

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

November 2018

Dear intercessors,

The Holy Spirit is our most important advisor on earth. He is the “breath of God” who gives us life, energy and power. The Holy Spirit is never far from us. He is as close to us as our own breath! The atmosphere changes when the Holy Spirit is present. It is the Spirit who brings hope and freedom (Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 3:17), and drives away fear (Romans 8:15). The Holy Spirit is the one who can change the “spiritual atmosphere” in Germany! Without him we cannot bring new spiritual life into our land, but together with him we can change everything.

The Holy Spirit desires to work more closely with us. He wants to lead us so that “streams of living waters” will flow from within us as we pray for our land (John 7:38-39). He has the wisdom that is urgently needed to guide our next steps through the burning issues in our land and he already knows the right strategies to tackle the complex problems of our time. Above all he wants to show us solutions. Our prayers must be focused on solutions and not on the problems.

Further help will come from closer interaction with him, more dependence on him, and by carefully listening to what he says to us and how we should pray. Our prayers should release the life and ways of God for us all to see. Praying together with the Holy Spirit opens up new horizons and brings encouragement to boldly face the future and speak life and hope into our land.

Our land is now going through many shakings. But God is not the “destroyer”; rather he wants to bring his plans for Germany into fruition. Through all the unrest he wants to draw our land to himself and heal. Let us this month invite the Holy Spirit, as the source of life and hope and as the one who can change the spiritual atmosphere, to draw us into a closer partnership with him. Through him the kingdom of God comes in power when circumstances appear to be against us.

Practical steps in prayer

- **Be still and breathe in the presence of the Holy Spirit.**
Let his love flow within you and to all those around you. Be aware that through your prayers he will now fill you with new life, energy and power.
- **Invite the Holy Spirit to join with you** in prayer for the concerns in this month’s letter. In what way will he renew your vision, show you the way forward or reassure you? Perhaps he will enable you, together with him, to proclaim something new as you pray?
- **Look with the Holy Spirit into the future for our land.**
Can you see the kingdom of God coming as our land is being shaken? Can you lift your head and see Jesus stepping into the situation? (Luke 21:28). Perhaps your view is somewhat “clouded” at first by all the unrest in the land, but try to look together with the Holy Spirit behind or beyond the immediate circumstances.

-AS-

Answers to prayer with thanks

- At the German-Israeli Governmental Consultations, which took place in Israel last month in a very friendly atmosphere, significant new levels of cooperation in the areas of business and technology were agreed. It is good that the relationship between Israel and Germany in all areas of society will be put into practice. Most important was the agreement between the responsible ministries to establish German-Israeli youth offices. In October Bavaria was the first German state to open its own office in Tel Aviv for the promotion of German-Israeli cooperation. North Rhine Westphalia will follow later.
- North and South Korea have taken a further step towards peace and de-escalation of tension in having begun to remove the land mines in the high-security border zones between their two countries. -RS-

The German Constitution (Basic Law) is now 70 years old

Recently in my morning devotions I read: *“If you live in a country with a relatively stable government, thank God and keep praying for stability. In many parts of the world people suffer under instable governments and an uncertain future. The respect for law and order was at the top of Paul’s prayer list.”* God commands us time and time again to thank him. Paul expresses it this way: “always” and “for everything” (Ephesians 5:20). Have you ever thanked God for our democratic law and order? Or thanked him for our constitution that sets state and governmental action under “responsibility before God”? On May 23rd 1949 the new German Constitution was announced in Bonn. From then on it would be no longer possible to establish a totalitarian system of government which exercised absolute control over its citizens within its designated area of authority. The constitution opened the way to parliamentary democracy. We owe God thanks for his grace in showing us the way. Therefore we will hold a prayer conference in the town hall of Bonn-Bad Godesberg on May 24th-26th 2019 with the title “In responsibility before God”. Please save the date.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the free and democratic order in our country. (Colossians 4:2)**
- **Pray for the preparation of the conference: wisdom, unity, protection for all involved. (Psalm 133)** -RS-

Global upheaval – a world in changing times

We are living in times of world-wide upheaval on many levels, which are also greatly unsettling the people in our land. A transformation in societies and communities world-wide is taking place before our very eyes. Knowledge doubles every two years. People are increasingly becoming “replaceable” by computers and machines in this current “4th industrial and digital revolution”. Further processes of change are to be seen in demographic movements, in the rapid growth in world population, in an ageing population, and in the streams of refugees and migrants. The world has become a global village and we are now closely

interdependent at a cultural, economic and political level. Long standing alliances are faltering. The USA is increasingly relinquishing world markets to China (and other nations) and is drawing back from its role as "world-policeman". Our world is in a time of radical change!

We have been born "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). This new era needs a form and a direction. Men and women are required to lead our land into the future with new concepts, courage and foresight. We need "Daniels" to serve God without fear, to pray and bring God's kingdom to earth with exceptional wisdom and determination. The Holy Spirit is the source of answers for all our burning questions. He sees the times in which we live and will always show a way forward.

Prayer:

- **Holy Spirit, we need your wisdom and advice for these times! (James 1:5; John 16:13)**
- **For God-fearing people who can give good advice to our land in all areas of radical change and lead us into the future. (Daniel 1:20)**
- **For freedom from fear and the willingness in the body of Christ to boldly come alongside change in prayer. (Daniel 11:32)** -AS-

Changes in the political landscape and parties

The results of the state elections in Bavaria and Hessen attest to the dwindling support for the traditional people's parties and the consequent strengthening of support for the so-called fringe parties. A large number of those who voted differently were making a protest vote, as they no longer have confidence in the main parties: neither in the leadership nor in their policies which lack a clear direction. Holding on to power appears to be more important than looking out for what is best for our land. Among the voters and also within the parties there are widely differing opinions as to what is best for our land. The fragmentation of the political landscape is a reflection of the pluralism in our western society which has largely abandoned its former unifying Christian foundations and basic values. Thus every attempt to form a government now becomes a struggle to build a coalition and to agree on a government agenda. But this creates the opportunity for effective debates to once again be held to find the best solutions for society, whereas in the last few years the governing parties have unanimously followed the trend towards a leftist ideology. Risks for democracy do not emanate from having many parties, but rather arise when the majority rules over minorities. Winning of political support no longer happens through election promises. Parties and politicians must continuously think about the future for our society throughout the electoral period and respect political opponents, so that democracy can succeed in times of change.

Prayer:

- **For honest and effective debates between parties to find the best solutions for our land. (James 1:4ff)**
- **For the exposure of unrealistic left and right-wing "populist" policies that do not respond to the real needs of our society. (Luke 17:1)**

- **That Christian based answers will find a place once again in times of radical change in the political landscapes in Europe. (Matthew 6:10)** -KH-

Israel – media reporting and protection from attacks

The German media presents very one-sided reports, or does not report at all, on the actual threats which Israel constantly faces. There was not one word on the rocket attack from Gaza and the destruction of an Israeli home in Beer Sheva in October! Reports on Israeli defensive measures against the attacks on the border fence with Gaza are also very one-sided. It is not the brutality of the attacks that is presented, but how many deaths on the Palestinian side resulted from the purely defensive response. From the beginning of the so-called "March of the Return" late in the month of March, more than 50% of the newly forested and agricultural land on the Israel side of the border has been burnt by terrorist activity with kites and balloons carrying fire bombs and Molotov Cocktails, and in October several Israelis were killed. Hamas is under strong pressure from the Palestinian Authority (PA), and according to some agreements should be giving up its power in Gaza. Hamas is getting less and less money from the PA and is under extreme pressure from many sides. The overall situation around Israel is becoming more and more dangerous. In October Russia delivered to Syria four of the latest S-300 missile defence systems which are able to reach several targets simultaneously within a reach of 250km. For some time Israel has been able to stem the dangerous arms build up of Hezbollah by Iran through finely targeted air attacks. This line of action may no longer be a realistic option.

Prayer:

- **For a change in media reporting such that Israel's security concerns are clearly presented. (Proverbs 10:32; Psalm 25:4-5)**
- **Thanks and God's blessing for alternative Christian media which provide truly balanced reports on Israel. (2 Thessalonians 1:3)**
- **Proclaim Psalm 46 for the protection of the people of Israel.** -RS-

German Day of Prayer for persecuted Christians - Nov.11th

Over 200 million Christians suffer a great deal of persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Christians are in fact the largest persecuted religious group. As the western church we are called to stand by our brothers and sisters. As well as praying, it is also important to make known their suffering in our communities. We need to give persecuted Christians a voice and create awareness of this injustice through media and politics to bring about change. For details of the Open Doors International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (in English) see:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/international-day-of-prayer-2018/>

Prayer:

- **For more public awareness and a strong engagement of our political leaders to stand by and seek justice for persecuted Christians. (Proverbs 24:10-12)** -AS-

God's blessings from

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