

Healing of the heart

We love because he first loved us! (1 John 4:19). We cannot love unless we first experience the abundant love of Jesus for ourselves. And this in an intimate way. Only to the extent that we experience His love, can we love! We can't do it in our own strength. We must forever stay close to the heart of Jesus. Otherwise our love is always just another religious exercise and people around us sense that.

I believe that one of the greatest barriers to experiencing God's love is that we have become accustomed to constantly judging everything. From this we have long drawn our sense of identity and security. Driven on the one hand by our pride, which sometimes makes us look better and sometimes worse than others, and on the other hand, by our concern that we are being deceived. Jesus wants to free our lives from such analysis and judgments - also from the overwhelming pressure to perform and the feeling of never doing enough. Walls will come down when we no longer judge ourselves and others and not even our circumstances!

Jesus wants so much to heal our hearts and show us the source of our true identity – along with a new perspective - where we see everything in God's light. We no longer regard ourselves and others from a worldly point of view (2 Corinthians 5:16) and we finally get access to God's thoughts, because we now have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). If our identity is no longer based on our own judgements, then our life takes on a whole new direction. Our understanding and our heart's desire become one again and we are freed from confusion. How we respond is no longer based on a correct evaluation of the situation, but on relationship and on love. This heals us deeply on the inside. There is a wide-open door to the Father's heart. In fact, he regards every person in love and without prejudice. This not only applies to us, but also to everyone who has not yet recognised Jesus as Saviour. His heart is deeply engaged with this world. "The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world." (John 1:9).

Alexander Schlüter

Lent

As a prayer network, we want to give the Holy Spirit room to speak to us during Lent and we want to align ourselves with one another as follows:

- Let us take time to just dwell in God's presence. We are in no hurry. We do not have to move on to the next subject in prayer. We have time to listen to God and to rest in Him.
- What God wants to do among us in the coming months may be quite different from what we thought or imagined. This month let us open wide the Call of the Watchmen prayer network to allow the Holy Spirit to touch us as He wills.
- Let us fast from the use of media (the news, computers, smartphones) and shift our attention away from our own thoughts and judgments and towards the awareness of new thoughts from God.
- From the depths of our hearts, we want to be prepared in prayer to respond to a "new call" when we hear it. "Deep calls to deep ..." (Psalm 42:7) But not out of coercion or pressure to perform, but as an expression of a longing for God that lies within us.

Alexander Schlüter

Escalation and Awakening

A year after the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there are signs of escalation. In his State of the Nation address on Shrove Tuesday (Pancake-Day/Mardi-Gras), Russian President Vladimir Putin presented his plans for the occupied territories of Ukraine. On the same day in Warsaw, US President Joe Biden attested to victory, freedom and unity in the West and prepared Europe and NATO for another year of war. The Ukrainian President Zelensky is constantly demanding new weapons, while the front lines between Russian and Ukrainian troops hardly move and both sides are suffering terrible

losses. A military victory is not in sight, nor negotiations that could save lives.

At the same time, planned deliveries of armoured tanks fall through, research sheds light on the demolition of the Nord Stream pipelines, and war rhetoric is being exposed. We are witnessing increasing shakings in all areas of society and how light is breaking through darkness and deception. As Christians, we know that the Western partners are not so much "allies of light" as Biden proclaimed in Warsaw, to stand together against the stand-alone darkness of Russia, but rather that light and darkness are passing straight through all our hearts and through the world, between life and death. The only way to peace for Europe is by turning back to God.

Prayer:

- **For a time of repentance in Lent before Easter with the confession: "We have all sinned and need redemption, and this applies also to us as nations of darkness and death - Russia, Ukraine, Europe, USA." (Romans 3:10-18)**
- **That we walk with Jesus between the powers of darkness which rise up as enemies against each other. (Psalm 37:8-15)**
- **For no 3rd World War, but a turning to God, to revival, and that His peace and justice shall spread in Germany and Europe. (Psalm 85)**

Karin Heepen

Outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Asbury University

After the conclusion of a regular worship service which takes place in the auditorium of the Asbury University on February 8th, a handful of students lingered in prayer in the presence of God. Some students went to class only to ask their professors for their permission to return to the auditorium because they felt the Holy Spirit was beginning to work in a special

way. Since that time, students have not stopped seeking God in this place. The news spread around the world in no time at all. Other universities have already been touched and are also experiencing God's presence. One can clearly perceive how closely the body of Christ is linked worldwide. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is clearly marked by a deep sense of peace, humility and simplicity, a longing to be together with other worshippers and a love for Jesus.

(1) Prayer for the young generation:

Prophets saw a revival coming and that it would be led by the young generation. Significantly, we are experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit in a university, not in a church. God creates new wineskins and we must not restrict His works by conforming to tradition, old ways and concepts. We need a wide-open, soft heart to recognise the need for new ways that can handle the imperfect and uncomfortable side effects of revival. Let us pray:

- For a revival among the young generation and that this may be both authentic and "imperfect". (1 Corinthians 1:26ff).
- That schools and universities and the most unlikely places will be visited by the Holy Spirit.
- That all generations work together in revival. (Malachi 4:5,6)

(2) Prayer for a revival of love in the body of Christ:

God's heart beats for union within his bride. We should mature together and learn to come together in humility to make Christ known. Love is to be given priority in dealing with all that may be imperfect. In the face of difficulties, let us stand up for one another. Because love is the sign of a new era! We help each other to get up when one of us is down and we cover for one another where failure is evident. The "Jesus-People" was a movement of God in the 1970s that came through apparently "imperfect" people - the hippies. No one expected God would use this group of people and many even missed this move of God because they could not accept what appeared to be so different. This movement was chaotic and there was nothing traditional about it. Let us pray:

- That our hearts experience healing. (Jeremiah 30:17)
- That God will help us to lay down our own programs and plans for the future where necessary.

Alexander Schlüter

The responsibility for our self-determination

In July of this year, Section 219a of the German Criminal Code, which regulated the enactment of the ban on advertising for abortion services, was deleted without replacement legislation. Up to that time, advertising of services for the termination of pregnancies was one of the "offences against life preservation" that are described in Sections 211 to 222 of the Criminal Code. However, the next step in this legal process had already been introduced in the new government coalition agreement, namely to eliminate abortion itself from the Criminal Code and to enable the discarding of unborn life (abortion) without any protective alternatives. A "Commission for Reproductive Self-Determination and Procreation Medicine" is now discussing a new regulation here. Federal Family Minister Lisa Paus (Greens) is now calling for the abolition of Section 218, which has up until now made abortion a punishable offence. This demand is based on the human right to reproductive self-determination and the right of women to make decisions about their bodies. The protection of unborn life

which is in fact still required constitutionally is ignored. Similarly, a return to the recognition of the responsibility that goes along with any form of self-determination, including dealing with all sexual activity in a responsible way - especially in our enlightened and civilised society today - as well as a proper understanding of what it means to kill an unborn life, is a decision that has more importance than any concern about my own body. I carry the responsibility for the life of the child that was the result of the self-determined expression of my sexual behaviour, both personally and in the sight of my God.

Prayer:

- **For the cleansing of sexual impurity and for a new, divine understanding of sexual behaviour in the body of Jesus.**
(Ephesians 5; Joshua 3:5)
- **For our hearts to be filled with passion for the unborn and for us to become a voice in society.** (Deuteronomy 4:24)
- **Awakening of the fear of God and reverence for life in society and politics.** (Proverbs 9:10)

Tanja Frank

Earthquake in Turkey/Syria

Aftershocks are still shaking the eastern Mediterranean as far as Iraq since the severe earthquakes on February 6th in southern Turkey and northern Syria that left more than 50,000 dead and millions homeless. It is as if the spiritual relationships between Europe and Arabia were shifting with the two continental plates.

A mixture of different people groups live in this region, including many Kurds who are oppressed in Turkey and have established a democratic self-government in northern Syria. Turkey has driven out parts of this government with Islamist armies, giving the IS (Islamic State) impetus in the region. Erdogan is now pursuing geopolitically the resurrection of the Ottoman Empire - which fell 100 years ago in July 1923 - from the Balkans to North Africa. The central area for the realisation of his Islamist expansionist plans has now been hit by the earthquakes.

Along with the many upheavals in the Middle East, is this also an outward sign of the imminent collapse of the house of Islam? If Islam falls in the Arab world, it also loses its power in Europe, which brings with it new streams of refugees. Many have been praying for years for a highway of peace from Egypt to Assyria (Isaiah 19:23-25) which will begin there. Amidst all the misery, death and destruction, we hear testimonies from people who were buried alive and rescued from the rubble after more than a week, that a bright figure in white came towards them and gave them something to drink.

Prayer:

- **For all the aid and rescue teams, that they can testify to the survivors of God's love in word and deed.**
(Psalm 145:14-21)
- **That the captives are brought out of the ruins of their earthly and religious houses and find new life - in Jesus Christ - and for the whole world to see.** (Psalm 68:5-10)
- **That revival, repentance and peace will spread in the midst of destruction.** (Isaiah 19:23-25)

Karin Heepen

United in the love of Christ,

Alexander Schlüter and team

English translation by Phil and Margaret Daniell