

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

February 2020

20th Anniversary of the Call of the Watchmen

This is a good reason to celebrate! But this is not primarily the 20th birthday of an organisation – no, this is also **your** birthday as one of our intercessors. **Together we are the Call of the Watchmen!** Whether you have been with us from the start or just recently joined, individually or as a group, we have together brought our nation before God's throne for 20 years, in more than 175,000 hours of prayer! I am sure that there is rejoicing in heaven. So we celebrate the goodness and grace of God by which we have been able to be faithful to our calling to pray for Germany, day and night. But we also thank you for your faithful investment in time and commitment to pray. And thanks for your financial support – perhaps with a birthday present this month?

What do you see?

Recently I heard the Holy Spirit speak into my heart: "What do you see when you take a look at Germany?". And I realised that he was asking me this because he was wanting to realign my spiritual view and expectations to see what he is actually doing in our land. God is able to do immeasurably more than we can imagine (Ephesians 3:20). We need to ask God to sharpen, extend and renew our vision and expectations for the coming year of prayer as watchmen.

Prayer:

- **Thank you, Holy Spirit, for your leadership as we have watched and prayed for our land for the past 20 years.**
- **Revive the eyes of our hearts so that we can pray for this land with a new vision and fresh expectations. (Ephesians 1:18; 3:20)**

Action: "Happy Birthday - Call of the Watchmen":

Please write to us in just a few sentences by letter or email, about what the Call of the Watchmen has meant to you personally or in your prayer group. You could also send us a short video clip. We would love to hear from you. We will post your comments on our web page (with or without your name - as you wish) and so give praise and honour to God. Are you ready to do this? Then please write to us at: info@waechterruf.de. -AS-

Thanks for answers to prayer

- In an important debate and vote on the legitimate conditions for **organ donation**, the German parliament has agreed to a solution that requires the consent of the donor, having previously rejected a solution that would require a documented objection to avoid organ transplant. Let us continue to pray for the right way forward for this sensitive issue.
- At the **Libya Conference** in Berlin, Germany was able to bring the parties in conflict to sit together at one table. A small but not insignificant first step. Now we must continue to cover the conflict in prayer and pray for a sustainable solution.
- **Federal President Steinmeier** gave a speech at the 5th World Holocaust Forum in Yad Vashem on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

He was the first German leader to have spoken at Yad Vashem and his speech was well received in Israel.

- Many have responded to our initiative to **pray for our national parliament**. Thank you! Not all of the 709 parliamentarians yet have a "prayer partner", so the prayer initiative is being extended into February. If you have not yet registered to pray for a member of parliament, send an email to mdb@waechterruf.de and we will send you by return email the name of "your" personal parliamentarian, for whom you are assigned to pray. -AS-

Prayer for the climate change debate

In the last few months no subject has occupied the public debate in our land so much as the concern over climate change and protection of our environment. Controversial issues have been discussed, researched to find the truth, described in detail, and agreements on ways and actions to tackle the issues have been sought. The social and technological implications to be considered are extremely multi-faceted. Too often questions concerning our life-style, consumer behaviour or how we ourselves or others are dealing with environmental issues are seldom taken into consideration, although these are certainly factors which belong to the climate change debate. Very often it is fear and anxiety which is driving the discussion – especially in younger people. Our land is filled with anxiety. How should we pray for such a comprehensive and complex issue? First of all, we need God's help in these times of unprecedented change. We can ask him for realistic solutions for the coming decade – because he is ready to help. This month we want to focus on three specific prayers in relation to climate change.

Prayer:

- **For a return to dependence on God who has entrusted the care of his creation to us and on his wisdom in how we act in this time of change. (Genesis 1:27-28)**
- **For the adoption of wise and future-oriented practices in politics, industry and the economy wherever a completely new approach is necessary. (Daniel 1:20; James 1:5)**
- **For all the generations to come together in this decade. We call upon the youth to come alongside the older generation and we speak blessings, wisdom and protection over all of them! (Malachi 4:6)** -AS-

Prayer for peace in Iran

On January 3rd the USA military killed the Iranian General, Chief of Security and Foreign Minister Qasem Soleimani. He had ordered the destruction of the US Embassy in Baghdad. As the Commander in Chief of the Iranian Quds Force, he was aggressively extending the military and political power of Iran in the Middle East.

During the Syrian civil war, together with Russia he supported the Assad regime and established many military bases along the border with northern Israel. In response to

the elimination of Soleimani, the Iran government announced its intention to withdraw from the JCPA nuclear deal with Iran and fired on military bases occupied by US forces. In the same night a Ukrainian passenger plane was shot down over Tehran and there was an earthquake not far from the only nuclear power station in Iran which was built by Russia.

On January 14th, Germany, France and Great Britain initiated a procedure to settle the dispute in order to save the nuclear deal with Iran. The economy and the supply of essential goods in Iran are suffering from the sanctions imposed by the USA since the USA withdrew from the nuclear deal. Even before the death of Soleimani there were mass demonstrations in Iran against the Mullah regime in which hundreds of protesters were killed by the Revolutionary Guards. After the shooting-down of the Ukrainian plane there were again protest demonstrations against the Iranian leadership. Islam is increasingly losing ground and the underground church in Iran is the most rapidly growing network of Christian believers worldwide.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the Christians in Iran and their love for Israel. We bless their mandate to take control and act against all the destructive plans of the enemy. (Zechariah 14:16)**
- **That the influence of Iran through military support in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and to Hamas in Gaza will be shattered and that the alliance between Iran, Russia and Turkey will be broken. (Psalm 2)**
- **For the withdrawal of Germany from the JCPA nuclear deal with Iran. (Isaiah 31:1-3 –for Egypt read Iran!)**
- **For the fall of the Islamic Mullah regime and for freedom for the Iranian people. (1 Timothy 2:1-4) -KH-**

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in Europe

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union was introduced over 50 years ago. It regulates the use of agricultural land in the EU member states and takes up almost 40% of the EU annual budget. The policy is reviewed by the EU every seven years and the distribution of subsidies to farming industries revised accordingly. Advice is now being considered for policy changes in the next period (2021-2027). The agricultural policy was initially set up in Germany after the war when people were starving in many areas and needed access to affordable food supplies within Europe. By way of the domestic market and price subsidies, farmers could be assured of making a living. Today the EU agricultural policy is based on (1) direct payments to agricultural concerns (73%) and (2) payments to encourage the best use and development of the land, environmental protection and animal welfare. Direct payments are now being limited and are linked more to the support of environmental and climate policies. In addition, medium-sized farms need more financial help to survive. In future the agricultural policy must seriously consider and take responsibility for the development of farming lands, including environmental concerns (soil degradation by over-use, more biodiversity in farming) and the fair treatment of

animals. But we as consumers are also required to be more conscious of our purchasing decisions and be more appreciative and value the quality of the food we buy.

Prayer:

- **Thanks and appreciation for the work of farmers in Europe. They work hard to provide us with the nourishing food we need for our lives. (Genesis 8:22)**
- **Pray for agreement on a European agricultural policy which results in a healthy balance between consumer needs, environmental protection and animal welfare and the livelihood of our farmers. (Psalm 37:5) -AS-**

Prayer for Lebanon

Lebanon is now in the worst economic and financial crisis since the civil war in 1990. The Lebanese people are suffering from redundancies, wage reductions and rapidly increasing prices. Since the middle of October thousands have been demonstrating against the political elite in the land which includes the terrorist militia Hezbollah. The mass protests led to the resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri on October 29th and left Lebanon without an effective government. After a power struggle, the new Prime Minister Hasan Diab, supported by Hezbollah, could announce his cabinet on January 21st, but the list of candidate names released a new wave of protests.

Spiritual leaders in the land are asking the international body of Jesus for prayer for their nation. Lebanon is mentioned in the Bible in connection with revival and a return to God in Israel (Isaiah 29:17-19). Lebanon (part of Assyria) will also have an important role in building the Isaiah 19 highway from Egypt to Assyria and be blessed as God blesses the three nations: Egypt, Assyria and Israel. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to sharpen our vision for the Middle East, and as the body of Jesus in the West, pray for the fulfilment of the plans and calling of God for these nations.

Prayer:

- **For God's voice to be heard in the political, economic and social unrest in Lebanon. (Psalm 29:5-6)**
- **For God's decrees to come to pass in the Middle East. (Isaiah 19:23-25; 55:10-11)**
- **For the body of Jesus to grow in strength in Lebanon and the Middle East. (Malachi 3:16-18) -TF-**

Knesset elections in Israel

After the failure to form a government in Israel in April and September 2019, new elections will take place on March 2nd. Let us continue to pray that Israel comes out of this political deadlock and its security remains assured. -AS-

Prayer:

- **For success to form a government in March and for protection in the meantime. (Daniel 2:21; Psalm 17:8)**

Dates for your diary

23.02. State elections in Hamburg
11.02.-13.02. Christian Management Congress in Berlin
23.02.-29.02. "Perspective-Changing Israel Tour"

*With thankful hearts and God's blessings,
Alexander Schlueter and Team*