

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

July-August 2021

How God at this time is bringing his work of art to completion

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
(Ephesians 2:10)

Between 1508 and 1512 one of Michelangelo's most famous frescoes came into full view in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. This imposing wall and ceiling painting depicts many different biblical scenes which together form one of the most beautiful works of art of the Italian High Renaissance.

Our God also has a picture in mind when he thinks of Germany. We are his work of art, which he has created with love over the years, but is not yet finished, and new aspects and scenes are now being added. In this way our Father in heaven is revealing through the Spirit new visions for us and sharing his thoughts and plans for our country with us. As we pray, we enter into uncharted territory where we need to trust in him and have courage. But in the midst of darkness we have assurance that his kingdom will shine and be extended within our country (Isaiah 60:2). The present experience of a shaking within our land is opening up a “new-birth canal” through which God's kingdom is seeking to reveal itself in Germany in new colours and shapes. God’s (art) work is being brought to completion. God is always the initiator of new things and the author (alpha) and perfecter (omega) of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

An extension within our hearts

For an extension of God’s kingdom within our land, we as God’s workmanship need an extension within our hearts. This extension within our hearts, in turn, will enable us to enter new territory and to do God's prepared works. God is a creator - a master-potter, sculptor and painter - and his work of art within our country has not yet been completed. He wants to hold us in his hand like a paint-brush, and in our prayers, and even more so within our daily lives, artistically reveal new aspects of his being and his work in our country. Let us deepen our personal relationship with the creator, master-potter, sculptor and painter this summer. When and where is he planning to make the next stroke of the paint-brush? If we are aware of his vision, thoughts and plans, we can take part in the completion of his great work of art in our land through our prayers. -AS-

Heal our country - the time-window before the federal election

Falling Covid 19 incidence numbers make it possible for our country to calm down a little. We can offer our heart-felt thanks to God for this! With God's help we have been able to achieve much in the past few months. Everyone is now longing for a full recovery. It is important that politics, business and society are able to breathe a sigh of relief and find much-needed rest and relaxation in the coming weeks.

At the same time, we find ourselves in an important window of time before the federal national government election in the autumn. The corona pandemic is only one aspect for our prayers. The peace in our society is repeatedly being challenged - especially now on the streets by left-wing extremism. As a nation we are in a critical phase of social and political change that needs God's protection. God wants to heal this land and lead us into the future (2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 29:11). As intercessors we therefore want to sincerely seek God's face through all the challenges, to humbly bow down, listen to God's voice, and to firmly commit ourselves and our land to Jesus.

At a critical point in a time in the Sinai desert, God said to Moses that he would send an angel before the people of Israel to help them to successfully enter the Promised Land, but he himself would not go with them. Moses responded decisively and said that he could not go any further unless God himself came with him and with the people (Exodus 33:15,16). Isn't that also our heart-cry? We only want to venture into the future with God. We want to take a stand in our spirit and pray that God will call and anoint men and women in politics, economics and in all areas of society who are receptive to his voice and so be prepared and guided to lead this country into the next decade.

Prayer:

- **For a full recovery and a sincere desire to seek God's face and presence during the summer months. We place our land under God's protection! (Psalm 27:8; Psalm 91)**
- **For peace in our society in the conflicting ideological struggles for the future of Germany and that the true motives of the political parties will become evident. (Psalm 25:4)**
- **For the calling and anointing of women and men who will seek God's counsel and apply it at all levels in the government of our land. (Acts 13:22)** -AS-

Economic recovery

With the relaxation of the Corona restrictions, the economy in Germany is picking up again. Traders and service providers in particular benefit from this, while industry suffers from numerous delivery problems. All over the world, lockdowns have lowered production levels and interrupted supply chains. Essential raw materials, chemicals and component parts such as semiconductors, chips, plastics and wood are in short supply and prices are sky rocketing. In addition, there are disruptions in container shipping, such as with the recent incident in the Suez Canal, traffic congestion in ports and a shortage of containers, where three consortia control over 80 percent of the world market and dictate prices.

Due to the increase in money supply, rising demand and reduced supply, the highest inflation since 2008 is on the horizon. In addition to the CO2-tax, world market prices for grain, which have risen by up to 30 percent, are already raising the cost of living. As an exporting country, Germany is very dependent on international value-added trade-chains. There is now a change in thinking concerning regional supply chains within the EU and the storage of important component products instead of just-in-time delivery. Let us be aware in our prayers that God's plans for an economy that will better serve the quality of life were already in place before the pandemic and have not been hindered by it, but rather they can now make a successful breakthrough!

Prayer:

- **For the strengthening of our economy, where reliability in the supply of products and services in the land is the decisive factor instead of financial gain. (Psalm 37:1-3)**
- **How can we as Christians handle times of crisis and not be financially dependent on the system, and help shape the economy for the good of the people? (Haggai 2:6-8)**
- **For biblically-based business models, the recovery of business and trade and protection from further lockdowns. (Proverbs 14:31-35)** -KH-

Hearing the cry of creation

God loves his creation. His very being and his glory are reflected in creation, and his love shines forth out of everything that he has created - trees, plants and animals. Our priestly calling is also part of creation. We are here to reconcile, renew and restore. In the coming years, the protection of nature and the environment will be an essential element of political policy. We find ourselves in a tense situation where, on the one hand, we must not make the protection of nature and the environment our "God", but, on the other hand, not be guilty of failing in our priestly duty through indifference or in not taking on our responsibility seriously. It is now important for us to have a closer relationship with God and with his creation and to be more conscious of our mandate to manage creation well. But how can we grow in our understanding of how to pray for this? First of all, we should ask God to make us aware of the eager expectation (and to hear the cry) of creation (Romans 8:18-22). Then in prayer we will be able to support the experts, researchers and politicians to find the best solutions for the challenges of this time. The decisions that will be made by our government after the federal election concerning the protection of nature and the environment will be extremely important and our intercession is needed even now.

God is prepared to reveal to us the mysteries of his plans for the "liberation of creation" and to provide perfect solutions for the management of our climate and the environment.

In one of our recent webinars (online in German), we met with farmers and learned how we can take responsibility for the environment. You can access the recording with this link:

<https://gebetsseminar.de/termine/gestalter-einer-neuen-zeit-thema-landwirtschaft-und-umweltschutz> .

Prayer:

- **That we hear the cry of creation and now take up our mandate to protect it with God's help. (Romans 8:19)**
- **For wisdom for our government in setting the course in environmental policy in the coming legislative period. (Proverbs 19:21)**
- **That Germany will serve as a model for other nations in Europe and the world. (1 Peter 4:10)** -AS-

The well-being of our children and adolescents

The "pandemic" school year of 2020/21 cannot be compared with any other. Students, teachers and also parents were confronted with stressful challenges. Teaching programs and learning being way behind schedule, but also a decline in social contacts, are the consequences of the closing of schools, online lessons at home and the frequent switching of lessons from home to school, which our children and young people have had to live with almost continuously since last spring. Even though it is technically possible to pass on the teaching material and course work digitally, the processes to convey it affectively and to confirm understanding of what is being presented - both in the context of education as well as in the development of social competence in living with others in society - need interactive dialogue. "I need someone who is specifically there for me and who challenges me to formulate in my own words what I have seen or heard, to ask questions and to express my own thoughts." Where this is not possible or is extremely restricted, there are serious consequences not only in the level of education but also in the development of personality and the process of maturation within the student.

Furthermore, studies and surveys with children and adolescents show that relationships and direct attention have more value and significance for them than the quality of the teaching material or the way in which it is presented. "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18) obviously also encompasses the feelings of children and young people.

Prayer:

- **For encounters and the deepening of relationships in families and with friends during the vacation and travelling season. (Psalm 133:1; Proverbs 17:17; Genesis 2:18)**
- **For a time of recovery, relaxation and restoration of strength for children, families and teachers during the holidays. (Numbers 6:24-26; Psalm 23)**
- **That those who are planning the new school year of 2021/22 will have the well-being of the children and adolescents in mind. (Proverbs 17:6; Proverbs 20:7)** -TF-

Israel's new government

On June 13th, Israel's 36th government was sworn in, with Naftali Bennett, leader of the national religious party "Yamina" (Right/Proper), as prime minister. Yair Lapid, chairman of the left-wing liberal party "Yesh Atid" (There is a Future), is due to take over the office of prime minister in September 2023. With 27 ministers, Israel's new government unites a spectrum of parties from the centrist party "Blue-White" to the secular national party "Israel Beitenu", from the conservative national party "Tikva Hadasha" to the left-wing party "Meretz" and the Arab-Islamist "Ra'am" party. The coalition was formed primarily from the joint desire and goal to replace incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu after 12 years as prime minister.

Domestically, the new government wants to lead and bring together the Israeli society which is currently divided along political, religious and ethnic lines. In terms of foreign policy, the Iranian nuclear program is Israel's greatest threat, especially after the election of the political-religious extremist Ebrahim Raisi as the new president of Iran. The recent Hamas rocket assault on Israel had also been planned as a long-term strategy by Iran in order to set up yet another terrorist front against Israel. A few days after Bennett's inauguration, fire-balloons were launched from Gaza, whereupon the Israeli Air Force again bombed Hamas positions.

Prayer

- **That the diversity of political parties in the new Israeli government will be the source of healing and reconciliation within Israeli society. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)**
- **For further peace treaties with neighbouring Arab countries that will contribute towards an end to the terrorism and war-mongering of Hamas and Iran against the State of Israel and bring reconciliation with Israel in the Middle East region. (Isaiah 19: 23-25)**
- **That Germany no longer supports the plans of the enemies of Israel: neither the nuclear agreement with Iran, nor the United Nations aid agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA and the unconditional funding for reconstruction in Gaza, where the money lands up in the hands of Hamas. (Genesis 12:3)** -KH-

*Wishing you a time of relaxation in this summer period,
Alexander Schlueter and Team*