

A new morning has dawned: "... I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3)

While walking through the forest and being deep in prayer, I suddenly saw an angel in my mind's eye. "Come, I want to walk into the future with you!", the angel said to me in a friendly manner and stretched out a hand to me. For weeks I have been concerned with the question of how we should face the future, not simply waiting to see what happens, but becoming involved in shaping the future. Is that not what prayer enables us to do? Prayer is a creative activity, where we can pray for things in the future at the present time. We may even be able to influence developments in advance! This is possible when we move in the Spirit, aligning our thoughts and hearts with Jesus and his heavenly world, and thus come under the influence of another, new world. And so on this day, I learnt for the first time that we can enter a whole new world in the spiritual realm before we actually see things happen in the natural realm. Do we realise that a door to the kingdom of God stands open for us? (Revelation 4:1) Let us always be ready go through this door so that we can experience new things with Jesus. The kingdom of God is waiting for us to enter right now!

Prayer is a journey of discovery, opening new opportunities, making us aware of new realities in our time. We are forerunners and messengers of the kingdom of God. We can say with all modesty: we hold the future in our prayer! We are called to draw the future into the present, as then what is not visible always acts together with the visible. Let us boldly set out to new shores in the Spirit. In doing so, we do not need to tread the path that someone has already trodden. Rather, there is a path ahead of us that cannot yet be recognised as such. As through tall grass, we are the first to clear a path. Like pioneers and explorers, we go into the unknown, sometimes even into the darkness, into hidden places, where God reveals himself to us in a new way. Has God not promised to show us "what no eye has seen and no ear has heard"? (1 Corinthians 2:9-10), and that we may call on him, like Jeremiah, to learn what we do not know and is naturally even inconceivable for us? (Jeremiah 33:3)

Yes, on this day, with Jesus and the angel, I stepped into a ripe, gleaming golden harvest field. "So much fruit has already grown," I heard Jesus say. "All the supplies and provisions that you need for the future are ready." In the wide land in front of us one can be free and full of joy. Here our tears of disappointment are wiped away and we find consolation even over battles in the past that we have apparently lost. Finally, I feel that we are entering a high-power area – as under a high-voltage power line. And I sense something of the energy and the high power of God. In fact, we are created for and can live in the high-power realm of God's thoughts and intentions. His thoughts are also his actions. For everything that he purposes really does happen. (Isaiah 46:9-10; Proverbs 19:21)

Alexander Schlüter

Acceptance of failure and the need for a new start

While the economy in Europe is growing again after the Corona crisis, Germany is slipping into recession. Many medium-sized companies, service businesses and farming concerns are being forced to close because they can no longer survive with the ever-escalating requirements from environmental criteria, supply chain laws, high energy prices and a shortage of skilled workers. Large companies are moving their locations and investments abroad. Confidence among the population is falling in the face of rising inflation, higher rents, lower standards in education and poor infrastructure, unreliable energy supplies, the uncontrolled immigration and a government policy that is causing Germany to continue to lose its reputation. Lately, and particularly since the announcement of the new heating system installation laws, the concern that government is no longer listening and the anger within the population have been reflected in increasing support for the AfD (Alternative for Germany) "progressive" political party. An increasing portion of the population is protecting itself mentally by withdrawing privately from public comment. Young people now have more anxiety for the future and need a positive vision for a future that would motivate them to support and work for their country. Democracy is losing its place as the basis of our society. The economic industrial nation of Germany was built on a Christian democratic foundation. With the German people turning away from God, we are experiencing the results of the current materialistic drive and our anti-God politics. Germany's economic engine is stuttering and our current political stance is discouraging democratic participation. Will the Lord stop the train that is now driving Germany towards economic ruin? God's gifts and calling for our country are above it all! (Romans 11:29).

Prayer:

- **Let us continue to give thanks to God for all the wealth that he has entrusted to us and for all the blessings that we have received as a nation. (Psalm 105:1-5)**
- **Penance for materialism and the temptation to change course by political means alone. (Matthew 4:4, 6:13)**
- **That in the current agonising situation, the Lord will draw our nation back to Him and give us a new start. (Hosea 6:1-3)**

Karin Heepen

Visionaries and architects for a new start

So much is in crisis in our country right now - in politics and in the economy, in our society and democracy. We are in a phase of transformation. Despite all the realistic potential for making some dangerous decisions, we should still see this time of crisis as an opportunity for a new start. Our world will probably change dramatically in the next few years, not as it has in the last 200 years - but not necessarily only in a negative sense! For this to happen we need a vision, joy, and a clear mind. Our technological age has brought us progress and prosperity, and thereby raising profound questions that need to be answered. But we will ask different questions today than were asked in the 1950s, 70s or 90s, and it is so necessary that we ask them. In Germany we are looking to regain a deep sense of our identity in this new age. This process will take time.

God also wants to give us the senses that enable us to see, hear, taste, smell and make contact with the future. In prayer we can release innovative concepts for the economy, ideas and solutions for the environment and technology. Whether we like it or not - we always need to be creative. Either we stay in old patterns of thought and create the same thing again and again, or we take

God's creative power to think and create the future together with him. Furthermore, we can bring every development and all outstanding decisions to God, such as those that are currently being discussed in the German National Parliament: legalisation of cannabis, euthanasia, energy regulations, etc. At the same time, we can stand in the "counsel of God" to address the major questions and issues that lay behind them. It is not about quick fixes, but about true transformation.

Prayer:

- **We stand with our country in the transformation process. Which area do we particularly want to entrust to God at this time? (Psalm 33:12)**
- **For the enabling and setting of ways that promote true renewal processes and innovations; for vision and a new sense of purpose with a spirit of joy, a clear mind, and creativity. (Psalm 37:3,4)**

Alexander Schlüter

Schools and other training opportunities

The new school year has begun in most German Federal States. The biggest problem is still the nationwide shortage of teachers. Less part-time work for teachers, commitments to teaching more classes and the employment of career changers should remedy the situation, as well as larger classes, more hybrid lessons (partly online) and self-study times. But this increases the risk that the existing teachers may suffer illness or even resign, and makes the general atmosphere and conditions for the students to learn well in lessons more challenging.

Although smaller companies are training fewer and fewer due to the current high requirements, the search for good prospective trainees is becoming more difficult for companies from year to year. At the end of July, there were 77 applicants for every 100 industrial training positions. 233,400 vacant company training places (almost 40,000 more than in the previous year) attracted around 118,000 applicants whose career aspirations did not match the positions offered. Bakers, butchers, hotels, guest houses and restaurants, as well as many plumbing, heating, air conditioning and energy technology companies are most often looking for suitable trainees in vain.

Due to measures introduced during the Corona crisis, learning deficiencies and mental illnesses have increased significantly among children and young people. The fear of being infected by the Corona virus has been replaced by the fear of climate change. The apocalypse (the world coming to an end) and no answers to questions about what is worth living for take away motivation and willingness to learn. The building of a world for tomorrow requires not only discipline, but above all a vision.

Let us pray for schools to become places of revival where both teachers and students can find help and hope (Psalm 36:5-12) and for business leaders and employers who are able to awaken the potential of young people (Psalm 127).

Karin Heepen

Prostitution in Germany

Since the introduction of the prostitution law in 2001 under the red-green government, prostitution has been considered a legal service in Germany. The law was hailed as a success on the road to greater sexual self-determination. Germany then blossomed into an Eldorado for sex tourists from all over the world. Human trafficking, violence, exploitation and forced prostitution then of course increased. Even the prostitute protection law, which was subsequently put forward by the grand coalition in 2017, brought no change here. Experts assume that at least 90 percent of (mostly) women sell their bodies involuntarily. They are exposed to violence, illegal border crossing, physical harm, humiliation,

and degrading treatment daily. They suffer greatly from being psychologically traumatised, which is otherwise only observed among torture victims and war veterans. Their physical health is usually catastrophically affected. There can be no question of sexual self-determination for these people.

In an international study published in 2022, clients of prostitutes, who responded, cited prison terms as an effective deterrent. This coincides with the so-called Nordic model, which is already being used successfully in various countries and in which buying sex as a client is punished as a criminal offence. In Germany, this model has so far been rejected.

Officially, evaluation of the prostitution law is not planned until July 2025. The Prostitution and Pornography Parliamentary Group is however currently considering filing a lawsuit with the Federal Constitutional Court, since the current legal situation constitutes a permanent violation of the principle regarding the inviolability of human dignity which is enshrined in the Basic Law. This would require the support of 184 Members of Parliament in Berlin.

Prayer:

- **Let us raise our voice for the prostitutes and against this injustice in our country - in prayer and in society. (Proverbs 31:8)**
- **Thanks for all the research and studies that correct misrepresentations and keep bringing this issue to public attention.**
- **For the complete reform of the legislation regarding prostitution and the involvement of pimps and clients. (Psalm 51:10)**

Tanja Frank

Economic relationship with Israel

Germany and Israel have had successful economic relations with each other for many years, with a continuously growing trade volume. Both nations complement each other so well because they are so different. Germany with its tradition-rich industrial location and Israel with its innovative strength. While Germany's goods exports to Israel are satisfactory, Israel is still running a trade deficit. In the service sector, on the other hand, Israel is making gains because its high-tech and innovative strength is in great demand. Both nations could benefit from working together on future topics such as computer, software and networking technology, CO2 reduction, mobility, green hydrogen technology and more.

Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia maintain their own office in Tel Aviv to consolidate economic cooperation. Other Federal States, regions and cities have set up business representation in the German-Israeli Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Tel Aviv. In the private sector, also, companies such as Siemens, Volkswagen, and Deutsche Telekom benefit from cooperation with Israel's young technology companies. Let us pray that the economic bridge to Israel will be further strengthened and that in addition to trade in goods and services, a close friendship will eventually emerge along with a common path into the future.

Alexander Schlüter

United in love and prayer

Alexander Schlüter and team

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