

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

April 2020

“Now show me your glory”

was the cry from the heart of Moses (Exodus 33:18). “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here!”, he called out to God with great love and passion.

Not without you! This is also our cry in this time of crisis. **Lead the way for us as a nation, heavenly Father. And show us your glory!** We will follow you – even if it means a shaking and judgement – we just do not want to be without you. Forgive our wicked ways; help us to turn from them. As your people we humble ourselves before you (2 Chron. 7:14). Cleanse us from all unrighteousness. As a nation we want to again learn to fear you so that our knowledge of you grows (Proverbs 1:7). We want to get to know your character and ways better and accept your kindness **and** sternness – your instruction and correction (Romans 11:22). As a nation we submit to you, as your judgments are true and perfectly just (Rev. 19:2a). We trust in your love and your good plans for us (Jer. 29:11). Your kindness and faithfulness keep us safe and secure in all ways. (Jer. 31:3; Lament. 3:22).

As bride of Jesus in this world, we sense your desire to come closer to us. Let our hearts receive your peace (John 14:27). Let us fix our eyes on you (Hebrews 12:2) and get to know you more deeply, to grasp how wide, long, high and deep is your love (Ephesians 3:18) – in all your being and ways. Our devotion to you must grow. We are mindful of the heart’s desire of Jesus, who so loved this world (John 3:16), and we also want all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). He alone gives life and saves from death (John 10:10).

And so we call out: **Make your name great in Germany!** Come with fire and awaken deep passion in us for you! Open the eyes and ears of our people. Fill this land with the knowledge of your glory (Habakkuk 2:14). We call out **the blood of Jesus, his protection, his healing and resurrection power** over our land! This is the time of his favour. This is the time of his salvation (2 Cor. 6:2). Heavenly Father, let your goodness and glory be evident throughout the world. -AS-

Thanks and answers to prayer

- For protection and that comparatively few in Germany have become ill or have died from the corona virus.
- For an effective management of the crisis and a unified approach within our parliament.
- For active cooperation and solidarity within the general public. -AS-

Management of the health crisis at the political level

After a very difficult period at the political level in the past months, our government and parliament are now showing a great measure of unity, pragmatism, caution and ability to act in the struggle to establish an effective but moderate course of action in the present crisis. Health Minister Spahn, Chancellor Merkel and the Cabinet as well as the Federal States Council are now especially challenged to lead the country through the crisis with foresight and appropriate actions (and words) in cooperation with science and health

experts. This needs our prayers for God to provide his leadership at all political levels – in education, families, business, work and social care.

With the enactment of emergency measures to contain the spread of infection, basic rights afforded by our constitution, such as freedom of movement and assembly, have been severely restricted. The limitations, based on the protection of life and health, are supported by the majority of the people. Great care must be taken to balance these measures with the protection of democratic freedom. Let us pray that our government will find the most effective solutions and that peace will be maintained in the public arena.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for God’s support and help so far. (Jonah 2:9)**
- **Pray for God’s intervention and leadership, such that solutions and ways out of the health crisis will be found. (Psalm 91:4)**
- **For God’s peace to be on our land and for protection of our parliamentary democracy. (Ephesians 2:14) -AS-**

Shield of protection over the economy

The Federal Government and Parliament have agreed to enact, by way of an accelerated procedure, a shield of protection, unprecedented in German history since the war, with credit, guarantees, and other help to the economy, altogether in the order of about 1400 billion Euros, to lessen the financial consequences of the measures taken to address the corona virus crisis. With this, the parliament has laid aside the debt limitation rules set in German Basic Law. As well as billions to support medium-sized businesses, the self-employed, employees, parents and hospitals, a Business Stabilisation Fund for large businesses of 600 billion Euros makes up the greatest share, which should also make state investments and guarantees possible. The European Union Commission will now lay aside the EU Stability and Growth Treaty to allow a higher level of debt in the budget of member states. The Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme of the European Central Bank is putting the stability of the Euro at risk. The crisis is affecting German business in a time of limited growth due to the lack of innovation and investment in many areas.

Let us pray for innovative ways to revive our industries and that we set our trust once again in God instead of material security.

Prayer:

- **Repentance for all the materialism, consumerism, profiteering and debt-financing in our economy and financial institutions. (Proverbs 22:7-9)**
- **For a shield of protection from God for businesses, families, agriculture and supplies to all regions. (Psalm 46)**
- **That Germany as a leading economic nation can help other nations during a crisis. (Genesis 41:56-57). -KH-**

God's protection for our health system

Our health system is facing extreme challenges because of the current spread of the corona pandemic. Respiratory equipment and ventilators are limited, intensive stations are over-filled and there is already a shortage of disinfectants and personal protection equipment for doctors, nurses and paramedics. The central government and individual federal states are there to provide help and are doing their best. In the final analysis we however face the problem of production limitations and a situation for which we were not prepared. It is increasingly becoming clear that it is not only about shortage of "things", but the very real danger to people's lives. And it concerns the lives of both patients and medical personnel. The corona virus is an existential threat to our health system and reveals the reality of human helplessness in the face of an invisible but real "enemy" in our midst, as expressed by French President Macron in a recent address. Let us not grow weary at this time in praying for the people in our land, for the government, for production facilities and all workers in the health system. The river of life, that comes from the throne of God, flows through us into this world.

Prayer:

- **For protection, strength and the experience of God's presence and help for our medical personnel. (Psalm 23)**
- **For solutions for the provision of necessary equipment. (Philippians 4:6)**
- **For wisdom for all who bear responsibility and have to make decisions. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)**
- **Grace for medicine and science to discover the right treatment strategies. (Psalm 136:4)** -TF-

Family and social contacts

A side effect of the corona epidemic is that a special heavy burden has suddenly again been placed on family life. School and social departments are closed and many parents are suddenly spending most of their time at home because of "home office" or short time working. The decreed requirement to stay at home limits the area for social contact to a minimum. Many are experiencing a strengthening in family life. But for many the limitations however present an enormous endurance test. The social isolation harbours stress factors that are exacerbated by loss of earnings and worries about the future. "In the current crisis situation with severe limitations to public life, the danger for women and children of experiencing domestic and sexual abuse increases." This was communicated by the Federal Association to women's advice centres and women's emergency call centres concerning the corona crisis. God wants to restore relationships in times of uncertainty and strengthen the cohesion within society especially in the daily lives of families and those who live alone.

Prayer:

- **For protection and strengthening of relationships within families and between friends in this time of crisis. (Malachi 4:6)**

- **For creativity in establishing social contacts between friends and family members who live apart. (Philippians 1:3-9)**
- **For an increase in the power of Christian families to be good witnesses and a light to the world. (Matthew 5:16)** -TF-

Calling forth a culture of life

The decision of the constitutional court at the beginning of the year to now classify professionally assisted suicide as constitutional crossed a clearly ethical border line in our land. In an increasingly ageing society, we are now in danger that costly medical (palliative) treatment is not considered and instead allow people to end their life by way of euthanasia or assisted suicide, also without causing extra work and cost. Taking life thus becomes a service. But do we not much more want to be a society that supports sick, weak and old people to live rather than one that assists them to die? Human life is precious even in weakness and is worth protecting without question.

Last year over 100,000 babies were aborted in Germany. There are many different reasons for such a difficult decision, but they are often influenced by fear of not being able to meet expectations or to support the child especially if disabled. In this way we miss out on life! Let us pray for a "culture of life" in Germany that boldly supports life which with all its fragility is infinitely valuable.

Repentance/proclamation:

- **Lord, we repent deeply for our sin! (Psalm 51)**
- **Come, Holy Spirit, awaken our hearts to life. We call forth a culture for life! (John 10:10)**
- **For a transformation in society, for joy in life with the elderly, weak and with children. (Psalm 16:11)** -AS-

Friendship with Israel at this time of corona crisis

Germany and Israel are working during this crisis to bring home their citizens who are stranded in other countries. There is also cooperation in dealing with economic issues and the procurement of medical supplies and equipment. It is a mighty miracle that these two nations have now had diplomatic relations for 55 years. Mutual trust and friendship have very much grown during this time. Germany's calling to stand on the side of Israel must always include finding additional levels at which support is needed and more effective ways for this to be clearly demonstrated.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for the miraculous restoration of diplomatic relations after the Holocaust. (Psalm 95:1-2)**
- **For the further development of friendship between these nations. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)** -AS-

Dates for your diary

08.04.-16.04. Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread
10.04.-13.04. Passion and Resurrection of Jesus (Easter)
24.04.-23.05. 30 Days Prayer for the Muslim World

Passover/Easter blessings - Alexander Schlueter and Team