

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

February 2022

As the Call of the Watchmen celebrates 22 years of prayer :-

Seeking the glory of God in the face of Jesus

“For God, who said: ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)

We live at a time when our attention is so often drawn by and focused on what is so easy to see (world news, social media, and much more). I believe that Jesus wants to once again win back the eyes of our hearts to see him in a new way. This requires a shift in our focus - a change from seeing what is outside us to what is within us, from the seen to the unseen. To see Jesus, we need to look inwards. When we dare to put aside the sights, the sounds, the urgent matters that surround us, consciously distancing ourselves from the hustle and bustle, and turning our hearts and minds to prayer - then something happens: we not only experience the deep peace of God, but become more aware of the spiritual world. We then rediscover the reality and richness of our faith, in a way which can only really be experienced inwardly! Indeed, what we now see was not visible to us before, and we find ourselves in the heavenly realms of Christ Jesus (Hebrews 11:3; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Ephesians 2:6). This is our home, the place where we should be, and also the place for prayer.

In our last online nationwide prayer meeting (in Germany for German intercessors) we experienced this together. We spent the entire prayer meeting fixing the eyes of our hearts on Jesus. At first, we felt that (figuratively speaking) he was wrapping a cloak around us, enveloping us in his peace. We remained like that for a while until we felt that Jesus wanted to show us more. And so he led us to a place where we were reassured that God has a strategy and were blessed with an insight into God’s plans. The atmosphere changed and we were all overwhelmed by the greatness and sovereignty of God. We were in awe of him who just speaks out a word and it is done, and for whom all nations are like a “drop of water in a bucket” (Isaiah 40:15). We felt that we have still much to learn from God - in the knowledge of his love and greatness. We will soon meet again online nationwide to seek Jesus and his glory. We want to reflect Christ and the glory of God in our lives and learn to live in the reality of the new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). -AS-

Consider this carefully: “... and the government will be on his [Jesus’] shoulders ...”

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.” (Isaiah 9:6-7a)

Take a few minutes to read the Bible text above. First, take time to be still and consider carefully the above statements about Jesus! Bible verses point to spiritual realities. Scripture is true to life, and is not unrealistic nor does it overstate a reality. Can you just begin to understand what it really means that the government – also in Germany - is ultimately on the shoulders of Jesus? How do you see this inwardly through the eyes of your heart? How does this change your perception of the lordship of Jesus? Conclude your time with a prayer of thanks. -AS-

Transformation within our society

The last words of Jesus to his disciples were powerful, strong and with a clear mandate and empowerment: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) and “... you will receive power ... and you will be my witnesses ...” (Acts 1:8). Jesus himself lived his earthly life to fulfil this great commission with such empowerment. He proclaimed the nature and the power of the kingdom of God. He called people to follow him and urged them to repent, which also means “to think again”. It is a call to turn from the old way of thinking and follow the new way with the heavenly mind-set and spirit of Jesus. By this, Jesus and his disciples turned the world at that time upside down and brought transformation within at least a significant part of society – in the area of trade and commerce, in politics, in government and in royal houses. Could it be that living out the discipleship command could also be a strategy for transforming society and politics for us today?

Let us pray that faith and an awareness of the transformative power of the gospel will grow within us again. The making of disciples does not end with the conversion of people to believe in Jesus. Conversion is just the starting point for a process of new thinking and follow-up action. And where people from different sections of society are born-again and filled with the Spirit, this has an impact on their sphere of influence to bring transformation within our society.

Prayer:

- **For a new vision for discipleship in the body of Jesus and for the desire and willingness to make disciples and to be “discipled”. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:1-2)**
- **For a strong sense of mission as harvesters in all the various areas of society. (Mark 1:17; Mark 16:15)**
- **For an increase in power to be witnesses to Jesus through the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)**

-TF-

Keys to the kingdom

God wants to give us access to all areas of society. For this he gave us, as the church of Jesus, “the keys of the kingdom” (Matthew 16:19). He not only gave these keys to pastors and spiritual leaders, but to women and men in all areas of life and work, and they now have to recognize that their time has come. They need encouragement, divine vision, authority and anointing to bring the kingdom of God within reach in their area of life and work with the help of the Holy Spirit. With their own ideas, solutions, and from personal experience, they will have answers to the challenges of our time and will be able to lead so many to Jesus. In times of social upheaval, God has always called men and women like Joseph, Esther and Daniel to act as wise “stewards” in political, economic and social matters, preparing nations for crises and leading them through them. For many years we have prayed, according to Isaiah 60:1, that we will “arise, shine, for your light has come”, as “the glory of the Lord rises upon you”. It is high time that we no longer chase after problems, but rather move ahead with God and be able to show the way forward by our actions.

Prayer:

- **For Christians in all areas of life and work to courageously grasp the keys to the kingdom of God and to experience the Holy Spirit in their everyday lives. (Isaiah 60:1-2)**
- **For exceptional wisdom and creative ideas for the renewal of our society such that God and His kingdom will be revealed. (Matthew 6:33; James 1:5)**
- **For the keys to political, economic and social matters and challenges, so that the body of Christ is prepared for crises and can become a blessing within all areas of society as Joseph was in Egypt. (Genesis 41:33,39)**

-AS-

The pursuit of eternal and perfect life

"I don't intend to die," was the statement made by Google CEO Sergey Brin in 2013 when he founded a biotechnology company developing methods to combat human ageing. Since then, numerous well-known investors and strategists from Silicon Valley have been pushing ahead with research to develop drugs that are supposed to slow down the process of ageing and transform dying into an act of self-determination. This "idea" is already extremely lucrative today: in the last year alone, companies with products that slow ageing made \$220 billion and the trend is upwards.

At the same time, research is being carried out in the field of gene editing with "genetic scissors" (CRISPR Cas9) on human embryos, where genetic material is modified, to develop resistance to infection or to eradicate hereditary diseases for example, and - in taking such an idea one step further - to have in view the possibility to create "perfect" people, pursuant to our concept of ideal health and beauty.

Both research efforts are based on a desire in almost all of humanity: for a long and, if possible, eternal life without illness and suffering. At the same time, they remind us of the very nature of the serpent in paradise and his promise to Eve: "You will not surely die (...) you will be like God". (Genesis 3:5).

What do we Christians have to say to these developments, but also to this desire for long life without suffering? Jesus promises us eternal life, which includes more than the hope of life after death. It is a life of an entirely different quality, which carries within itself the nature of the heavenly world which is to come and meets the longing for life in eternity. Let us realise more and more that our being already has a "divine nature", embrace it, and live it out in this world.

Prayer:

- **For the revealing of the sons of God in order to meet this unfulfilled desire of mankind powerfully and consistently. (Romans 8:12-21; Romans 9:20-24; 2 Peter 1:3,4)**
- **For a turning to God as the Creator and Lord of life. (Colossians 1:16ff; Isaiah 45:18; John 10:10)**
- **For Christian workers in the harvest fields of research workers and investors. (Luke 10:2ff; John 3:16)**

-TF-

Various prayer items

In the middle of the all-too-present Corona crisis, it is very easy for us to forget all the other prayer requests for our land and the rest of the world that were normally included in our prayer letter. Here are a few of the current very important situations and issues that should also be in our prayers at this time.

- In some federal states in our land of Germany the number of refugees doubled in the second half of last year compared to the first half. At the same time, the situation of the refugees as a whole no longer has the attention of the government and media.
Let us pray for successful integration and healing encounters for refugees in Germany. (Psalm 9:13)
- For the first time ever, Afghanistan is ranked #1 in the Open Doors World Watch List (as of January 2022).
Let us pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters. (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)
- In some African countries, large numbers of people are still threatened by hunger and war. For example, less water has been flowing into Lake Chad (the largest water resource in the Nigeria/Cameroon /Chad region) for many years, making it increasingly difficult to supply water for agriculture and for people to drink.
Let us pray for protection and provision for the people in the crisis areas. (Habakkuk 3:17-19)
- In the current (but historic) Ukraine conflict, the USA and Russia have opposing positions. Diplomatic negotiations in the NATO-Russia Council are currently trying to prevent an invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops. At the same time, there are numerous different interests with regard to economic support measures and arms deliveries by NATO countries.
Let us pray for peace among peoples and wisdom for the heads of these states. (Daniel 2:21)

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Birthday donations – sowing seeds

This month our prayer network celebrates its 22nd birthday. Who would have thought that more than two decades later we would still be praying together? In the end, it is love for the Father that moves us to seek his face for our country again and again. The investment of our time and hearts will once again more than pay off. "A man reaps what he sows." (Galatians 6:7). We are thrilled that you have been praying with us for so long! But it's not just our prayers that are precious seeds that produce a harvest. It is also the financial gifts that bring valuable fruit and spread a special "fragrance" (Philippians 4:18b). Prayer and giving often go hand in hand. Covering the finances of the Call of the Watchmen requires a miracle every year. Thank you very much if you support us in your prayer groups with a birthday donation. Please pray with us that in 2022 God will again call people to invest in the Call of the Watchmen.

Prayer:

- **Thanks for God's faithfulness.
For what are you especially thankful when you think of the Call of the Watchmen?**
- **That God calls many intercessors in Germany to support our prayer network financially. (Philippians 4:19)** -AS-

*Wishing you a powerful prayer time this month,
Alexander Schlueter and Team*