

## CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

March 2021

### Our identity as intercessors

Who am I? Am I really accepted by God with all my faults and failures? How authentic can I be and still be liked by others? And how do I view my identity as an intercessor? What makes my prayer-life important and meaningful to me? Where does my worth as an intercessor lie? Is it in my knowledge and insight into how to pray effectively, in the answers I get to my prayers, or in who I really am as I stand before God? And how do I react when the social and political developments for which I earnestly pray do not turn out as I would expect?

God allows shaking in our lives ("the removing of what can be shaken") to establish a firm foundation and to lift us to the level of the kingdom of God where things are unshakable (Hebrews 12:26-28). In doing so, he answers the deep-seated questions of our identity with due care and love. Who am I, when everything begins to shake? Does my worth come from what I can achieve (outwardly) or from my relationship with God (inwardly)? Can we, with all our hearts, base our lives on the deep bond we have with God, or do we let our own thoughts and reactions determine who we are? And where does our identity lie within the body of Jesus in all its diversity? Does the revelation of the unity we can have in Christ influence our thoughts and lives?

Our identity lies in our being sons and daughters of God, we are "hidden with Christ in God". The significance that he attributes to us could not be greater: **chosen by him, created for good works, partaker of his divine nature, raised with him from the dead, seated in the heavenly realms** (Ephesians 1:3-6,20, 2:10; 2 Peter 1:4; Colossians 3:1-4). Let us finally cut the ties that bind us to thinking only about performance and self-improvement, and let us live and pray, "having clothed ourselves with Christ"! We want go forward, preparing ourselves for the future, taking part in shaping today and tomorrow and being a place of refuge in times of shaking. This is how we must see ourselves. Every intercessor is indeed a place of light, of change - a place where God's glory dwells. Arguing over the pros and cons of various opinions doesn't get us anywhere. We are sons and daughters of glory, bringing a new kingdom to this earth through prayer. This is our mandate!

### Steps to help us along the way:

- You are called to be an intercessor. You are the son/daughter of a powerful and loving father. Be assured!
- Hold fast when you feel that you do not yet understand everything. Talk to God about your concerns. He will give you an answer!
- Be willing to learn and be open to put your own point of view into question. Allow for a change of heart. Many different approaches can work side-by-side. Do not fall back into traditional ways, even if they make you feel more secure.
- Embrace the shaking in your life, yet still feel secure in God. He is especially close to us in times of crisis!

This is how we prepare ourselves for the future. With God's grace we can influence our society, which is not primarily asking questions of a political nature, but rather: *Can you show us who we really are? What is our purpose in life? How do we care for the environment and creation? How can we influence the future? What does it really mean to have unity and love in our society?*

The values of the kingdom of God will shine through us in the midst of darkness and demonstrate how a successful life is based on how we are caring for one another and how we show love and concern (Matthew 25:40). Let us start right now! -AS-

### Prayer of surrender to God

Father, move our hearts by what moves your heart. Bring us in line with you. Penetrate our innermost being. We want to be one with you. We hunger and thirst for righteousness. Purify us from sin. Sanctify us and give us an obedient heart. We want to know you and be completely permeated by you and your being, so that your name is hallowed in our country and you can be seen at work here and worshipped. Amen. -AS-

### Preparing for the future

What will happen after the corona crisis? We want to prepare for the future in prayer. Our society is currently under a great test of endurance. What "signals" do we want to send in prayer at this time?

As we enter into a new era, the spirit of the age (zeitgeist) with its impending backdrop of fear, revelation of new dangers to humanity, advancing technology, division within society and climate disasters should not take precedence in our prayers. Rather, the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to us the strategic plans of heaven. We will not be able to stop the shaking - including the political reactions - around us, but our prayers may then nonetheless be filled with hope and give expression to the ways of the kingdom of God. We do not want to be part of the problem, but rather "bind and heal" our land (Isaiah 61:1).

The current shakings are not primarily about the political scene. Rather, they relate to mankind and our worth before God.

(1) The world view of being able to plan and execute everything has been severely shaken by the painful experience of a loss of control. We can no longer foresee and make plans for our lives at home, at school, at work, on vacation, etc. This triggers fear.

(2) Our consumer and performance-based society is falling apart under the growing disregard for the whole person, physically, mentally, spiritually. "Higher, further, faster" is no longer a driving force that is sufficient to meet the needs of our society.

(3) There is a growing loss of real solidarity and the security which is only experienced by trust in God and our loved ones.

(4) There is a lack of willingness to consider different opinions. Polarization based on fear turns the one who thinks differently into an enemy rather than one who may offer a better solution. Corona has brought conflicts to the surface that were already there. Pointing to moral failures in our society and praying for a return to conservative values is not enough. We need the kingdom of God to be established within our society. Let us be prepared to be involved in future developments and become a place of security and a part of the solution and the way forward.

Prayer:

- **That we as intercessors now spend much time in prayer to become those who take part in building the future and bringing the glory of God into our land.** (1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 2:8)
- **For the protection of our society in these times of shaking and for a recognition of the work of God in all things.** (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:3-4)

### Revival of the economy

The business sectors of retail, gastronomy, motor vehicle trade, travel agencies and tour operators, as well as the education, arts, culture, sports and recreation sectors, which have been closed down by the lockdown, together account for around 13% of the gross value-added business in Germany. Other industries have also been affected. Around two million employees are currently on short-time. The last date for the filing of insolvency in accordance with the government rules has been extended until the end of April 2021. As a result of the closures, entire industries have become dependent on government payments or have gone bankrupt. Companies that have grown over centuries are facing ruin, resulting also in the loss of their knowledge and experience. Medium-sized companies are not only responsible for their employees, but also for the provision of goods and services within our country to their customers and partners, and for the training of specialists in their industry and for the support of their local community.

Let us bring before our God the good seed that has been raised and sown over generations and has created a strong economy, committed to serving the surrounding area and indeed our land, and pray that this seed will be preserved and sifted so that it will be there to support and bring forth a revival in our economy. Our prayers should bring new hope and perspective, especially to well-established companies which are now on the brink of bankruptcy or have already had to close. Entrepreneurs do not want to be reliant on state funds, but rather want to operate their businesses independently.

#### Prayer:

- **Thanks for the German economy and for all the material, social, and cultural wealth and prosperity it has produced for our land. (Psalm 106:1-5)**
- **For protection and financial security for well-established businesses. (Deuteronomy 30:8ff)**
- **For entrepreneurial freedom where governmental restrictions limit creativity and flexibility to develop the business. (Proverbs 29:4 - *By justice a king builds up the land, but he who taxes heavily tears it down.* ESV.)** -KH-

### Legalisation for changing gender entries in official records

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice have allowed a draft of a "law on changing gender entries and first names" to be drawn up, according to which it should be possible in future to change the recorded gender simply with a declaration in person at the registry office. The subjective perception and conviction of the person concerned will then be accepted to determine his or her gender, independently of physical biological distinguishing features.

On the basis of the "Transsexual Act" in Germany, changing gender is already possible upon submission of two medical reports. According to the new draft law, this requirement is to be completely abolished for adults and simply replaced by an obligation to seek advice. The advice should be provided by people with sufficient experience with transgender or intersexuality matters, so meeting the approval of the lobby groups. For adolescents over the age of 14, a court must obtain a non-medical professional report that confirms the validity and urgency of the request. According to the "Law on Protection from Conversion Treatment", which has been in force since 2020, treatments for an apparent change in sexual orientation or self-perceived gender identity are already prohibited for

minors. However, both conditions go through various phases of development during puberty and have not yet been specifically identified in law. The draft law is thus pursuing a further change in defining gender identities.

#### Prayer:

- **Thanks for God's good order in creating man and woman. (Genesis 1:27ff)**
- **Repentance for where we as Christians have abandoned the image of mankind in God's sight and have changed it as we thought best. (Romans 1:21-28)**
- **We bring the draft law before the throne of God - He is the Judge (Isaiah 26:7-9)** -KH-

### Psychological consequences of the lockdown

The lockdown has brought a strain on physical and mental health within many population groups. According to the interim results of a study by the University of Saarland, which has been investigating the psychological and social consequences of the pandemic for a year, satisfaction with life in the population has decreased significantly, as worries, stress and depression have increased. Whereas at the beginning of the pandemic, there was still a noticeable trend in society to stand closer together, according to this study, social behaviour is now more likely to be seen as "selfish and drifting apart".

The contact restrictions are stressful - especially on children - giving rise to psychological problems, such as fears, depressive moods and compulsive behaviour, which are on the increase. Speech difficulties are found in children from weak and socially challenged households, often with a migration background. Lack of exercise due to the suspension of school and club sport activities and the closure of sports facilities is leading to increased obesity and difficulty in movement. There is also a noticeable increase in domestic violence. The limitations on everyday life, living together in small places, financial worries due to short-time work or job loss, reduced availability of care services and minimal social contact opportunities create a breeding ground for increasing irritability and aggression within families and social groups.

#### Prayer:

- **That the lockdown measures do not drag on longer than necessary. (Proverbs 13:12)**
- **That the body of Jesus will respond to calls to help people in need. (Isaiah 61:1-3; Proverbs 25:13)**
- **For society to blossom and flourish again after the lockdown (Mark 5:41-42)** -TF-

### Elections in Germany and Israel

We want to pray again for the upcoming local federal state elections, especially those in **Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Pfalz on March 14<sup>th</sup>**, but also those in Saxony-Anhalt, Berlin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and for the national Federal Parliament elections in the autumn.

We also want to include the elections in Israel (March 23<sup>rd</sup>) and pray for God's protection and guidance for politicians and the democratic process. -TF-

**Note:** There will be an online information afternoon (in German) on March 21<sup>st</sup> to pray for the Israeli elections. See [www.gebetseminar.de](http://www.gebetseminar.de) for further details.

*With warm greetings and blessings,  
Alexander Schlueter and Team*