

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

June 2021

God has a dream

Every generation needs a dream and a vision of hope for the future. Without hope a people have “sick hearts” and “go astray”. (Proverbs 13:12; 29,18). Many dreams are directly related to times of crisis, as we can clearly see in the life of Joseph. And yet we need to have dreams. If God wants to share his thoughts with us about the future, then he first gives us a dream, a vision and a concept, and creates a picture in our minds of what He wants to do. (Genesis 12:1-3).

God has a master plan for our world. With this we can set our minds at rest. You cannot spend time with him and not be infected by his ideas, plans and thoughts for the future! His dreams always take us over and beyond our current situation. His dreams are not dependent on a sober assessment of what might be possible, but they reach out into the realms of faith and belief ... and therefore have no limits.

God has a dream for this land that He would like to share with each one of us. No-one is left out, but God rather draws us together in order to share his thoughts and plans – with all generations (old and young) without exception. Just like our Father God, we too can be innovative and creative (often without knowing it). Our sensitivity to the spirit of God and the power of imagination that He has given to us are our most important tools to fully discern His dreams.

Now let's put this into practice

Have you ever taken the time to imagine what our country will look like in the future? You should know that God has already planned out the decade ahead of us in our land. We pray into God's plans and do the good works in ways that He has already prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). As intercessors we must work closely together with God and not pray as if we do not know what He wants us to do.

-> *Select a prayer item from this letter, sit down in a quiet place, or take a walk, and start dreaming with God. What are His thoughts despite all the problems that you see? What you then hear from God is your prayer seed, which you sow over and over again as you pray into this item. Together with God and other intercessors we can become “mid-wives” to help give birth to God's dreams.*

-AS-

Maintaining peace within society

The National Parliament and the Federal States Parliament in Berlin have decided to partially withdraw restrictions on freedom of movement for people who have been vaccinated or have recovered from Covid 19, and the European Parliament has approved the digital vaccination pass for travel in the European Union. These decisions directly contravene the inalienable and inviolable rights for social freedom and equality which are guaranteed by our constitution. Individuals and people groups are being excluded from areas of social life and the maintenance of peace within society is threatened. The 124th German Medical Association Congress 2021 is calling for the right to receive training by attending day-care and school facilities to be made dependent on a COVID-19 vaccination and that only families with vaccinated children may regain equal civil rights for full participation within society.

Only one year ago, proof of immunity as a prerequisite for granting civil rights was expressly rejected by the governing coalition. With the linking of basic rights to a vaccination status, compulsory vaccination will implicitly become common practice. However, all of the vaccines on the market only have a conditional approval due to a lack of verifiable test data and sufficiently long-term test periods as normally required for new vaccines. The hope that life will return to normal and that peace and freedom from anxiety can be restored to our land is closely linked to the vaccination program. But is this the peace that God really wants us to have? As Christians we are called to stand on the side of the disadvantaged and marginalized in society.

Prayer:

- **We lay government decisions at Jesus' feet and ask for God's peace for our land. (John 14:27)**
- **That no one is harmed by the vaccinations and especially that children and young people are protected. (Psalm 91)**
- **Jesus is the way out of the pandemic, the truth beyond all human solutions, and our life beyond all constraints. (John 14,6)**

-KH-

The new loneliness and the search for connections

Although we have never been so well (digitally) networked as we are today, 14 million people in Germany suffer from loneliness. Experts speak of it as a new social illness with considerable health consequences. And loneliness is not only related to the absence of people. Rather, we feel that we no longer belong anywhere and are no longer connected to anyone else in a truly meaningful way. Superficial encounters do not satisfy our longing for an authentic interaction with others, which is based on trust and intimacy. Convenience instead of relationship, flexibility instead of loyalty, financial gain instead of stability - this is how our society has been shaped in recent years and threatens to fall apart at any time. Older and younger generations are equally affected by loneliness. While it is important for older people to be valued and still feel needed in society, young people are feeling pushed back and left on their own with an uncertain future.

We all need to be ready to build relationships and to bond effectively with others and to take care and responsibility for one another. We need the generations to work together. This is now an ideal time for us to influence our society with the culture of the kingdom of God through prayer and by pursuing new concepts.

Prayer:

- **Jesus, have mercy on those who suffer from loneliness! (Luke 18:38)**
- **That the church will make the culture of the kingdom of God visible within society. (Matthew 6:10)**
- **For new concepts to encourage the building of relationships and for the generations to work together in the future. (Malachi 4:5,6)**

-AS-

Germany's help in Afghanistan

Until 2001, Afghanistan was the most significant base of operations for international terrorism. The foundations of international terrorism were in part laid there. A lot has happened since then and Germany has been able to provide support in the reconstruction and democratisation process in Afghanistan. However, the struggles between terrorist groups have led the country to fall back into civil war again and again. The Afghans have been supported in their difficult situation for many years through various humanitarian projects. With the deployment of the German army, we were able to make an important contribution to the stability and security of the young democracy from 2001 onwards, as Germans took on the training of the Afghan police and army. The increase in security led to positive growth, economic success, better education, improved infrastructure and more medical care.

With the end of the NATO deployment, German troops are now leaving Afghanistan and the Afghans are again on their own. The country could soon fall back into the hands of the Taliban after the complete withdrawal of foreign troops. There is great concern that extremist forces could reverse the reconstruction process that has begun. The younger generation is losing hope for peace and many want to leave the country. With the withdrawal of the troops, Afghanistan is facing a vulnerable and uncertain future for which we want to support the country in prayer.

Prayer:

- **We stand with our Afghan brothers and sisters and pray for the release of God's plans to ensure hope and a future for Afghanistan. (Jeremiah 29:11; Lamentations 22:22,23)**
- **For the protection of the young democracy and that Afghanistan will not again fall into the hands of the Taliban, but that its citizens will finally prosper, free of terrorism. (Jeremiah 30:17)**
- **For the organisations and their workers which are investing their lives in Afghanistan and therefore require special protection and the supply of all they need. (2 Corinthians 12:9)** -AS-

A culture of life in Germany

In a judgment of the Federal Constitutional Court in February 2020, assisted suicide was declared unpunishable in Germany. This judgment effectively gives you the right to take your own life, to seek help from third parties and to make use of their services to exercise this right. The German Medical Association reacted to this judgment at the beginning of May and removed the present ban on suicide assistance from the professional code. There are not yet any legal provisions for assisted suicide. A draft law pursuant to this judgment is currently being drawn up to enable suicide assistance under the law but at the same time prevent abuse. The law will include the setting up of advice centres by the state that will provide information on alternatives, such as palliative medical care, as well as to advise that a discussion should take place with a doctor to ensure that the patient's wish to die, for which the patient takes total responsibility, has been made freely and persistently. Good, clear legislation is certainly required. But laws do not meet the inner need of people who, in their suffering, can no longer see any hope or value in their lives. A society, in which the culture accepts a self-determined assessment of when a life is worth

living or not, will suggest that death may be the solution. A culture that honours life will get involved in meeting this inner need and bring life, strength and hope, even in facing death.

Prayer:

- **For a return of our society to a culture that says yes to life and to God, and brings life, strength and hope. (Psalm 139:13-18; Psalm 42:8; Numbers 35:33,34)**
- **For those who suffer and wish to die, and those who are there to stand by their side. (Psalm 23:4-6; Luke 2:29-32)**
- **For the fear of God to be a major influence in all the consultations and advice given in the drafting of the law. (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 14:27)** -TF-

Standing as Guardians of the Walls for Israel

Immediately after the end of the lockdown in Israel, a serious accident occurred at a large Orthodox Jewish festival held for Lag-baOmer on Mount Meron on April 29th, with at least 45 dead and 150 injured. This was the deadliest civil disaster in the history of the State of Israel since 1948. Then during the Islam Fasting Month of Ramadan (April 12th - May 12th) there were increased attacks by Arabs on Jews in Jerusalem's old town and in mixed Arab-Israeli villages and towns, incited by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Palestinian Authority. On Jerusalem Day, celebrated this year on May 9th-10th, the riots by Palestinian demonstrators against Israeli security forces on the Temple Mount escalated. Since the evening of May 10th, Hamas has fired thousands of rockets at Israel from Gaza under the slogan "Sword of Jerusalem". Israel named its military operation to defend the country as "Guardians of the Walls".

With the rocket attacks, Hamas aims to annul and reverse all developments aimed at normalizing relations between Jews and Arabs inside and outside Israel. The hatred of Israel also broke out in Germany in attacks on synagogues, with burning of Israel flags and anti-Semitic demonstrations, especially on May 15th, "Nakba Day" ("Disaster Day") for the Arabs, the day after the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948. Anti-Israeli opinions have been reinforced by one-sided pro-Palestinian media reports and ambiguous accusations of Israeli guilt by politicians.

Prayer

- **Let us further pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jerusalem at this time of the greatest onslaught. (Zechariah 12:8-10a)**
- **That peace and reconciliation of Jews and Arabs will be come through the body of Christ (Yeshua). (Ephesians 2:11-22)**
- **For protection, peace and healing of the land of Israel. (2 Chronicles 7:14)**
- **For repentance and a total and uncompromising return of Germany to stand with Israel. (Psalm 122)** -KH-

German Federal Parliament elections

We all sense how significant the upcoming Federal Parliament elections in September will be. Can we trust God for the right chancellor, the appropriate coalition with the best policies and leadership qualities? With a view to the faithful involvement of God in German history, we want to humbly submit the election of the 9th Federal Chancellor and the whole election campaign in the coming months to the will of God and expect His clear guidance and intervention. (Psalm 117:2)

*With God's blessings for your times of prayer,
Alexander Schlueter and Team*