

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

July/August 2020

Heal our land!

We are now seeing before our very eyes how unrest is shaking so many cities worldwide. Tension is widespread, nations are falling into turmoil. The devil is doing everything to drive people apart under the increasingly felt oppression by unremittably sowing fear and pride into our hearts.

As the Body of Christ, God has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). What a daunting task – just now! As intercessors we are more than ever called to stand in the gap (Ezekiel 22:30), to bind up and to restore (Isaiah 61). The world needs bridge-builders who in prayer bring people and nations together under God as he releases his heavenly resources to us all. In Revelation 22:2 we read that from the throne of God a *river of the water of life flows by the tree of life, yielding its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

Many relationships suffer from deep divides and wounds. The blood of Jesus has the power for forgiveness and reconciliation and offers the greatest victory at this time. The cross of Jesus is the place where people in fact experience a transformation thought to be impossible, and walls, factions and divisions are broken down, and all wrongs and every hurt are healed (Colossians 1:19,20). We should keep this in mind as we pray in these difficult times.

In many powerful ways the Holy Spirit is now binding together his Body in the nations, for he wants to make us “a house of prayer for all nations” (Isaiah 56:7; Mark 11:17).

He is working deeply within all of us to remove criticism, resentment, fear and pride from our hearts in order to overcome every division. We will find that appreciation and deep trust of one another will restore our relationships. Then we will no longer treat our differences as a threat, but we will “recognise” one another and accept our brothers and sisters as the longed-for enrichment that we all need. -AS-

Economy recovery package from the German government

The German government has announced a recovery package in the amount of 130 billion euros. For this the ceiling on debt is again no longer in force and the national debt will rise this year to 281.5 billion euros. This packet should strengthen demand, promote investment from businesses and municipalities, and will advance with 50 million euros the plans for changes in the way we use transport and energy and for digitalisation. With this package, a shrinkage of the economy with mass unemployment can be avoided, which would cost even more money in maintaining the social security system. The success of the measures to help the economy is however questionable, because the German economy as a champion in export trade is strongly affected by any slump in orders from other countries.

A boost in consumption by way of increasing national debt places the burden on the next generation and supports an overheated economic and financial system which is dependent on continuing growth. Let us pray that this crisis will be an opportunity to reform the entire economic system,

in which quality and sustainability will be given priority, instead of just numerical growth.

In the past 20 years biblically based economic models have been developed to take us over and beyond our current practice of socialism and capitalism. The biblical structure of families and the interactions of everyone involved in the overall economic system and the care of the environment are placed at the centre.

Prayer:

- **That in the coming economic crisis, Germany shows new ways for the world economy. (Isaiah 43:18ff)**
- **For an economy which serves and protects the lives of people rather than money. (Leviticus 25:35-37)**
- **That families will be strengthened as guarantor of the health of the future economy because of their major contribution to society. (Proverbs 31:10-31)** -KH-

Prayer for cohesion within our society

Social unrest has clearly intensified in the past months, both nationally and globally, and is increasingly evident in our daily lives. In times of crisis, social cohesion comes under strong pressure and the polarisation within society drives people apart. Our world is experiencing a major upheaval. Both young and old are equally affected. The conflicts between political camps and ideologies, which are strongly putting pressure on our democracy, are clearly sensed by us all. Furthermore, at no time in our history have we experienced such a demand for new ideas. This has an influence on almost all areas of our communal lives. We have to think again about many issues and find new ways to live together. The loss of security is also an issue which is causing much worry and anxiety.

From the spiritual point of view, times of upheaval need special covering in prayer. The powers of lawlessness and anarchy use fear and insecurity in order to create chaos and division. It now takes a watchful eye to cover our society, our cities and regions as well as our democracy in prayer. Peacemakers and bridge-builders between people are required to calm the tension-filled atmosphere and to lead people in their differing opinions to come together in unity.

Prayer:

- **For protection of our society, our cities and democracy from division and violence. (Psalm 140:4; Proverbs 14:34)**
- **For peacemakers and bridge-builders to bring hope and a positive view for the future into our land. (Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 29:18)**
- **That the people in our land find peace and rest in the summer period and gain new strength.** -AS-

EU-Presidency and Presidency of the UN Security Council

On July 1st Germany will assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. Originally Berlin wanted to settle the EU policy for control of migration into Europe and the EU relationship with China

within this period with a comprehensive resolution supported by all member states. Now with the corona crisis, the focus will instead be on EU crisis management, corona-exit-strategies and economic recovery. In addition, an agreement with Great Britain must be concluded by October 31st, to avoid a “no-deal” Brexit at the end of the year with unforeseeable consequences for the future relationship between the EU and Great Britain.

At the same time Germany takes on the Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of July, where Germany is a non-permanent member during 2019 and 2020. Up until now the German foreign ministry together with France has set the agenda to discuss the subjects of climate change, security, control of armaments, international human rights and migration, and to promote global answers to these issues.

In both councils, Germany will be presented with extremely high expectations in a time of an historic global crisis. Furthermore, in Brussels as well as in New York, our foreign office carries the controversial responsibility for international policy towards Israel, which is pursuing a two-state solution, substantiated by numerous UN resolutions.

Prayer:

- **That Germany uses its power in both councils to strengthen the servant role of the UN and EU with regard to the nations. (Matthew 20:25ff)**
- **For solutions to the crises and the relationships between nations to be according to God’s plans. (Psalm 111)**
- **For a new alignment in German policy, the EU and the UN towards Israel in accordance with God’s word. (Zechariah 12:1-9)** -KH-

Prayer for the police and public order

The recent events in Stuttgart again make it clear that the police need our covering in prayer. The police have the task to ensure the maintenance of public order and when necessary to restore order. They are the guarantor for the domestic security of our nation. For this the officers have an extremely demanding job, both physically and psychologically. Without the work of the police, chaos and anarchy would reign. Every reduction in the authority of the police therefore directly leads to a reduction in the level of protection for citizens.

The police claim that respect for them, as bearers of the sole right to exercise force to maintain order, has dropped considerably in the last few years. Police are provoked, insulted and threatened. Direct confrontation with the dramatic changes in societal behaviour requires a constant review and adaptation of the roll of the police and awareness of how the officers themselves are responding to the changes. There are also threats from left-wing and right-wing extremists who try to undermine the authority of the state. The police are under immense pressure. They do make mistakes which have to be investigated. But instead of then being abandoned by the people, it is important that the support of society, its citizens, politicians and the media, is again sensed and experienced by our police officers.

Prayer:

- **For protection and maintenance of public order in our cities and land. (Psalm 37:9)**
- **For physical and emotional protection for the police and that they again get the appreciation and respect from society that they deserve. (Romans 13:1-5)** -AS-

Israel and the West Bank

At the end of April we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the San Remo Peace Conference. The main purpose of this assembly of the Principal Allied Powers after World War 1 was to agree upon a new order for sovereign nations in the Middle East. The borders of “Palestine”, which were recognised in the Balfour Declaration (1917) as the homeland of the Jewish people, were then fixed according to Biblical evidence (from Dan to Be’er Sheva) as the historical boundaries of Israel. The Mandate decisions of the League of Nations in 1922 confirmed the legal rights of the Jewish people to the land, to which the so-called “West Bank” (in fact Judea and Samaria) also belongs. The land borders for Syria and Lebanon were also fixed at this time, based on the same legal principles and, contrary to the borders and sovereign rights of Israel, have not been contested to this day. Consequently, the claim of Israel under the so-called “annexation” plans cannot be treated as an “unlawful acquisition of foreign territory”.

The current plans of Israel are based on the Trump Peace Plan which also includes, amongst other things, the integration of about 30% of the West Bank into Israeli sovereign territory and, in exchange, the transfer of Israel territory of about the same area to the Palestinians. Contrary to peace efforts in the past, this plan requires concessions from the Palestinian side and is meeting strong opposition – from the Palestinian leadership as well as internationally. At the same time the plan contains painful concessions and security risks for the State of Israel.

Prayer:

- **For God’s wisdom and guidance for the Israeli government in these decisions. (Psalm 5:8)**
- **For a revelation of God’s peace plans for Israel. (Psalm 122:6; John 14:16,17)**
- **For Germany to stand on the side of Israel. (Joel 3:14)**

-TF-

20 years of Call of the Watchmen and passing the baton

In April we voted in a new board and chairman. We warmly invite you to a celebration where we want to thank God for the 20 years of the Call of the Watchmen prayer network and ask for his blessing for the next season. On September 12th at 10am we will meet near Stuttgart in Glory Life Zentrum. We will comply with all the necessary precautions to make it a safe gathering.

If you would like to attend, please register as soon as possible at: www.gebetsseminar.de .

*Blessings for a time of relaxation during the summer period,
Alexander Schlueter and Team*