

The mystery of God - all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ (Colossians 2:2,3)

We are living in a time of major change and transformation in the world. But the most powerful transformation is the one that takes place within us as the bride of Christ. This information age overloads us with news and knowledge, constantly grabbing our attention. However, all this information is only of limited help if it is not received and understood with the "mind of Christ" and his wisdom. The greater the problems become, the more deeply our Father wants to reveal Himself to us and to the world and share his wisdom with us. This earth will be (and is already being) filled with the wisdom and "knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea". (Habakkuk 2:14).

God's wisdom is never limited just to conveying knowledge, facts and concepts. God's wisdom comes only with an experience, an encounter and a close relationship with Him. This also applies to the major transformation process that we are going through right now. Encounters with Him change us. And to do this, He wants to draw us into a deep relationship with Himself. We do not grow closer to God by just working to build up our general knowledge of Him or a better understanding the problems of our time. We come closer to Him when we take our concerns to Him, especially in areas where we really have very little understanding and no ideas about a possible way forward, at a deeper level.

Could it be that the major concerns of our time, relating to energy, climate and the environment, are an invitation from God to delve deeper into His wisdom? We must want to seek God's wisdom, knowing that it is fully available to us if we ask for it. Like divers who venture into the deep sea in a yet unexplored area of the world, calm and yet so full of life and opportunity, we want to discover more deeply the mystery of God. Only then will we increasingly fulfil our real calling - which is to reveal to this world the new creation which is in Christ Jesus. This will once again truly amaze this world, which is searching for answers to the major concerns of our time, when the sons and daughters of God reveal the wisdom and knowledge of God in Christ.

Alexander Schlüter (AS)

Thank You for your support

We have seen how many of you have responded to our summer bulletin about our finances - be it as individual donations, standing orders or pledges. We would like to say Thank You from the bottom of our hearts for walking with us down the financial road and for entering into this partnership with us. God binds us closer together, and together and we clearly experience the nature and character of a God who provides for us all. But where do we stand financially now? Through your help we now have a good foundation that will get us through the following months. For this we are very grateful! Perhaps our Thank You has not reached all of you yet. We would like to take this opportunity to say: Many thanks!

Knowing God's ways in times of crisis with great challenges

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called "Repairer of Broken Walls", "Restorer of Streets with Dwellings". Is 58:12.

We continue to face great challenges for which we want to pray:

- War in Ukraine - with the consequences of sanctions against Russia, delivery of arms to Ukraine, but also the threat of an extended period of war.
- Economic crises and energy policies - with increasing inflation and the potential for an increasing division in society, but also with the possibility of a having to coexist together in new and different ways.
- Corona virus control measures.
- Debates in government on various legislative proposals - deletion of §218 (current pregnancy termination/abortion law), for example.
- The tensions in society (at state and citizen levels).

Let us fix our eyes on God so that we can see what God is doing and wants to continue to do in our country and our senses are not "distracted" by the numerous conflicts in our society.

Prayer:

- **Lord, awaken our spiritual senses so that we can know the ways of your kingdom in all the tensions, shakings and political decisions that we now face and that together with you we can continue to keep our spiritual senses alive and active. (Isaiah 50:4)**
- **That the wisdom and greatness of God will be clearly seen in our country. (Psalm 46:10)**
- **For the ministry of reconciliation and restoration where "broken walls need to be repaired" and "streets with dwellings need to be restored". (Isaiah 58:12)**

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An autumn of radical protests?

Inflation, rising energy prices, climate protection policies, supply shortages, etc. are undoubtedly causes for concern at the moment and reflect the seriousness of the times in which we live. For us as Christians, they all call us to prayer. A call to intercession for our nation, for our government and those with authority and responsibility for our society and the current basic needs of those around us. A call to prayer for a return to the Creator of all things and to the One who in every way and by all means only has thoughts of hope and the future for us. They also call us to use our resources responsibly, to show solidarity with those who may be more seriously affected than we are, and to take practical and creative precautionary measures to help us all go through this time.

At the same time, however, this state of affairs, with so many difficult issues and challenges to be tackled at one time, also offers a great potential for the formation and mobilization of various groups, especially those with an extremist policy. They take advantage of the situation, knowing that "wide-spread dissatisfaction" creates a fertile ground on which to promote their demands, as has been observed by sociologists for years. Some of these groups then say that the difficult issues and challenges call for civil disobedience, as propagated by climate change and left-wing extremists in "Extinction Rebellion" (an

environmental movement now in many countries) as a means of protest, and are announcing a "hot autumn".

Politicians and researchers fear an autumn of radical protests. The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Germany has set up a special unit to be able to react quickly to developments.

Neither rebellion nor fear are considered as having a place or value in the kingdom of God. It is the love of God that casts out all fear and raises hope in our hearts. (1 John 4:18; Romans 5:5).

Prayer:

- **For an autumn of "radical prayer" and no radical protests. (Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 6:9-13)**
- **For outer and inner peace for our country and a revelation of Jesus as the Prince of Peace. (Numbers 6:22-26, Isaiah 9:6)**
- **For wisdom, protection and safety for those in authority and to know we are praying for them. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)**

Tanja Frank (TF)

Germany - Israel

At the Documenta in Kassel - one of the most noted exhibitions of contemporary art world-wide - several works with anti-Semitic imagery were seen. Months earlier there had been some allegations that the curators, a community of artists from Indonesia, were allowing material with anti-Semitic content to be displayed and they were warned not to invite any BDS sympathizers. Only after many attempts to justify the content of the exhibition did the Documenta General Director resign from her post. The interim management is also refusing to see if there are other works on display with anti-Semitic content. The Documenta is co-financed by the German state. 50 years after the assassination attack on members of the Israeli athletic team by Palestinian terrorists at the Olympic Games in Munich, the bereaved family members of the eleven victims are refusing to take part in the planned memorial service on September 5th. Their long-standing demands on the German and Bavarian governments are: an admission of guilt by Germany for the inadequate security precautions in the Olympic village and for their refusal to engage an Israeli specialist unit at the time to negotiate the release of those taken hostage, the disclosure of all archives, and adequate compensation for the relatives of those killed according to international standards.

On August 16th, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas spoke at a press conference in the Chancellery in Berlin. When asked about an apology for the attack at the Olympics in Munich in 1972, he accused Israel of "50 Holocausts" against the Palestinian population. The press conference ended without any expression of protest from Chancellor Scholz for the statement of Abbas.

What the incidents have in common is that high-ranking officials on the German side are reluctant to confront attacks on Jews, and only react to adequately support Jews and to stand by Israel when under pressure or forced to do so.

Prayer:

- **Repentance from those in authority in Germany for duplicity and for wavering between two sides, towards Israel or its enemies. (1 Kings 18:18+21)**
- **For conviction that with "lip-service" to support such incidents, the underlying apathy and indifference towards the Jews and Israel will eventually come into the light. (Isaiah 29:13ff)**
- **That friendship with Israel will move from being a generally accepted policy of the state to a matter of the heart and for positive action. (Matthew 25:31ff)**

Karen Heepen (KH)

God's covenant with creation – and repentance for our over-exploitation of its resources

We are currently experiencing a hot summer, under which forests, rivers, plants and living creatures moan and groan. Creation calls out (Romans 8:19) and asks us as his children to focus on it in a new way so that it is "liberated from its bondage".

We are quick to associate the lack of rain with the spiritual drought in our land. This is certainly an appropriate comparison and interpretation. But is it possible that God also wants to speak to us personally when it comes to our indifference towards creation and our over-exploitation of its resources? I believe that God wants to lead us to work together, in a partnership with Him in caring for the environment. But we must not put creation on too high a level and guard it above all else, nor do we want to try to protect and care for creation without the Creator.

Many of the questions of our time are of an ecological nature – the relationship between living things and their environment. We need the wisdom of God, which will always be seen in his creation. God loves his creation because it is the place of revelation of his glory, and He Himself carries the responsibility to take care of it. The covenant He made with Noah applies to the earth and all living things.

"Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8:21-22).

God invites us to partner with Him to think again about our use of resources and to fully support the covenant that He has made with the earth and all living creatures.

Prayer:

- **We repent where indifference and irresponsibility have shaped our dealings with creation.**
- **For wisdom on how we can take our responsibility and relationship with creation seriously in everyday life. (Colossians 2:2,3)**
- **For insight within political and business leadership in the implementation of environmental issues. (Daniel 1:17)**

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*Let us release God's blessings throughout our land
Alexander Schlüter and team*