

## CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

June 2022

### **The beautiful garden within us**

Our inner life is really so much more colourful and richer than our outer life. We are often not aware of this, because we are taken over by what we see and hear around us – in our everyday life and work. But when we look inside ourselves, we discover the colours and the beautiful things that God has created in us. The source of our intuition, inspiration, imagination and so much more is deep within us. All that can be seen on the outside actually comes from the unseen on the inside (Hebrews 11:3). And once we discover how rich we are on the inside, we pay more and more attention to this invisible yet real world that is full of the beauty and glory of God. He created us in such a way that we can always live in communion with him. For this, He connects with us inwardly, in our secret place, in our very being, drawing us into the spiritual world and to his heart. Here we find who we really are and we feel completely at home.

### **You taught me wisdom in that secret place**

We all have a garden within us which is so rich, that, if we were to just tell each other more about it, we would understand each other much better. Inside of us we hear God's thoughts about us and we are naturally open, relaxed and creative. "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view" (2 Corinthians 5:16) and discover God's true purpose for us. This is where Jesus wants to meet with us. He is waiting for us in the garden in our hearts. We often think that we first need more knowledge and understanding. But it's the other way around: we need more encounters with him in order to know him better! And here we also find the wisdom that we seek for our intercession. "You taught me wisdom in that secret place." (Psalm 51:6). Here God reveals to us His ways and plans, creating a new perspective within our hearts. Our relationship with Jesus is the key!

### **Jesus longs for communion with us**

How near do we actually allow Jesus to come to us? How close can he come to us? At the moment I feel that Jesus is trying to get closer to me. "That is rather close, Jesus," I whisper. Almost every time I meet with him, he's smiling with joyful anticipation. He fills the air with his presence but at the same time I know that he is very aware of the outside world and its needs. And yet he is full of joy. "What do you want from me, Jesus? What good things can I do to please your heart", I ask him. "Just stay with me, that's enough," I then hear him say.

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### **Ukraine, Russia and a coming revival**

Let us listen again this month to how God wants us to pray for the war in Ukraine. "What do You want to do in Ukraine and Russia right now?" "How can we pray strategically?"

Let us pray that the kingdom of God will come to both nations and that the love of God will heal all wounds. We know that God's plans have power and are more effective than the those of the enemy. So all the difficult circumstances and suffering should in fact become a seed for a great spiritual revival. Let us pray now for a restoration and a rebuilding of both countries. Please put together any impressions that may come to you and forward them to us at the Call of the Watchmen.

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### **Expansion of NATO to the north**

Under the threat from Russia, Finland and Sweden have applied for NATO membership. As a NATO partner, Turkey is blocking accession and Russia is threatening consequences. In the shadow of the Ukraine war, Erdogan began a renewed war of aggression against positions of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) in northern Iraq. At the same time, the Iraqi army - apparently under pressure from Ankara - launched attacks on the self-defence structures of the Yazidis in Sinjar, hundreds of whom have fled after the IS (Islamic State) pogrom in 2014. For years, Turkey has repeatedly attacked Syrian and Iraqi territory under the pretext of the PKK being in the border regions. The Turkish leadership invokes the right to self-defence according to Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, although there is no demonstrable security threat to Turkey from north-east Syria, Sinjar or Kurds in northern Iraq. Several Western countries (including Sweden) have imposed sanctions on Turkey in response to the illegal attacks on Syria. There was no reaction on the part of NATO and Germany continued to supply weapons. In the Ukraine war, Erdogan presented himself as a peacemaker by boycotting Western sanctions against Russia and expanding his economic relations with Moscow. Accepting his objections to Finland and Sweden would compromise NATO and make the Kurds legitimate victims of his policies far beyond Turkey's borders. The Kurds play a special role in God's plans for the Middle East, also with regard to Israel. In north-east Syria they have established a democratic self-government with the participation of all ethnic and religious groups, which Erdogan has already partially destroyed.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Instead of further concessions to the Turkish autocracy, pray for a return to the NATO principles of peace, democracy, freedom and the rule of law. (Isaiah 30:1-5)**
- **For wisdom as to whether the expansion of NATO to the north serves peace in Europe. (John 14:27)**
- **Protection and support for the Kurds in Syria, Iraq and Turkey for their calling to unite peoples in the Middle East. (Isaiah 19:23-25)**

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### **God's wisdom and ways in the supply crisis**

We want to bring the growing inflation, the impending energy crisis and the supply bottlenecks, which have been aggravated by the war, to God in prayer. We do not want to react in fear, but rather listen carefully to what the Spirit of God wants to tell us, and be aware of the provisions He has already made for this time. In these days we are to a greater extent dependent on God's Spirit. Which new trade and supply routes would He like to establish? Where should we expect the ways of the kingdom of God to come to light in providing solutions? We want to pray earnestly for this.

We notice more and more that God is calling for people, like Joseph in Egypt, to provide an answer and a solution. Once again we will be challenged to also make better use of nature to provide for our needs. Here we want to ask God for the resources to come through the kingdom of God on earth. **Let us pray for visions and ideas from heaven so that in this time of crisis we can take our part and be a blessing.**

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### Prayer for our farmers

Only a few occupations are so directly connected to God and His creation as farming. Farmers often see the provision of food for our land as a calling. They love their jobs, although many of them have to borrow heavily to be able to take over a farm or stay competitive. More than 50 percent of the land in Germany is used for agriculture. As a result, Germany can largely look after itself. Potatoes, meat, milk and sugar are produced in sufficient quantities to supply German needs; any surplus is exported. But imports are already required for a sufficient supply of fruit, vegetables and eggs. While food produced within Germany meets high quality standards, with imports we lose the control of how the food is produced and transported.

The situation of farmers in Germany has been problematic for years. EU agricultural subsidies support and benefit above all the owners of large areas of land. Farming families with smaller fields or fewer livestock can no longer survive in this way. As a result, 317,000 farmers in Germany have had to give up their farms in the last 20 years. Large investors are buying up farmland, especially in eastern Germany. And so the supply of food and the cooperation between farmers and consumers regionally is not what it used to be, although it is particularly important in times of crisis. The tough pricing policies of the big discounters are forcing farmers to sell their products at prices that do not cover the costs.

The "Green Deal," a package of policy initiatives with which the European Union is promoting itself to become more "green" and climate-neutral by 2050, is putting further pressure on farmers, as is the planned setting-aside of arable land in favour of nature conservation projects at a time of serious supply shortages. We want to be aware of God's heartbeat for our farmers and stand together with them for the provision of food for our country. As "sons of God" we bear responsibility for God's creation and the use of the rich soil in our land to supply our needs, and we want once again to take this responsibility seriously.

#### Prayer:

- **Thankfulness and appreciation for the work of farmers.** (Psalm 147:7-9; Psalm 107:8-9)
- **For the special calling of farmers, fair prices, and sufficient income to run a successful business.** (Genesis 26:12)
- **For a reformation of agricultural policy in government to secure and protect the wide diversity in the operation, size and produce of our farms and farming enterprises.**
- **For good cooperation between town and country in the support of farming in our land.**

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### The glory of Shavuot/Pentecost

From the evening of June 4th to June 6th, Torah-observant Jews around the world celebrate the Feast of **Shavuot** (Hebrew) – seven "**weeks**" after Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. (Leviticus 23). At the same time this year we Christians celebrate **Pentecost** (Greek) – the "**fiftieth**" day after the resurrection of Jesus.

At Shavuot the Jews commemorate the mighty Covenant which God made with them at Sinai - when God clearly spoke out a message, taking the Israelite people as his own, as a bride, making them a kingdom of priests - and the receiving of the 10 commandments which then followed (Exodus 19+20). The whole sky was in motion at this event - we read of lightning, thunder, smoke, fire and the sound of horns. A powerful scene accompanied the delivery of this Covenant as a glorious marriage-contract of God with his people, and the law (Torah), which revealed the nature of God and was and is an expression of his love and of his will for them to live as his chosen people. This was a foreshadowing of the fulfilment of the promise of the New Covenant, in which the law, revealing the nature and will of God, would now be poured into the hearts and minds of the people of Israel and through which we in the nations will also be blessed (Hebrews 8:6-10; Jeremiah 31:31-34).

As Moses experienced the Lord God at the top of the mountain at Sinai, so the resurrected Jesus ascended to heaven just before the Feast of Shavuot. There he asked the Father, according to his promise, to pour out the law, his divine nature, into hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. And at Shavuot (our Pentecost) once again the heavens were in motion with roaring, wind and fire (Acts 2) as the Holy Spirit sealed this marriage covenant, giving us to this day the identity and authority to be representatives of God and his Son Jesus on this earth and, as a bridal church, in hearing the Word of God and experiencing it coming to life in our hearts, to pray "as if we were in heaven".

The goal at Sinai was the establishment of the Covenant, the marriage, the love relationship between God and his people Israel, who would then become a "people with a special mission" to be, in the promised land of Israel, witnesses of God's will for mankind to all nations. The goal at Shavuot/Pentecost was and is the establishment of the New Covenant, based on the law, but now indwelling in the heart, transforming people into true sons of God, who carry the nature of God within them and thus become a "people with a special mission" to call all people (Jew and Gentile) to know God and Jesus and to be a kingdom of priests within this entire world.

#### Prayer:

- **For the Jews who celebrate Shavuot, that they may encounter God as the God of the Covenant in a new way and that the promise of the New Covenant will become a reality to them. (Jeremiah 31:33)**
- **That our prayer life becomes more and more dependent on both the Word of God as recorded for us in the Bible and on the guidance of the Holy Spirit speaking to us in our hearts. (Ephesians 2:6; John 14:16-18+26; Acts 1:8)**
- **Express to God your longing for further transformation into His image and for the expansion of His divine nature within you.**

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*Wishing you a blessed Pentecost,  
Alexander Schlueter and Team*