

March 2019

Rebuild, restore, and reconcile

We would like to begin our prayer-time this month with two Bible verses:

*“They will **rebuild** the ancient ruins and **restore** the places long devastated.”* (Isaiah 61:4)

*“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation.**”* (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Much in our world lies in ruins, is broken, and many are suffering as a result. Values on which our society was once based are rapidly losing their relevance. What do we now do in response to this reality? **Rebuild, restore, and reconcile.** Nehemiah saw the broken down walls of Jerusalem in his time. But he did not let the ruins just lie there. He rolled up his sleeves and began to rebuild. This is an example for us as intercessors, for in every age there is a need for visionaries who can see and take hold of the restoration plan of God for their time despite the devastation all around them ... and then get to work. God has given us a ministry for restoration – not for destruction. And it is our prayers that make this happen.

What if we do not immediately see that our prayers are bringing about the changes that we desire? We need to have a firm faith in God’s trustworthiness and staying power. Not everything happens over-night. God often works over an extended period of time. Indeed, have we as a nation not seen how God brought down the wall that divided Germany in His time plan and made reunification possible? We have a God who has again and again made it possible for us as a nation to make a new start.

Our world is waiting (often unknowingly) for good news. When you begin your time of prayer, be aware that God’s Spirit is resting upon you (as in Isaiah 61:1-2) **in order to heal, to proclaim freedom, to restore, to bring good news.** Not only evangelists announce good news, but also intercessors. And then we have also been given **the ministry of reconciliation.** This ministry can only be taken on with a tender heart, as it must demonstrate the loving heart of God and his deepest concern for a fallen world which he reconciled to himself long ago in Christ Jesus. And we should also take the opportunity to express this deep concern in our prayers.

As you begin your time of prayer:

- a. Just imagine how God today is using your prayers to bring restoration and reconciliation to our land.
- b. First of all thank God that he is going to hear and respond to your prayers.

-RS-

Answers to prayer

- We thank God that in January once again a planned terrorist attack by Islamists in Germany was thwarted. In Schleswig-Holstein three Iraqis were arrested as they were experimenting with explosives. We continue to pray for the prevention of all such terrorist attacks.

- The compromise proposal for a minor revision of the Basic Law Section §219a (forbidding the advertising of abortion services) was adopted in the German Parliament despite strong opposition.
- As a sign of desire for further reconciliation with Russia, the German government plans to support the victims of the siege of Leningrad in WW2 who are still alive today with 12 million Euros and amongst other things to modernise a hospital for war veterans. (Prayer request for “Standing in the gap for Russia” in Prayer Letter February 2017).

-RS-

Christian Convention Germany (CCD)

“Come together! Seek me as one body!” is the focus and aim of the “Christian Convent Deutschland”. The CCD is not a new organisation but a means to bring together churches and other Christian movements. In June of last year 200 leaders met together for the first time. Jesus was really at the centre of the gathering and much time was taken for sharing and getting to know one another. The result was a new experience of unity in diversity and sincerity of heart. A second convention (CCD II) is planned for July 1-3 this year when the focus will be on listening to God. If you want to be part of what God wants to do in July, it will be possible to log-on from home during this time and follow the proceedings in prayer.

Prayer:

- **We are amazed by what God is doing at this time and we thank Him! (Habakkuk 3:2)**
- **For mutual recognition in love during CCD II and that unity in seeking after God’s heart will continue to grow in our land. (John 17:20-23; 2 Corinthians 5:16-20)**

-AS-

Praying with your feet

For us as members of the organisation “Pray and Move Together”, praying for Germany is very much on our hearts. We have been “infected” by God’s love for our land. Our desire is that God will pour out his Spirit on our land and that many will come to know Jesus Christ, that the body of Christ will grow together, and that there will be a renewal of spiritual values in the land. Therefore we make the effort time and time again to walk through Germany to pray and to bless. God loves to hear and answer our prayers.

Our next goal is to make a pilgrimage this year along the former border between East and West Germany, 30 years after the Berlin wall fell. In this way we will thank God for the miracle of the reunification. About 10 organisations will each take on a section of the entire walk. Together we want to pray for reconciliation, understanding and a new spirit of cooperation with one another across the old divide. The planning of such a project always comes under attack and needs prayer for protection by intercessors in the land. (<https://betenbewegen.de/>)

Prayer:

- **Success and protection for the spiritual and practical preparation for the walk, especially for the leaders. (Isaiah 54:17)**
- **For good spiritual cooperation between the various organisations that take part. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)**
- **For wisdom in planning for the future of “Pray and Move Together” and for more young people to take part. (Psalm 25:4-5)** -Bettina Auerswald-

Immigration and a policy for families and children

For the first time the “Grand Coalition” government (CDU/CSU/SPD) has in Germany introduced an immigration law. The main motivation for this law is the shortage of young people in the jobs market. The new immigration law for skilled people will however mainly attract skilled workers from countries which are weaker economically and who were trained locally at some considerable cost. The free movement of people within the EU is already draining eastern countries of talented workers and is tearing their families apart. The ageing of our population is not a natural phenomenon, but is rather self-imposed. Our individualistic society is now reaping, with an over-all shortage of young people, what we have collectively sown with a single focus on material prosperity, consumerism and self-advancement. Children are considered to be a burden rather than a blessing. If we want solutions for the consequences in our economy and the provision of health care and pensions, then we first need to repent for this self-imposed crisis.

After World War 2, bombed out Germany benefitted from an economic miracle which was made possible in part by the immigration of workers, mainly from southern Europe. Today Germany is now a rich country. When young people in other parts of the world do not find employment, we can offer to provide training for them here. On the other hand when the gaps in our economy have to be filled with skilled workers from poorer countries, we stack up one injustice on another. The cure for our shortage of young people lies above all else in a policy in favour of families and children.

Prayer:

- **Repentance for freedom without taking responsibility for the next generation. (Nehemiah 1:5-7)**
- **For turning away from individualism towards readiness to make sacrifices and to knowing the joy and blessing of children. (Psalm 127:3-5)**
- **For wisdom in the formulation and implementation of the planned immigration law. (Proverbs 8:14-16)** -KH-

European election

The European election is being described as an “election of destiny”. It is predicted that the large parties (Christian-democrats and Social-democrats) will lose seats and that the small right-wing and left-wing parties will gain seats. The polarisation of the European Parliament reflects the splits that are occurring throughout Europe. Excessive EU legislation, immigration policies and economic disparities are splitting Europe between east and west, north and south.

In a recent video, Ben Fitzgerald, speaker for the youth movement “Awakening Europe” is calling the Christians in

Europe to pray for the election and to vote God-fearing politicians into the European Parliament. This call was initiated along with the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM). Many MEPs who have stood for Christian values in the Parliament for a long time will not stand for re-election for reasons of age. Others have great difficulty in getting nominated for their party’s election list. We need politicians who can bridge front lines, are peacemakers and can contribute to solutions either from the left or from the right with wisdom. Christian politicians with a clear message based on our biblical values will be opposed, but heard.

The lists of candidates for the election are largely complete. Let us now pray for God to give success to those who stand for Him.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the European community and 70 years of peace in Europe. (Luke 1:68-72)**
- **Repentance for the falling away of Europe from our Christian foundations. (Numbers 14:19)**
- **For righteous politicians after the heart of God for the new European parliament. (Psalm 115)** -KH-

New elections in Israel

After the Israeli Parliament had decided in December to dissolve itself, new elections will take place on April 9th. It is not at all clear whether the current Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has been in power since 2009, will again be able to build a majority government. He is now under pressure from all sides. The opposition has been trying for a long time to force him out of office with charges of corruption. The party landscape in Israel is deeply divided as in Germany. The last coalition was built from 6 (!) parties. Old parties are falling apart, new ones are now forming. The former Chief of Staff of the IDF Benny Gantz, who has not been politically active until now, has formed a new party and has now united with Yair Lapid of the Yesh Atid Party into a single election block. Another former commander of the IDF, Gabi Ashkenazi, has joined this alliance. United in opposition they could defeat Netanyahu, although the security situation is for many Israelis one of the most pressing political issues. As the Knesset has just 120 seats, the winning election alliance must gain at least 61 seats.

What is significant from a spiritual standpoint is how politicians stand with regard to God’s promises for the land. Since their withdrawal from Gaza the Israelis are experiencing nearly every day the fact that the idea of giving up “land for peace” does not line up with God’s purposes and blessings.

Prayer:

- **We lift the name of Yeshua, the King of the Jews, over all that happens politically in Israel. (Philippians 2:8-11)**
- **That God gives to politicians, who want to do his will, favour with the people. (Genesis 39:21; Proverbs 3:1-4)**
- **That after the elections a viable and stable coalition can be built. (Genesis 12:2)** -RS-

*United with you in God’s love,
Rosemarie Stresemann, Alexander Schlueter and Team*