

## CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

December 2019

### Light and darkness

**“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.”** Isaiah 60:1-2. This Bible verse has guided us for many years and we have taken this as God’s message also for our land. We are living in a time of radical change, in which we are increasingly faced with a clash of darkness and light. Our world is being shaken as God’s kingdom and glory comes ever nearer. This is necessary “so that what cannot be shaken may remain”. (Hebrews 12:27). The cause for the shaking is the coming glory and soon return of Christ. God’s everlasting kingdom – the plans and purposes of heaven – are becoming more and more evident on earth ... and reaching into the kingdoms of this world. Thus the second coming of Christ will have a liberating impact at all levels of politics, society and man-made systems and also reach into our churches and communities and into our own lives.

With the breakthrough of God’s glory, light shines into darkness and new things come to birth. Even though the changes and shakings are really not easy to bear, we do not need to fear them, as they are not taking place to bring harm or destruction to our land. They are in fact intended to bring glory to Jesus and his work, which by grace he will continue to do in our land.

During this time God is calling us **(1) to stand up, (2) to be light, and (3) to be aware of an increase of his glory over us and our land**, and to expressly welcome an unfolding and intensifying of his glory. By this we make it clear to God that we are not just simply waiting for his glory to be revealed, but that we are actively coming alongside him with our “standing up” and “being light”.

### How should we be praying at this time?

- **With a deeper dependence on the Holy Spirit.** We are entering a period of time such as never before. We cannot therefore take assurance from any past experiences. At first this makes feel insecure, but at the same time it enables us to more deeply rely on the presence of the Holy Spirit in our prayers. (Luke 11:1).
- **With new thoughts and new ways to act.** We can then trust that the Holy Spirit will reveal to us more deeply the plans and purposes of Jesus for very specific issues in our time. Grace is there for us, to think, pray and act in a new way. (John 1:16).
- **With increasing maturity and responsibility.** Our prayers must be marked by a new level of maturity and an accompanying authority and responsibility for our land. We may then expect new and greater results from our prayers.

- **With more awareness that God is at work.** God will give us as intercessors a deeper awareness of his presence and actions in extremely difficult situations and a firm grounding in him as the fountain of “life and light”. (Psalm 36:9).

### Together before God’s throne

We are all aware as intercessors that simply recognising and analysing negative developments in politics and society (e.g. gender, abortion, etc.) is not enough. Instead of just confirming the areas in which our society has failed, we want to make room for God to work effectively in our land by asking him: “How Lord would you like us to respond to this development in prayer?” We sense that God will equip us with new faith and boldness and by partnership and agreement in his purposes we will be able to speak new life into those areas of society thought to be long lost. (Matthew 6:10).

In bringing the serious issues in our land in intercession before God, as well as in learning to pray from the heavenly realms - which means according to God’s purposes for his glory and in the power of his coming kingdom - we are encouraged, despite the growing darkness, to expect God’s intervention with greater faith. Even when we as intercessors may interpret actual developments differently, let us stand together before God’s throne with all our differences. A deeper reliance on hearing from the Holy Spirit as one body will lead us to grow in maturity.

**Let us now begin our prayer time by first and foremost keeping in mind God’s power and glory.** -AS-

### The peace and protection of God

The radical changes in our time are creating a strong sense of insecurity in our society. The consequences are not only impatience, a lack of understanding and harsh criticism of those who think differently, but also anxiety, depression and fatigue. So now during this time of Advent we will therefore place our land under the blessing and protection of Jesus, who wants to be the Prince of Peace and Wonderful Counsellor in our land and to draw our people to himself. (Isaiah 9:6). -AS-

### Political and spiritual turn-around

We live in a time of political and spiritual change. The results of the recent state elections in Brandenburg, Saxony and Thuringia have made it no longer possible for the traditional peoples’ parties (CDU and SPD) to form a majority government. The AfD (Alternative for Germany) party, with significantly more than 20% of the votes in all three states, is now the second strongest. And 30 years after the fall of communism in former East Germany, the Leftist party, as successor to the communist SED party, is now the strongest with more than 30% of the votes. As a result, the former “marginal” political parties now have a majority in the Thuringia State Parliament. The CDU and

SPD are now themselves being marginalised by the parties on the extreme left and right, and the survival of the coalition in the national government is now under threat. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall has also revived the discussion of the East German past. While in Germany the guilt of the Nazi dictatorship has been worked through and there has been much repentance at many levels, the SED communist dictatorship as an illegitimate government is now being “relativized” (considered acceptable under the circumstances) and even idealised. In our prayer conference in 2017 in Berlin, we uncovered the spiritual roots of Marxism which led to East German Communism and the Neo-Marxism of the '68 movement in the West. Let us continue to bring these roots into the light, to remove the ground from under the feet of increasingly undemocratic, anti-Christian political movements, and to pray also against the insurgency of neo-nationalistic parties. We will not give over our land to those who want to bring only chaos, but take hold of our mandate to reign as the church of Jesus Christ: Germany has received a calling as a father nation that must come to full maturity, overcoming all these destructive systems. (1 John 2:12-17; Isaiah 60:1).

**Prayer:**

- **We take hold of this opportunity to see a political and spiritual turn-around in Germany, for which Jesus is holding the door open for us: his lordship should be clearly evident in this Advent season. (Isaiah 9:1-7)**
- **Thanks for the political turn-around 30 years ago; we repent for the half-hearted confession of the guilt in former East Germany and the acceptance of extreme leftist socialistic politics. (Daniel 9:15-18)**
- **We call our leaders to turn back to our Christian foundation and guidelines, which have made Germany and Europe strong, humanitarian, prosperous and free. (Ephesians 3:14-19)** -KH-

**Prayer for a new generation of intercessors**

God loves families and desires that all generations come together in order to present themselves before him. Our land needs the prayers of our children, our youth and our young adults. They should all grow in the knowledge that they carry a responsibility for our land. Great promises lay on the prayers of the young generation and we read in Psalm 8:2: “From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.” God openly assigns special authority to the prayers of children. He also needs their prophetic voices (Acts 2:7) and promises to teach them personally and give them peace. (Isaiah 54:13).

The time has begun when God wants to bring together the hearts of all generations! He starts with the hearts of the (spiritual) fathers and mothers and turns them towards their daughters and sons. As a prayer movement our heart's desire is to see the fulfilment of this promise within the Call of the Watchmen, and we ask God to draw young people into our prayer network and show us the right way to encourage this.

**Prayer:**

- **For a divinely inspired drawing together of all generations to pray in unity for our land. (Malachi 4:5,6)**
- **For the release of young people to discover and take hold of their mandate to pray. (1 Timothy 2:1,2; 4:12)**
- **That God will show us in the Call of the Watchmen practical ways in which young and old can pray together. (Psalm 27:11)** -AS-

**Shakings in domestic politics in Israel**

The struggle, that has now been going on now for many months, to build a government in Israel continues. After Benny Gantz, in opposition to Bibi Netanyahu, failed in November to build a government coalition, the baton has been passed to the Israeli Knesset (parliament) to see if 61 Knesset members can agree on the appointment of a Prime Minister. If this does not succeed, in March 2020 there will have to be a third election within a period of one year.

At almost the same time as Gantz failed to form a government, the Attorney General Mandelblit announced that the State of Israel is filing charges against Netanyahu in three cases of corruption. This is the first time in the history of Israel that a charge has been brought against a government leader while in office and lends additional anxiety and instability on the domestic political crisis. Whilst Mandelblit argues that the start of the procedure is legally justifiable, Netanyahu has accused the police and the Attorney General of an attempted coup to overthrow him as a “right-wing” Prime Minister. Faced with this domestic political crisis in Israel, we as intercessors now have an urgent request: “Lord, teach us to pray!” (Luke 11:1ff). Let us stand by Israel at this time of upheaval and earnestly pray for God's will to be revealed and for the breakthrough of His kingdom, so that “what cannot be shaken will remain” (Hebrews 12:27,28) and the name of God will be glorified in Israel.

**Prayer:**

- **Call for the increase of the government and peace of God over Israel and His zeal to perform it. (Isaiah 9:7)**
- **That light and truth will be revealed and become the guidelines. (Psalm 43:3)**
- **For the fear of God and that his counsel and purposes will stand. (Deut. 10:12; Proverbs 19:21; Psalm 33:11)**

**Give thanks at the year end**

As this year comes to an end and we enter into a new year, we have so many reasons to give thanks. In what ways have we experienced God's help, individually and as a nation? Take time to stop and think about this for a moment. Then let us end this (prayer-)year 2019 with “fireworks of thanks” for God's goodness, grace, protection, mercy and love for us and our land. He is worthy to receive our thanks!

*God's blessings at this time of Advent and Christmas  
from Alexander Schlueter and Team*