

September 2018

**Dear intercessors,**

This month we want to take time to revive and strengthen our prayer life. The disciples said to Jesus: "Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1), and we also constantly need renewal and vision for our prayer times. The last few months were challenging times as we look back on the political issues in both domestic and foreign affairs. Times such as these do not leave our hearts untouched in some way. We need to be cleansed of the frustrations and disappointments which hang over us like a dark cloud and to be released from any accusations or anger we may have in us against many of our politicians. Are you still able to look on this land from God's perspective? How does our land appear to the Father as he sees it through the shed blood of his Son Jesus? What would a godly spiritually restored Germany look like?

I see a land filled with people who are living according to God's calling for them. A land that no longer groans under the burden of sin, but where people share God's good gifts with one another and much more. Before the foundation of the world God already had a good plan for our land.

We must always bear in mind his perspective and view of all things - his higher ways and thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). In order to understand his ways and thoughts for our land, Jesus invites us to draw closer to his heart in a deeper relationship and, despite all the needs and sins that surround us, to *believe* in his finished work upon the cross.

"Come up here..." (Revelation 4:1) is his invitation to us to take up a new position and, with "*the eyes of your heart*" (Ephesians 1:18), to see and act from the perspective of heaven. How freeing it is, to look on our land as Jesus sees it through his finished work! Only then can we know what is possible with God, his power and his answers for our land. Then light will flow through our hearts and we will be filled with hope and new life. A way forward begins to open up before us that not only widens our horizons but also reveals the greatness and glory of our God.

Therefore this month together we want to ask the Holy Spirit to release in us a new hope, life and vision.

"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." (Psalm 36:9).

**Practical steps**

- **Cleansing.** Entrust your heart to God and let him love and cleanse you, restoring your joy. (Psalm 51:12). Where have frustrations and accusations clouded your view, constraining your heart and limiting expectations?
- **Heart-to-heart.** "Come up here", approach God's throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16) and with your whole heart seek his face (Psalm 27:8). Take time, be still and listen. Even when you do not hear anything straight away, just be there for God and ask him: "How do you see our land? What is on your heart?"
- **Dream with God.** "*Where there is no vision (revelation) the people perish.*" (Proverbs 29:18 - KJV). Take time to look on Germany and let yourself "dream" (once again).

The Holy Spirit loves to make use of our imaginations in order to share his thoughts and ideas with us. What would it look like if the land were to "be filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord" (Habakkuk 2:14)? What good things do you dream of for your land? We need (spiritual) visionaries in Germany – people that can bring God's ways and plans from heaven to earth (Matthew 6:10). Take paper and pencil and write or sketch what God shows you or simply what comes into your mind.

- **Pray God's Word.** Proclaim one of the following Bible passages and allow yourself to be inspired by what God is going to do. He is restoring everything and his kingdom will be increasingly visible in this world: Psalm 72 / Acts 3:20-21 / Revelation 21:5 / Isaiah 65:17 / Psalm 2 / Deuteronomy 32:1-4.
- **Pray** for one another, that the eyes of your hearts will be opened (Ephesians 1:18).

-AS/RS-

**Answers to prayer with thanks**

- The Federal Prosecutor General is now sure that a poison attack was being planned by a man from Tunisia who is living in Cologne where more than 84mg of the highly potent toxin "ricin" was found in June. The Islamist intended to set off an explosive device in a populated area. This would have probably killed hundreds of people and have brought a new dimension to potential threats from terrorism. Furthermore a 31-year-old suspected Islamist was arrested in Berlin who together with an accomplice was planning an explosive attack somewhere in Germany. Thank the Lord for his protection!
- Developments in the asylum policy, with the first small but positive steps, suggest that there will be clearer procedures and more unity at the European level. Let us thank God and continue to pray that fair and just solutions will be found for dealing with all the questions within the asylum policies in Germany and in Europe.

-AS-

**Prayer for Korea – a "kairos" time**

For a long time we have benefitted much from the prayers of our Korean brothers and sisters, and now we want to pray together for a new era – specifically for what will happen in North Korea – it is a "kairos" time!

On August 15<sup>th</sup> this year North and South Korea celebrated their liberation from Japanese occupation in 1948, and South Korea celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a state which was founded purposefully as a Christian state.

North Korea also celebrated its formation 70 years ago, but later on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Exactly 10 years before on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1938, 80% of all the Christian leaders in Korea, many who came to faith in the world's greatest revival of 1907, yielded under pressure

from the Japanese Emperor to the Shinto cult religion and were again baptised in the name of the Emperor. The 20% who did not yield suffered either martyrdom or were incarcerated in Japanese prisons.

Inspired by his axis partner Adolf Hitler, the Japanese Emperor forbade the reading of the Old Testament and the book of Revelation, and ordered a “dejudifying” of Christian theology. For this reason Christians had to rewrite the scriptures. Korean replacement theology was born. Through the worship of the Japanese Emperor and acceptance of the Shinto cult religion, the door was opened to idol worship.

After the capitulation of Japan and the division of Korea, Kim Il Sung came to power on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1948 – exactly 10 years after the forced “re-baptism” – and his support base included the Christians. They openly welcomed him as the liberator from the gruesome Japanese occupation. Christian farmers helped to build up the agricultural infrastructure. However, from fear of the well organised Christians, Kim Il Sum later began to brutally persecute Christians once again, and this has continued up to the present day.

70 years is a significant time period for God (see Daniel 9:2) – and a new era is now about to begin. (Isaiah 43:19).

On September 9<sup>th</sup> at sunset the Jewish New Year Feast begins – Rosh HaShana.

**Prayer:**

- **We pray for forgiveness for the German influence on Korean Christians with anti-Semitism and replacement theology - for deliverance from evil. (Matthew 6:12-13)**
- **That God, the King of glory, will in his grace make the whole of Korea – North and South – overflow with the light and love of the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 24:7-10)**
- **That Germany with its experience of division and reunification can summon the courage to help pave the way to the reunification of the Korean peninsula.**

-NN/RS-

**A heart for the unborn**

In 2017 the number of abortions in Germany again increased significantly. It is now under consideration to offer a blood test on national health insurance to detect Down-Syndrome – so that new life with a handicap can be “sorted out” at source. Respect and regard for life begins in the heart of man. There also begins the thought of murder. (Matthew 15:19). What is a priority in basic German law – *the protection of life* – is increasingly losing its significance in our society. Whoever still keeps his heart open for the right to life for the unborn child has now to be prepared to face much hate and opposition. This opposition comes from abortion activists who are increasingly putting pressure on the UN institutions that abortion should be declared worldwide as a “human right”.

At the “March for Life” on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Berlin people from all over the country, who have kept their hearts open for the unborn, will come together to celebrate life.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for forgiveness for this huge blood guilt and for hearts to be open to protect the life of the unborn in Germany. (Jeremiah 4:14)**

-RS-

**Israel, Germany and Iran**

Following the withdrawal of the USA from the nuclear deal with Iran, the announced sanctions against Iran came into force on August 1<sup>st</sup>. President Trump based his decision to withdraw on his conviction that the agreement does not prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb but on the contrary is helping Iran to continue to finance the program. In fact the agreement applies only to the international supervision of the civil nuclear program in Iran, whilst the nuclear weapons program of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard has been continuing unhindered in cooperation with North Korea since 1984. In April of this year the Israeli secret service presented evidence on how close the program is to actually building a nuclear bomb. Legal action by the EU Commission against the US sanctions has nevertheless been taken to save the nuclear deal and protect European business. However with the US sanctions the deal will begin to fall apart since many international companies will withdraw from trade with Iran or will want to reduce their oil imports.

With the transfer of the US Embassy to Jerusalem in May and the US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council in June, the USA has again exposed the truth about what is really happening in the Middle East, setting itself against the international community and on the side of Israel.

Israel also needs this support from Germany with the increasing threats in the north with Iranian military presence in Syria, and in the south from the Gaza Strip. There is absolutely no reason to put more trust in the Iranian regime than in the Israeli government.

**Prayer:**

- **In September the Jewish people celebrate the feasts of Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur and Succoth. Let us pray that this Jewish New Year brings in a new season for Israel that will be a light to the nations. (Isaiah 51:1-16; Isaiah 60:1)**
- **That the plans of Iran to annihilate Israel will be totally thwarted. (Psalm 121)**
- **We call on our Foreign Minister Heiko Mass to stand on the side of Israel. (Jeremiah 29:8-11)**

-KH-

**Dates for your diary**

**9/10.09** Rosh HaShana (Jewish New Year Feast)

**11-12.09** Call of the Watchmen Board Meeting

**19.09** Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

**22.09** March for Life in Berlin

**24-27.09** Plenary Session of German Catholic Bishops' Conference

**24-30.09** Succoth (Feast of Tabernacles)

*God's blessings from*

*Rosemarie Stresemann, Alexander Schlueter and Team*