

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

May 2021

Sowing new seed in prayer for Germany

It's time to sow again! In a such a tense period of conflict in our land, this requires courage and a vision that goes far beyond what we are currently able to see. But God calls us to sow also in difficult circumstances, even with tears and to pay no attention to the wind or the clouds. (Psalm 126:5; Ecclesiastes 11:4). With our prayers we want to plant a new spiritual seed in the soil of this nation! We are called upon to leave old, trodden paths and to open up new paths in prayer, and to dare to go where no-one has been before and to lead the way forward into a new era.

Enter God's rest with a clear head and open heart

Jesus wants to take us to a place of rest where we lay down our own works and endeavours, as we only really have the time and strength to do the works of God that he has prepared for us. (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus is looking for intercessors with whom he can share his thoughts and plans for the future. For this we need - in addition to inner peace - the willingness to renew our thinking. In this complex and problematic time, we must not allow our senses to become closed. Rather, we first need a clear head and open heart so that we have the mind of Christ that has been revealed to us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Learn to pray for the future

In our intercession we need to take up the diverse questions and issues of our time. This includes questions about the environment, economy, science, family and education and much more. God's kingdom, as well as his majesty, wisdom, beauty and nature, should become visible in every area of society. In order to pray for the complex issues which lie ahead, we need courage, creativity and a way of thinking that is not primarily focussed on the problems but on solutions. God makes his resources and possibilities available to us. It is "the glory of kings to search out a matter (from God)". (Proverbs 25:2). Together we want to search for God's ways for the future.

Webinar series – Shapers of a new era

Starting in May, we have planned a series of webinars in which we will meet experts from different areas of society. Together we want to learn: How can we with love and wisdom walk alongside our land into a new era? How can we take up the big issues (environment, artificial intelligence, etc.) of our time in intercession? How can we be salt and light in turbulent times and set in motion new developments and solutions?

Further information (German only): www.gebetsseminar.de .

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God's counsel for political decisions

We are not through yet! As we wrestle in prayer for our land, yet another path lies ahead of us. As intercessors, we know that it is not just about political decisions and about balancing these decisions with regard to health and safety, social restrictions and democratic freedom. We are in a spiritual battle for the future and calling of our land. It is about deep repentance and turning back to God, about stepping out of a climate of fear, about restoring unity at a time of social division and about making a courageous step forward into a new era.

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth." cried Job after a time of deep shaking. (Job 19:25). Jesus rules over the turmoil of our time. He is the Lord of Germany!

However we react to the situation at this time, we can be united in our prayers when every day we are more clearly aware of the saving power of Jesus in our land and know that God's counsel will always be available and his wisdom will be recognised in Germany (once again). Can we completely trust him for the decade ahead?

Prayer:

- **We call out together: "I know that Germany's Redeemer lives. His name is Jesus!" (Job 19:25)**
- **That God's counsel will be clearly evident in all decisions – in politics, the economy and families. (Proverbs 19:21)**
- **For a time for everyone in our land to enter God's rest and to gather new strength. (Matthew 11:28)** -AS-

The economy from the perspective of the Kingdom of God

The lockdown is to be extended until June and will further threaten the financial viability and survival of many companies. In the face of the continuing economic crisis, there are now many appeals and proposals for a realignment and new direction for the economy to ensure its recovery. There is a constant and pervasive plea for environmental restructuring, as well as for more and more financial support from the state, even to the extent of establishing a minimum guaranteed wage for all. In many areas of society, questions are being asked to find alternatives to the current goals of unlimited growth, profit maximization and a lifestyle that is mainly geared towards benefits from the way in which we work.

Let us pray that this desire, which is not based exclusively on material values, will make entrepreneurs and business leaders in this crisis particularly receptive to answers from God for a healthy, life-giving economy. An important differentiating factor is the enabling of freedom to take personal initiative instead of being dependent on support from others. It is the task of the state to affirm and promote the responsibility that lies with individuals, families, companies and municipalities and to protect them from being exploited. The Kingdom of God always grows within areas where personal responsibility and action is taken, and is not dependent on global solutions from outside. Jesus began his work with twelve apostles who personally learned and experienced the full blessings of his work and mission and were then able to pass them on. The currency in the Kingdom of God is relationships and not money – and this is also true in the economy. True wealth is spread by people who serve many without disadvantaging others.

According to Catholic social doctrine, the common good – and also what is generally good for society - is God.

Prayer:

- **Thanks that there are biblically based, relationship-oriented models for our lives and pray that they will be used for the management of the economy, finance sector and the environment. (Matthew 22:36-40)**
- **For differentiation in political policies: do they enable freedom to take personal initiative to protect our economy or do they increase the control of the state and companies over our lives? (Matthew 24:4ff)**
- **For the development of regional business relationships and cooperation during the crisis. (Isaiah 43:15-19)** -KH-

Protecting God's creation

If we want to know how to pray for the extensive climate and environmental concerns of our day, then we must first rediscover God's love for our earth. It is not enough to understand environmental issues solely from the perspective of current discussions and policies on climate change. We first need to seek to know the heart of the Creator. In this way we can more consciously pursue our mission to protect creation and to rule over it responsibly. (Genesis 1:28). One school of thought, that separated the material world from the non-material world (the soul) in an unfortunate way, has long strengthened a growing disrespect for creation. However, our sins as well as God's glory can both be seen in his creation. (Psalm 24:1). The spiritual world and natural world are closely connected. As his people, God has intentionally given us a unique bond to the earth, in that he formed us out of its dust whilst speaking into existence the stars, time and tide, and all living creatures through his word alone.

In the next few years issues about health, agriculture, transport and energy production will become paramount in politics. However, environmental issues cannot be managed only through legislation. It is also about having the desire for an environmentally friendly lifestyle - from an unhealthy self-serving approach to a new spirit of working together. Despite the enormous increase in knowledge over the past few years, climate change is still in some ways a mystery to us. In fact God likes to keep science and research in among his many secrets. "The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed." (Romans 8:19). We want to experience this expectation in prayer.

Prayer:

- **That we have a new understanding of God's heart for his creation and take seriously our duty to protect the creation, also through prayer. (2 Chronicles 7:13,14)**
- **For an increase in our knowledge of creation through research and that through this the Kingdom of God, his beauty and his nature will be revealed. (Psalm 19)**
- **For the political decision processes in the coming legislative period and for courage and readiness to venture into new ways to protect God's creation. (Psalm 25:4,5)**

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The needs of our children at this time

Romping around and playing with friends, taking part in large and small adventure trips together with other children and discovering the world, expressing and receiving joy and love through hugs and physical contact, enjoying creative activities such as singing and dancing - all these things belong to the natural, everyday needs of a child and are characteristic features of a happy and carefree childhood that we would describe as "normal" for children. For over a year now, children have been living under restrictions which have limited them from realising these basic needs. According to neuroscientists, this ongoing suppression of contact with other children, and not being able to fulfil such basic needs, leads to the far-reaching consequence that they ultimately lose their ability to recognise that they indeed have basic needs and the desire to meet them. Something that characterises us human beings, namely the feeling and awareness of needs, as well as the ability to react to them, is lost in the children. This also leads to a loss of competence to deal with their emotions and to live life to the

full, and at the same time reduces them to just "functioning". For a five-year-old child, a year feels like an eternity, but in reality is only a fifth of his or her life so far. Actually being aware of needs and then taking part in activities to fulfil those needs, along with the effect this has on worldview, thoughts about the future and emotions in general, has a much stronger impact on the lives of growing children than on adults.

Prayer

- **That the authorities take the needs of our children into account when defining further measures. (Psalm 127:3-5)**
- **For parents / grandparents / caregivers to be sensitive to the basic needs of their children as well as to their loving involvement in keeping these needs supplied. (2 Chronicles 30:9)**
- **Pray to the Lord for thoughts of hope and a future within the hearts of children. (Jeremiah 29:11)**

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The law will go out from Zion

In the Call of the Watchmen, we have repeatedly prayed for Germany along the lines of the promises given through the prophet Isaiah (ch.60:1ff) and for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days according to the prophet Joel (ch.2:28ff). In the Torah these promises were first made to Israel.

Israel has been going through massive shakings over the past two years: politically with four new parliamentary elections, socially with massive cuts in civil liberties, economically with the consequences of several lockdowns, and socially with the vaccination campaign, which has caused a division in the society. Israel has taken the toughest measures within a democratic state against Covid-19. During this time between Passover and Shavuot, let us pray for the healing of the land on all levels and for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that Israel may know its Saviour. (Zechariah 12:10). After Jesus' resurrection, the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place on Shavuot in Jerusalem and from there went out into the world. (Acts 2:16-18). We believe that the fulfilment of the end-time promise of God to pour out his Spirit on all people for the harvest of souls will now also begin in Jerusalem and in Israel. Not our Christian Europe, but Jerusalem is the centre of history. "The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Prayer:

- **Thanks for Israel as the firstborn son of God. (Exodus 4:22)**
- **Repentance for our Eurocentric interpretation of the Bible, replacement theology, blindness and political judgments about Israel. (Zechariah 2:7ff)**
- **That through the darkness that fell on the whole world with the Corona crisis, the glory of God first breaks through in Jerusalem and from there also brings deliverance for all people. (Isaiah. 60:1-3)**

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Note:

13.4 – 12.05 **30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World (2021)**

For further information, visit:

<https://www.pray30days.org>

*Together in prayer for a spiritual revival in our land,
Alexander Schlueter and Team*