well-being of Israel. (Isaiah 60:10-12)**
- **That those responsible for our economy and trade will withdraw from relationships with those who hate Israel and increase our business relations with Israel. (Isaiah 61:6)** -RS-

The search for the right asylum policy

Without doubt changes in our policy concerning asylum seekers are necessary. Basically, how open or restrictive should our policy be? Who can come into Germany and who should be stopped at the border? The underlying question is: How humanely must the state respond in the case of people in urgent danger and need, and when should security considerations take precedence? We face the dilemma of the choice between our commitment to humanity and our national security interests. The Holy Spirit will help us. How should we pray?

Europe: The refugee crisis is by nature European, but to come to an agreement on a common policy to deal with it is hard. The interests of all parties involved must be carefully considered and reconciled. Some nations are "going it alone" and asserting their own interests. How should Germany behave? It is important to recognise that questions regarding the increased protection of borders must be considered in the context of existing European agreements (Schengen/Dublin III). **Asylum procedures:** We need processes that make the slow asylum procedures quicker. For this, agreements with countries to take back their unsuccessful asylum seekers must be made to work. And it also involves the finding of ways to fight against the causes for people to flee from their home countries. We cannot close our hearts to their plight. **Unity:** In the struggle to find the right policy, we need to work together. Polarization in attitudes increases division. Even in such a tense situation, God will help us to find his way to resolve it.

Prayer:

- **Holy Spirit, give our land understanding, wisdom and unity in the search for the right asylum policy for the future. (Isaiah 11:2)**

- **For pragmatic solutions to the many detailed issues, so that processes can proceed effectively and with justice.**
- **For the right way for Europe and that God will be pleased with the solutions that Germany proposes.**
(Proverbs 14:34) -AS-

Politicians are people like us

“Those up there do whatever they want anyway” is a disparaging remark that is so often heard said about politicians, especially members of parliament, ministers and even the chancellor. In social media they are often accused, insulted and cursed. They are under great stress as they carry out their duties and frequently have little time to develop good relationships on the level of true friendship. Many are separated from their spouses and families when parliament is in session. In the summer break they should be able to relax, but they also have to take care of matters in their constituencies. The pressures of time and on their physical bodies often leave little space to take proper care of themselves and many end up with serious problems with their health.

“...in [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Colossians 2:3). When politicians follow Jesus, a divine source of strength is available to them – for their personal lives, but also for the development of new political ideas. This can release many blessings for our land. There should be Christians in your area in whom they could confide, who pray for them, bravely share the gospel with them, and offer them counsel and advice. Jesus would like to save politicians from their sense of loneliness with seemingly no-one to turn to or encourage them.

Prayer:

- **That politicians get to know people in whom they can confide and from whom they get needed support.**
- **That there would be more contact, true friendships and sincere relationships of trust between politicians and Christians. (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 4:2)**
- **That many politicians will entrust their lives to Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)** -JB-

Our children are under attack

In the battle for the next generation our children have been under attack since the '68 cultural revolution. Above all these attacks cut them off from the authority of their parents and make them easy to manipulate for ideological ends. In all-day-care-centres run by strangers to the child at a very early age, children develop serious difficulties in forming close relationships of trust, which can lead to almost any kind of mental disorder. Lack of love and attention is frequently made up for, already during childhood, by substance abuse. Restlessness of mind is aggravated by a fixation to the use of computer and Smartphone and constant media consumption. One in four young adults now suffers from mental illness, mainly depression, anxiety and behavioural disorders. At the same time the state is gaining more and more control over children through all-day-care-centres and the determination to introduce rights for children into German Basic Law. Additional identity confusion is driven by gender uncertainty and sex education that violates long accepted

norms in our society. Under the influence of LGBTIQ groups, such teaching plans are now standard in almost all state schools. Along with this come frequent sexual abuse, pornographic material and sexual activity without relationship and commitment, all of which open the door wide to demonic influences.

Fewer and fewer children are learning from their parents about the Christian faith which can give them a firm foothold in life. And a fear of becoming closely attached in any way to another person not only prevents any trust of children in their parents, but also in a loving Father God.

Prayer:

- **That many children will come to know Jesus in these summer holidays. (Mark 10:13-16)**
- **For the healing and redemption of children. (Colossians 1:13-14)**
- **That the Lord will release the next generation into its calling. (1 Peter 2:9)** -KH-

Protection from terrorism

Thanks be to God! Our land has been protected from Islamic terrorism in the last few months, despite the fact that “the dangerous threat of terrorism is still with us”, in the words of Interior Minister Seehofer. This was made clearly evident in the recent foiling of a probable poisonous substance attack in Cologne. This would have added a completely new dimension to terrorism in our land.

The threat remains at a high level. We as Christians should not be reacting in fear, but with a sound mind and by staying alert. Watchmen for a land need to keep their “eyes wide open” – this applies to the police, security forces, and also to us as intercessors. We therefore want to place our land under God’s care and protection, especially now during the holiday period.

Prayer:

- **Thank you, Jesus, for all your care and protection. (Psalm 138)**
- **For early detection of terrorist plans and for the correct analysis and responsive action to defeat them. (Psalm 68:20; Proverbs 3:26)**
- **For the release of armies of angels – heavenly hosts – who “do his will”, turning our prayers into action and protecting our land. (Psalm 103:20-21)** -AS-

The Call of the Watchmen is growing

For October we are now planning a watchmen seminar “**GrowingTogether**” (in German) to explore new ideas and encourage younger people to join our network. We are also currently investing in new projects. The purchase of new computers, implementing data protection rules, updating our website and the expansion our office work all require continuing financial support. Please consider helping us with a donation to fill the “summer gap”.

Note

This prayer letter covers two months (July/August). The next letter will be issued for September.

*God’s blessings for the summer holiday period from
Rosemarie Stresemann, Alexander Schlueter and Team*