

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

May 2020

Suddenly!

*“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then **suddenly** the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come”, says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:1)*

We in Germany have often experienced winds of change. Very suddenly we were literally catapulted into a new age - most recently after the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) and the reunification of Germany (1990). A beacon of God’s grace! And now we are again in the middle of a **“suddenly”** from God which has impacted the entire world. Such an event holds within it the start of something new. To carry on as before is no option. Our world is forced to stop and think again. All over Germany there is noticeable fear and concern. And we all are challenged to look again into our life-style and management of time and to set new priorities. What is really important to us? What will bring us closer to God? What to hold on to, what to change?

And where do we stand with our desire for our nation to turn back to God in a radical way? Can we now count on a **“suddenly”**, a new undeserved work of the Spirit in Germany and Europe, a spiritual awakening? Yes, absolutely! We must all the more hold on to God’s promises, proclaim them, and glorify his name in our land with our thankfulness. We must boldly seek God day and night like the persistent widow in Luke 18. **Without a miracle, without God’s grace, without a new “suddenly” we will not make any progress.** May this crisis be the start of something new. Although we in no way deserve it, we want to see God working in our nation once again. *If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.* (2 Timothy 2:13). Even when shakings and darkness surround us in this time of crisis, we will see his glory rise up in power among us. -AS-

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD. HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR EVER. (Psalm 136:1)

In this month we want to encounter God with a “fiery display of thanks” and give him the honour. God has done so many good things in this time of the corona-crisis and we want to “prepare the way” (Psalm 50:23) for God’s continuing work in our land with our grateful thanks.

Thanks for the growth in prayer

- For the initiative “Germany together in prayer”, which brought a wide range of Christian churches, ministries and groups along with prominent leaders from politics and society together to pray online. Up to one million people took part.
- For national and international worship and prayer online, which brought the Body of Christ in Germany and throughout the world together in unity.
- For a new powerful Christian witness in the public domain and a new openness to the gospel.

Thanks for care and protection

- That in comparison with other nations a relatively low number of people in Germany have been infected and fewer have died from the corona virus; and thanks for a high rate of recovery.
- For a declining rate of infection, even though an all-clear signal still cannot be given (as of April 28th).
- For the tireless work of medical scientists and researchers, of doctors and care personnel, and for all those who work in occupational fields with a greater risk of infection.

Thanks for the observance of lock-down

- For the spirit of social cohesion and solidarity within our society in this time of stand still.
- For more time for the family through home-schooling.
- For home-office possibilities and being “forced” to take time to rest; for the cancelling of non-essential travel.

Thanks for the work of politicians

- For the cooperation at central and state governmental level and the confidence and trust shown by the people.
- For the crisis management and the search for the most effective actions in such an emergency as we have never experienced until now. -AS-

Prayer for God’s further help through the corona crisis

According to 1 Timothy 2:1-4 we now want to bless those in our government and to pray for them and our land.

- **For a rapid increase in understanding** in science and research as information is shared and for the development and testing of a vaccine. (Psalm 86:11)
- **For a high level of grace and wisdom** for those in government to conscientiously make the best possible decisions. (Isaiah 11:2)
 - For a successful **political discourse and unity** in the implementation of decisions.
 - For a **“holistic” approach** that keeps the many-sided aspects of the crisis (medical, legal, sociological, ethical) diligently in view.
 - For sound judgment when **issuing and relaxing orders**; for common procedures and comparable rules **nationally and in each state**.
 - For **strength and courage** to be able to master the crisis.
- **For solidarity within society** and that the needs of all (the elderly as well as children) will be considered and they all will get help. (Lamentations 3:22)
- **For appropriate financial support in all areas of the economy** – from large companies to shop-owners.
- **For necessary innovation and renewal measures** within our society to emerge from the crisis. (Isaiah 43:19)
- **For protection of our democracy** and the restoration of all citizens rights. (Psalm 23,3b) -AS-

Prayer for a spiritual awakening

The corona-crisis is locking us, under conditions of extreme stress, into the closed world view of human reason and the natural sciences. Contradicting recommendations from virologists are shaking our belief in science and once again bringing division within our society. Human reason with no dependence on God soon reaches the limits of its understanding. Uncertainty as to whether we as mankind are able to overcome anything like this pandemic, also in the face of damage to the economy, is widespread. Let us pray that the materialistic world view in Europe, which since the Enlightenment has increasingly taken hold within our society, will be shattered and that this will lead us all to cry out to God. So many more people are now logging on to worship services online than those who had been going to their local churches. We must not only contend for maintaining our church service and the restoration of our civic freedom, but also for the deliverance of people from their blindness so that they can see that our lives are not in the hands of the virus, but in the hands of Almighty God.

Prayer:

- **Thanks that churches are beginning to be light and salt “online” and ask for the spirit of prayer and supplication to be poured out. (Zechariah 12:10)**
- **For brave new ideas for witness and evangelisation and for workers for the harvest. (John 4:35)**
- **For streams of water to flow in this spring-time, not only in the natural on our dry land, but also in the supernatural for a spiritual awakening. (John 4:10-15)**
- **For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. (Acts 2:16-21)** -KH-

Germany – a land for the future?

We have crossed the threshold into a new season. Overall we need new ideas and plans for the future - in the areas of the economy, technology, environment, research and education. Things are changing faster than ever. As well as creativity and innovation, we need courage, readiness to take risks, and the will to change. The Holy Spirit will give us a hope and future. In the past, cloisters (houses of prayer) have strongly influenced our society to progress in science and education. We are created in the image of God who is always creating new things and already has creative solutions for us in every imaginable field. Can it be that we as intercessors have a God-given role to “give birth” to hope, future and progress in our land through prayer?

In the *World Economic Forum 2020* in Davos, we were reminded that our education system needs an overall renewal. The main purpose of our schooling can no longer be simply based on the transfer of knowledge. Skills such as creativity, team work, good relationships with fellow students and a focus on values must be included in the school curriculum. Could it be that Germany can again go forward as a blessing in serving other nations with its gift for research, invention and development through a renewed approach to education?

Prayer:

- **That science, research and economic strength in Germany will (again) be connected within God’s plans. (Jeremiah 29:11; James 1:5)**
- **That Christians in all areas of society will make use of their time with God-given creativity. (Daniel 1:20)**
- **For the renewal of our education system, such that schools will be able to equip our youth appropriately for life in the future. (Isaiah 43:19).** -AS-

Prayer for the Muslim world during Ramadan

Let us also pray for an awakening amongst Muslims in this time of Ramadan. Islam is increasingly losing influence in Iran through the corona-crisis. Mosques are closed and the celebration of the breaking of the daily fast has been severely limited in the very close Muslim family circles. Up until now our Turkish citizens have been especially immune from accepting the gospel message. Here in Germany they need to experience Jesus as doctor and saviour, also those in Turkey, as well as the thousands of refugees on the border with Greece and in the camps. Turkey should not be the gate for Islam to enter Europe, but rather a gate for the gospel message to reach into the Arab world.

Prayer:

- **We bless the Muslims in our land and in the Middle East. (Genesis 17:20)**
- **For creative ideas to form new relationships with Muslim neighbours during the lock-down. (Psalm 133)**
- **For an exodus out of the house of Islam. (Exodus 10:3)** -KH-

Anti-Semitism on the Internet

The number of anti-Semitic incidents against people and property rose world-wide in the year 2019 by 18% in comparison with the previous year. Germany sadly takes place number 3 in the list of registered cases. This does not include the large rise of anti-Semitism on the Internet. According to a long-term study by the Technical University Berlin, the number of anti-Semitic online comments alone tripled between 2007 and 2018. In thousands of texts, anti-Jewish stereotypical accusations are scattered and widespread, such as age-old conspiracy theories (now also with respect to COVID-19) as well as comments hostile to the State of Israel. The disruption of the online remembrance event of the Israeli embassy in Berlin on April 21st (Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel) with the posting of photographs of Hitler and calls from anonymous Palestinian participants is further alarming evidence of the development of anti-Semitism on the Internet.

Prayer:

- **For a clear positioning of government and people against the spread of anti-Semitism. (Zechariah 2:8)**
- **For the protection of Jewish life. (Ruth 1:16)**
- **For successful prosecution of anti-Semitic offences. (Isaiah 26:11; Psalm 54:1)** -TF-

For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (May 31st) in our land and at the Feast of Shavuot in Israel (May 29th)

- Alexander Schlueter and Team