

October 2018

Dear intercessors,

We have felt for some time that God once again wants to lead us along new ways in intercession for our land. Our prayers have been overtaken by a great deal of confusion. We are faced more and more with a flood of information, differing opinions and interpretations, which are often totally contradictory. We see this especially after the events in Chemnitz and Koethen. We are pulled in by this flood and the waves of outrage surge higher and higher. The following words from God in Isaiah 8:11-14a come into my mind: *“This is what the Lord says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people: Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread. He will be a holy place [for you].”*

Every one of us seeks a clear interpretation of situations so that we know how to react. And now we find ourselves in situations where everybody, even those within our government, interprets an event completely differently. Confusion is a tactic of the enemy to lead us into bondage. He rules through fear – but God rules through love! Therefore God is calling us through Isaiah at this time to: ‘Fear not what other people fear. Give honour to me alone, for I am the LORD, the almighty God. If there is anyone to fear, then it is me!’

Without the fear of God we cannot become aware of the truth. For the truth is not just a fact for us to hold up like a weapon in front of others – truth is a Person! In the realm of politics truth is a stranger. As he stood before Pilate, Jesus declared: “... I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” Then Pilate asked: “What is truth?” (John 18:37-38a).

So how can we be free of confusion and fear, so that we can pray only under the guidance of the Spirit?

Practical steps

- **Worship.** We want to encourage you to spend much time worshipping God. In future prayer letters we will now be writing fewer articles on current issues for prayer and we suggest that you spend a good part of your prayer-time using these **practical steps** to bring honour and praise to God before you turn to prayer for a particular issue. As you look upon the greatness, power and glory of God, open your heart to him, so that he can cleanse your heart in preparation for intercession. (Hebrews 3:7-8)
- **Exchange fear for love.** We all have fear in our hearts to varying degrees. Ask God to show you any fear which is controlling you at the moment. Then confess it to him and ask him to pour out his love into your heart in a new way to replace your fear. (Romans 5:5)
- **A spirit of humility.** God has not commanded us to

know and be able to judge and evaluate everything. But he has commanded us to love one another as he loves us. There is no fear in love. (1 John 4:16-21)

- **Change you viewpoint.** Pray that God will give you his heart of love for the people in our land. His viewpoint is full of love and truth. God loves the sinner even though he clearly sees the sin that he or she is doing. Thank him for this enduring love.

Now, prepared and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, let us start to pray for current issues in our land! -RS-

Answers to prayer with thanks

- For the first time for many years the March for Life with some 5,500 participants was able to complete the entire route of the march through the centre of Berlin without any major disturbances. A report on the national ARD television station in August showed how much influence the “right-to-life” movement now has in Germany. Since 2003 the number of doctors who conduct pregnancy terminations has fallen by 40%! Many young people are now committed to the protection of life - and took part in the March for Life in Berlin.
- Even though the public and media are not particularly aware of it, God is hearing and answering our prayers to raise up advisors with the ministry of “Daniels” to serve politicians. We are increasingly receiving reports that amaze us and for which we give thanks. -RS-

Polarisation in our society

Our society is undergoing great change. Even though the prevailing topic at this time is the managing and the integration of refugees, our land is also deeply concerned in other areas and faced with change through the breakdown in well-established political and economic alliances, the replacement of jobs by modern technology, generational changes, etc. We sense that things will not stay as they were.

This causes anxiety and insecurity and creates fertile soil for extreme left and right-wing ideologies. We now need effective solutions for complex problems. People are yearning for “truth” to bring clarity and security. A battle is raging over what this all means and leading to an ever increasing polarisation in our society. Complex issues and also some individuals are often “labelled” too quickly and indiscriminately as politically extreme right or left-wing. Division, mistrust and fear of defamation of character are the consequences. Truth and lies are quickly spread in equal measure through social media.

Often no time is given to check the facts or for personal reflexion. Nothing that unites, only what divides is put forward. One-sided newspaper and television reports only contribute to this. Formation of opinion, consensus building and the finding solutions need time and a constructive atmosphere of trust. In the last few weeks problems in the administration of justice have also come to light. The courts

increasingly need our prayer in order to be able to make wise decisions with the necessary foresight.

Despite all past mistakes – politicians and all those who contribute to opinion formation and consensus building especially need our prayers at this time. We are peace-makers and our fight is not against “flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12). In all areas of unrest and dispute, in Chemnitz as well as in Koethen, Christians have come together locally to stand in prayer for this peace, both in church services and as the demonstrations are taking place. We want to strengthen their ministry through our prayers. When we do not allow ourselves to be seized with the spirit of fear and judgement, through our prayers we can also fill our land with the light and life of God. The Holy Spirit is our most important partner in this. He teaches us how we can pray effectively for God’s kingdom to be made known on earth!

Prayer:

- **We stand in prayer against the powers of division and anxiety with full confidence in the love of God. (Philippians 4:4-8)**
- **That destructive forces will not gain any further influence, and we again learn to listen to one another so that solutions can be found for all important issues that bring division into our society. (1 Peter 2:9)**
- **Place our politicians, government, media and courts of justice under God’s blessing and guidance. (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 12:14)** -AS-

Chemnitz and the consequences

Chemnitz now stands at the centre of political attention in Germany and also further afield thanks to the media coverage. Unfortunately the political reactions which followed recent events were based on the very limited availability of reliable information and led to a governmental crisis and the replacement of Hans-Georg Maassen, President of Germany’s Domestic Security Agency.

The blanket stigmatisation of the Chemnitz people as a “right-wing mob” in no way reflects the political orientation of the majority which, from former East German times, identifies itself rather with the left politically, as symbolised unfortunately by the Karl Marx Monument at a central location in the city. Psychological investigations into the origins of extreme right-wing positioning in the east bring back memories locally in the east of western “know-it-alls”. The middle-aged generation has a marked tendency towards mind control on the one hand and political-ideological dominance on the other.

Politicians and the media paint a completely distorted picture of the events in Chemnitz, yet each claim to have the right interpretation. Because of this, the rifts between people-groups in Germany are further widened. Calls of “We are the people” and proclamations of “But there are more of us!” reveal the human divide between the camps which is now extremely hard to bridge. Where the walls between people groups have to be broken down, it is first necessary to break down the walls between the people and God. It is not that a quick calming down of the situation or

toning down the image of the city is the answer, but rather that the Lord makes known his plans for revival in former East Germany in response to this political uprising. The truth is neither right nor left, but Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

- **We bless Chemnitz and pray for the release of the potential and calling of the people of Saxony and former East Germany. (Psalm 74:10-21)**
- **For the media to present facts and unbiased information instead of taking sides. (Luke 6:39-42)**
- **For justice and truth in all political debates. (1 Kings 3:8-12)** -KH-

Deepening the German-Israeli relationship

At the time of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, a German-Israeli Governmental Consultation took place in March 2008 for the first time with the objective “to cement the unique relationship between Germany and Israel through future-orientated political actions”. At that time Angela Merkel was the first ever foreign government leader to be invited to speak in the Israeli Knesset. She made an historic speech on German responsibility and partnership with regard to Israel.

10 years have now gone by, which have been marked not only by declarations of friendship but also by tension as our government has not always dependably stood on the side of Israel with undivided loyalty. In the Bible, the number 10 stands for the responsibility of mankind before God – in the 10 commandments for example. This means that our words must be followed by action. Now is the time for Germany to take its responsibility more seriously. “We must bring our relationship to the next level”, said the Israeli Ambassador Issacharoff, meaning that we should see more expression of the partnership between our two countries in civil society: in companies working together, in innovation and questions of security, etc. Youth exchange programmes are also significant as an important contribution to foster good relations with Jewish people and communities in Germany.

Prayer:

- **For God’s blessing on the German-Israeli Governmental Consultations on October 4th in Jerusalem. (Psalm 133)**
- **For a clear positioning of the government in its relations with Israel and that the relationship between the two countries finds expression in daily life in civil society. (1 John 3:18)**
- **For German-Israeli youth exchange programmes, so that good relations will be carried forward into the next generation. (Genesis 12:3; 2 Timothy 2:1-7)** -TF-

Dates for your diary

- 03.10.** German Reunification Day
- 07.10.** International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem
- 14.10.** State elections in Bavaria
- 28.10.** State elections in Hessen
- 31.10.** Reformation Day

*God’s blessings from
Rosemarie Stresemann, Alexander Schlueter and Team*