

## Visionaries and Founders

Germany is in a state of stagnation. Many people feel hopeless due to a lack of encouraging prospects, and experience the continuous working to solve all the problems without any tangible progress. Political organisations appear to be overwhelmed, often driven by short-term solutions and over-reactive crisis management. What we need is more than just better political action. We need a renewal in our culture, a rediscovery of the creative (Holy) spirit that has guided our country through dark times in the past. Germany needs new visionaries and founders.

Throughout history, it has often been individuals or small groups of people with an idea, a dream, or a vision which have brought about such a change. Whether in science, art, or business, it was creative, courageous minds, questioning existing ways of thinking, that forged new paths, and thus initiated social developments. Germany needs not only more start-ups, but also more social and cultural initiatives, more planners who dare to think outside the box, more artists who pose questions, influence, and inspire change.

Politics can create frameworks, pass laws, and award funding—but cannot generate ideas, provide inspiration, or create dreams. This is the domain of the mind, of intuitive thinking, of creativity. Especially at a time when political systems around the world are reaching their limits, we must rediscover personal responsibility and consideration for others. What is lacking today is not just business founders, but above all people with a vision for the common good. People who have an idea of how we can live together better as a society.

Such renewal does not begin in the government, but in our hearts, our families, our schools, and our neighbourhoods. It begins with questions: "What can I contribute? What talents do I have that I could use for others?" We are part of a greater whole. Our thoughts, our actions, and our decisions have an impact beyond ourselves. In solidarity lies the power that will free our country from stagnation.

The change we need begins not with big speeches, but in quiet action. In a conversation that builds bridges. In the decision to make a start. Every vision that comes into effect begins with a single thought, an impulse, a spark of hope. Perhaps now is the very moment when that spark ignites within you. Germany needs you. Not as a consumer or voter, but as a co-worker, as a thinker, a dreamer, a visionary. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to move us to action and, together with Him, to shape the future!

Alexander Schlüter

## Help for Germany comes from prayer beneath the cross

The coalition agreement between the CDU and SPD is now in draft form. It does not entail a policy shift, but rather seeks to reassure all sides. The planned relief for businesses from taxes, energy costs, and bureaucracy is now not expected to have the potential to create new economic momentum. The law regarding the heating tax is to be repackaged, but the energy policy of the former SPD/FDP/Green coalition and the European Union will mainly be continued. Measures to curb illegal migration are now subject to legal and feasibility considerations. Urgent reforms to the tax, pension, and social security systems are lacking.

The Cannabis Legalization Act and the Self-Determination Act (self-determination of how law applies) are now being evaluated rather than abolished. Family policy continues along the old lines, where the demographic crisis requires as a short-term measure, young people have the courage to build families and have children.

Germany needs a break from entrenched structures and from ideological commitments. Let us stand in prayer beneath the cross of Jesus for Germany.

### Prayer:

- **For forgiveness for our fall from the one God who made our country successful, humane, and free. (Jeremiah 2:12f)**
- **That the paralysing ideological blanket that suffocates Germany be lifted away, so that light and life can enter our rigid, dysfunctional systems. (Isaiah 60:1f)**
- **For a new beginning for Germany based on the power of Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection, leaving the**

## paths and methods of the past and asking for creative solutions from the Spirit of God. (Romans 8:13-19)

- **For ways of healing for our country: Germany is not just in the hands of the next government, but in God's hands. (Psalm 33:8-12)**

Karin Heepen

## Psychological stress from digital media consumption

In a world characterised by digital online networking, the number of welcome and invitation messages, and constant availability to be used, young people in particular are now increasingly under pressure. A worrying trend is emerging here in Germany, and of course in other such countries, where excessive digital media consumption is having a noticeable impact on the mental health of children and adolescents. Between TikTok, Instagram, and constant news streams, many young people are losing touch with themselves and the real world.

Studies show that young people in Germany spend an average of several hours a day with digital media. The time they spend online is steadily increasing, while other activities such as sports, reading, or social interactions are steadily declining. This shift has consequences.

Psychologists and educators are increasingly reporting problems with concentration, inner restlessness, depression, and anxiety among young people. Many young people experience a constant feeling of "not being good enough" because they compare themselves to idealised representations of others. Social media subtly conveys certain ideals with regard to beauty, success, wealth, popularity. These images act as con-

stant invitations to personal evaluations. This can be devastating, especially during puberty, a time of searching for identity and self-awareness. The number of “like” and “acknowledgement” messages become proxies for self-esteem. Those who receive little such resonance and acknowledgement from the system quickly then feel rejected or unimportant. The constant input prevents having time for a true understanding of information and promotes nervousness. Sleep disturbances, increased irritability, and emotional exhaustion are the consequences.

Communication has never been so easy and constantly available – and yet many young people still feel lonely. Online exchanges are no substitute for real relationships. The human need for depth, resonance, understanding, and genuine communication with others often remains unmet.

#### **Prayer:**

- **We want to assume spiritual fatherhood and motherhood for the precious young generation. (Genesis 17:2f)**
- **For times without computer screens, times for rituals such as shared meals without cell phones, offline afternoons, or digital detoxification days, so that young people can regain a sense of real life.**
- **For healthy spiritual development, genuine relationships, open conversations about feelings and stress without judgment, and shared real-life experiences. (John 10:10f)**

Alexander Schlüter

#### **Prayer for rain**

In many parts of Germany, it scarcely rained over the winter and spring. The soil is dry and dusty, and the spring vegetation is struggling to break through, thirsting for water. Forest damage is made worse by the drought, especially where areas have had to be cleared in recent years due to bark beetles. In northern and eastern Germany, there is already a high risk of forest fires.

Is the drought a sign from nature of a spiritual thirst in Germany? The land needs fresh water to flourish.

*“But let justice flow on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream.” (Amos 5:24).*

Rain is there in God's plan of creation to meet the need of the earth for water as required by nature for continuing growth, just like the living water of the Holy Spirit is for spiritual growth. Let us pray in the 50 days leading up to Pentecost that God will open the floodgates of heaven and visit our land with His living water.

#### **Prayer:**

- **That the soil of the earth and all our hearts will be made ready to receive and be penetrated by living water in response to God's plan of creation and to the call of the children of God to heaven. (Romans 8:19-27)**
- **For multiplication, growth and fruitfulness in churches, communities, and congregations, and in all the planned evangelistic activities in the coming weeks. (Ezekiel 47:1-9)**
- **For rain in the natural world and a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. (Deuteronomy 11:13-21; Acts 2:1-4)**

Karin Heepen

#### **Demonstrations in Gaza – a call for prayer**

At the end of March, reports of demonstrations in the Gaza Strip increased. Thousands of people took to the streets in

several locations over many days to demonstrate against Hamas rule, and to demand an end to the war and the release of the Israeli hostages.

In mid-April, after Hamas again rejected a ceasefire proposal from Israel, one of the largest protest actions took place, which was attended by people of all ages. These people dared, publicly and in front of the world, to name Hamas, not Israel, as the source of their suffering and to distance themselves from Hamas. They no longer want to act as human shields, to sacrifice their children, and to live under Hamas's brutal and intimidating rule. The price they are willing to pay for this is very high, as Hamas is responding, as in the past, with arrests, abuse, torture, and even murder.

The number of those willing to join these protests is growing. Whether, in the light of Hamas's repression, a critical mass will emerge that can overthrow this demonic rule from within is uncertain. Consistent and decisive intervention on the part of the international community against this terrorist regime is rather unlikely. From a human perspective, this entire situation seems almost unsolvable.

Middle East journalist Paul Calvert from Bethlehem sees a spiritual revival as the only solution to the war in Gaza, as this war is not primarily a fight against flesh and blood, but against the rule of evil, which brings destruction, suffering, and death. (Ephesians 6:12). Yet amidst the destruction, Jesus is meeting the people of Gaza and the entire Middle East in dreams and visions and leading them to true freedom. He is and remains the Prince of Peace and the one who has all authority in heaven and on earth! (Isaiah 9:6-7).

#### **Prayer:**

- **For spiritual revival in Gaza and among the Palestinians in general. God wants to meet these people in their distress and lead them to freedom. Let us recognise and declare that these protests are a sign of the beginning of a spiritual break-through in the Gaza Strip. (Isaiah 43:19; Matthew 7:7f)**
- **For supernatural encounters with Jesus - resulting in true repentance and conversion among members of Hamas. (1 Timothy 2:3ff, Psalm 145:8)**
- **For the release of the hostages and for the healing of their unimaginably maltreated bodies and souls in the tunnels. (Psalm 23; Hebrews 13:3; Psalm 126)**

Tanja Frank

#### **The election of the new Pope**

This is a significant time for the Catholic Church. In recent years Pope Francis has influenced the Church in a very special way – with his humility, his call for mercy, and his commitment to people at the margins and outer fringes of society. After his death, the question now arises as to who will succeed him. How should we pray?

#### **Prayer**

- **For wisdom and vision: that the Holy Spirit will guide the election of the new Pope – towards a shepherd with an open heart, clear vision, and deeply rooted in Christ Jesus.**
- **For unity and renewal: that, despite some tensions, a new phase of togetherness and renewal can grow – in faith, in love, and in common service to the world.**

Alexander Schlüter

**God's blessing for your times in prayer,**  
Alexander Schlüter and Team