

Germany – a nation of intercessors

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:1,2a)

At the beginning of October, I visited Herrnhut. This small town in Oberlausitz, Saxony, from where, beginning in 1722, God moved the gospel out into the world, is still a source of inspiration for prayer and mission. Many places now bear witness to the extraordinary work of Count Zinzendorf and his friends (internationally known as the Moravians), who dared to do so many new things. They courageously founded a community, gave it a new form, structure and expression, took on a prayer mandate, and thus opened a new path for Christian service at that time.

My heart was particularly moved on the day when I visited the local cemetery, which is called “God’s Field”. Here, in addition to the graves of Zinzendorf and his two wives, one finds the resting place of numerous missionaries who brought the gospel to many parts of the world. Here in this place, heaven and earth appear to be so closely bonded that you can really sense it in your heart. I felt that God’s presence - his peace and glory - rested here. Heaven and earth are indeed closely linked - not only in Herrnhut - but everywhere!

God wants to give us a new awareness of this. Often we don’t realize how close we are to the heavenly realm - to the cloud of witnesses and the presence of angels (Hebrews 12:22). They are with us at all times. How could it be otherwise, since we have gained access to the heavenly world through Christ.

In every age we take hold of certain truths and aspects of God’s nature and will for us and put stress on them once again or perhaps in a new way. In recent years it has been, amongst other things, an understanding of the power that emanates from 24/7 prayer, the importance of worship, and much more. This remains extremely important - but God is also calling us to come closer and to follow new ways towards his heart. I believe that understanding our access to heaven is essential at this time. For 2000 years we have been praying: “Thy kingdom come!” Should we not also expect to see it coming? In Germany and Europe we stand on the shoulders of past generations. The prayer mandate goes back to the time of the monasteries in the first centuries. In the year 2000 we in the Call-of-the-Watchmen also took up a prayer mandate. Let us rise up and courageously pursue this prayer mandate and, like our brothers and sisters back then in Herrnhut, take new risks with our God. New seeds of prayer are waiting to be sown.

Alexander Schlueter (AS)

We mourn the loss of Ortwin Schweitzer

On October 12th, 2022, the founder and honorary chairman of our prayer network - Ortwin Schweitzer - passed away. Deeply moved and full of gratitude, we in the Call-of-the-Watchmen look back on the many traces of immense blessing that Ortwin has left in our country and elsewhere. This apostle and father always touched our hearts deeply with his faith and passion.

Ortwin opened and strengthened the desire of so many intercessors to pray for politics and society. His devotion to prayer for Germany and for Europe encouraged us again and again and is now bearing lasting fruit.

We are sincerely grateful for Ortwin’s courage and dedication, for his deep-rooted faith and for his loving, joyful nature!

Dear Ortwin, from our hearts, we say “thank you”.

We love you and already miss you!

-AS-

Protection of infrastructure and maintenance of basic services

With the attacks on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines, on the Druzhba pipeline in Poland (the most important oil pipeline from Russia to Western Europe), on submarine cables in southern France and in the North Atlantic and on the German railway, the danger of strikes against the critical infrastructure in Germany and Europe has intensified. The focus is on the energy supply as this is essential to meet the basic needs of the population and for industry and its loss has extreme and immediate consequences. Three of the four Nord Stream pipelines have been damaged by the

infiltration of salt water and probably are no longer usable. There have already been cyber-attacks on wind farms, and access to coal-fired power plants is repeatedly being blocked by extremists. Most recently, Russia attacked the energy supply in Ukraine in particular, and a third of the Ukrainian power plants were damaged.

At the end of October, the Federal Government approved the participation of a Chinese State shipping company in the Tollerort Terminal in the Port of Hamburg, although all six ministries involved in the investment review had refused permission for it to enter the port. This could also give China access to sensitive information on European maritime traffic.

Prayer:

- **For God’s mercy in the maintenance of basic services and protection from military/nuclear escalation. (Luke 11:3f)**
- **We stand between the powers of darkness, that they may not prevent God’s plans for Europe. (Hebrews 12:27-29)**
- **That planned attacks on energy supply systems and infrastructure come to light in advance and are thwarted. (Job 34:21-24)**

Karin Heepen (KH)

Identity and self-determination

The eternal calling of God lies within the life of every human being. God himself has woven us in a secret place, formed our bodies in the womb and crowned our being with glory and honour. In this conscious act of creating life,

he placed dignity and identity in every single human life. Dignity that also includes our sexuality. Identity that lies deeper than our thoughts and feelings. Identity based on being made in the image of God and dignity that shows that we are not a product of chance - neither in terms of the times in which we are born, nor our parentage or even our gender. God himself has consciously and with great vision formed our being and placed a part of himself in us. Even the angels marvel at this fact! Do we marvel with them? And do we convey the awesome wonder of this God-given identity and dignity within our lives and in the words we speak to the society around us and to future generations? At the end of June, the basic clauses for the planned self-determination law in Germany were presented in parliament. These envisage a simplification of the process for changing the gender entry in the civil status register - and this already for children and young people. From the age of 14, the non-consent of the legal guardians of the child can be set aside in court.

God himself has given us the freedom to shape and conduct our lives in a self-determined manner. At the same time, God is calling us to come to Him to receive peace and assurance from His heart when our souls are afflicted with personal problems concerning how we perceive our identity.

Prayer:

- **That the powerful beauty of our God-given identity and dignity be rediscovered, recognized and proclaimed in our society. (Psalm 8:3-5; Psalm 139:13-16)**
- **That our legislation be transformed and inspired by the God-given dignity of man. (Genesis 1:26+27)**
- **For the young generation. (Luke 15:20; Psalm 103:13)**

Tanja Frank

Anti-Christian reasoning within art and culture

A few days ago, the German Book Prize was awarded to a "non-binary" person for the first time. Non-binary people always feel neither fully male nor fully female. This was a special case in many respects. The award is given for "narratives about a body that eludes conventional ways to recognise its gender", and even though the "Blutbuch" (Blood Book) by Kim de l'Horizon equally "provoked and inspired" the jury, it was to a large extent considered to be a pornographic novel. No wonder that the award ceremony and the author were subsequently heavily criticized.

Here it becomes clear how anti-Christian reasoning, thinking and living is meanwhile deeply embedded in art and culture, although the Swiss author insists: "There is no gender ideology, no queer propaganda." (NZZ news from 19.10.) We need to challenge the way of reasoning and thinking among artists, writers and musicians, who in no small measure become the voice of a people and with their works of art not only present an image of the society, but also further influence the society with the content of their works of art.

Prayer:

- **For a renewing of the minds of artists and a change in their reasoning so that they produce and publish what is good and pleasing to God and thus contribute to the healing of our society. (Romans 12:2).**
- **For the rediscovery of God's way of living within society and the joy to be experienced in its values. (Psalm 1)**

Frank Laffin

Germany – Poland - France

Germany is coming under pressure within the EU for going alone in its energy and defence policies. The 200 billion Euro released by the Federal Government to compensate for the high energy prices for citizens and industry is seen to be distorting efficient competition within the economy. Chancellor Scholz also announced the establishment of a joint air defence system under German leadership in northern Europe, without first agreeing on this with our immediate neighbours France and Poland. After previous clashes between Chancellor Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron, the Franco-German government consultations planned for October were cancelled, as was the meeting of the official representatives of the parliaments of Germany, France and Poland (Weimar Triangle). Relations with Poland have been strained since the beginning of the war in Ukraine over Germany's reluctance to impose energy embargoes on Russia and over military aid to Ukraine. On October 13th, Germany and 14 other countries signed a declaration of intent for a European defence shield (European Sky Shield) on the fringes of the NATO Council in Brussels, without the participation of Poland. In a diplomatic note on October 3rd, the Polish government invoiced Germany for World War II damage amounting to 1.3 trillion Euro. From the German point of view, claims for reparations were concluded with the Potsdam Agreement of 1945 and the Two Plus Four Agreement of 1990, although Polish claims were not then taken into account.

Prayer:

- **The relationship between France, Germany and Poland is the supporting axis to maintain stability in Europe, especially in the current war situation. Let us pave the way for understanding and goodwill in prayer. (Ecclesiastes 4:10-12)**
- **For protection for the still very vulnerable friendship between Germany and Poland, for healing and deep reconciliation. (Psalm 133)**
- **For mercy for the Federal Government, that it lives up to Germany's vocation as a reliable foreign policy partner. (Psalm 109:26f)**

-KH-

(This prayer letter is somewhat shorter due to illness within the team.)

God's blessings for your times in prayer,

Alexander Schlüter and team

English translation by Phil and Margaret Daniell