

Call of the Watchman

24 HOUR PRAISE AND PRAYER FOR GERMANY

- April 2009 -



Dear intercessors,

The prayer conference in Friedrichroda is over. A river from the Holy Spirit carried us like a flowing stream through these days. Proclamation was easy, prayer was easy, fellowship was warm, east and west were united, just as God would have it. Friedrichroda is over and that's that? No!! God has opened up new opportunities in our nation. His Spirit will continue to flow, spreading out over the land, bringing blessing and healing to *His* people and to *the* people. The promise of Jesus that streams of living water (the Spirit) will flow from those who believe in him was evident at the end of those days in Friedrichroda. (John 7 v.37-39). Therefore we go forward with a promise which compels us and which will come to pass. Where do watchmen normally stand? They stand at the gate or on the walls or in the tower. So arise – you watchman over Germany – stand in the “gates” (points of entry) of your cities and towns and pray. Climb again to the hills and towers, call out and speak to your city, loudly or quietly, alone or in groups: “The Lord is King of ! Authority and honour belong to HIM alone!” Do it, not once, not twice – do it often and know: you are opening the flood-gates for God's Spirit over your city. And over Germany. And then see what God will do. Write it down, hold it fast, and proclaim it – so that the stream will grow even wider.

- Ortwin Schweitzer -

Winnenden

March 11th 2009 in Winnenden will stay for ever in our memory, as does April 26th 2002 in Erfurt. Tim K., a school leaver from last year, entered his old school on this day, the Albertsville secondary school, not because he missed it, but in anger as a killer. Within 3 hours 15 people were dead in Winnenden and also in Wendlingen, and at the end he killed himself with his Beretta pistol. Little by little the tangle of problems in which Tim had got himself involved is being unravelled: increasing isolation, infatuation with weapons, playing aggressive computer games, desperation on the actual day and a broken-off treatment program for psychological depression.

A shock went through Winnenden and through the entire nation. Fear is widespread, especially as about 50 “copy-cats” from seven Swabian towns have come forward to announce similar intentions; 39 have been detained. Throughout the country flags were at half-mast. The nation mourns. Churches held services that were full. “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deuteronomy 33 v.27) – this is what people are now experiencing. Pray, parents, Christian teachers and Bible study groups in schools, pray now with renewed strength for your schools and fill them with God's good Spirit and blessing! **Prayer:**

- **For God's comfort for the families affected by the tragedy in Winnenden and Wendlingen in their grief and sorrow (Psalm 62 v.8)**
- **For the students and teachers of Albertsville secondary school, that the shock will fade and that healing comes through God's Spirit**
- **For protection for our school children (Psalm 121)**
- **For the excluded and lonely young people, who grapple with fantasies of violence, that they will be accepted in love and be helped**
- **Proclaim life: Jesus is risen. HE has broken the power of death. He is Lord for ever and ever!** - OS-

German unity: social justice

The “Social Report 2008” for the new German states (former East Germany) confirms that only 22% of the citizens identify themselves with the German Federal Republic (former West Germany), and 62% do not yet really feel like federal citizens. The majority appreciate the advantages of democracy and freedom. People with a good income, graduates of further education and the young see themselves as beneficiaries of the reunification. Interest in the political process among the unemployed, people without a professional qualification and people on low incomes has dramatically decreased since 2005. 11% of the people want to have the GDR (East Germany) back with its social policies such as job security. The most important factor is not the political system, but the current social status of citizens. But the political stability of the nation is at stake. There are still many wounded souls and overall there is a great dissatisfaction with social justice in Germany. We pray for ways to bring healing. **Prayer:**

- **That despite all differences, thankfulness for our unity will spread through the nation**
 - **For the growth of personal responsibility and initiative in former East Germany**
 - **For the elimination of deficiencies in the social justice system and wider basis of support within the social security system. (Hosea 10 v.12)**
 - **For the renewal of self esteem and dignity in people through the love of God, independent of their social status (Jeremiah 29 v.11-14)**
- KH -

The Lisbon Treaty before the Constitutional Court

The Treaty of Lisbon that is intended to replace the failed EU Constitution has been ratified by the German parliament, but the German President has not yet signed the agreement. He is waiting for the decision of the German Constitutional Court over a claim from several members of parliament. The following questions as well as others must be resolved:

How much remains of the sovereignty of Germany? Does the Treaty annul the German constitution? The oral hearing has already taken place. Until the announcement of the decision in the next few months, the judges must come to terms with this very complex issue. The good administration of justice is very important for our country, and we therefore want to pray also for the new appointments to the positions of federal judges. On May 14th the selection committee will make their decision on new federal judge appointments. Altogether 35 positions will be filled by new judges. **Prayer:**

- **For a wise decision to avoid any possible harm to the Federal Republic of Germany**
- **God's blessing and light for the constitutional court judges in the decision making process**
- **That the selection committee will be guided by God's Spirit in the appointment of new federal judges** - RS -

G20 Summit and NATO Summit

In London on April 1st and 2nd the most important of all previous "Summits" takes place to agree on measures to overcome the worst global economic crisis for 80 years. The leaders of the eight most important industrialised nations (G8) plus the fast-developing nations (China, India, Brazil, etc.) will discuss concrete actions for the better control of financial transactions and the prevention of the collapse of the entire global economic system. **Pray for unity, insight and positive results and for putting them into practice (also after April 2nd).**

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of NATO there will be a NATO Summit meeting on April 3rd and 4th in Strasbourg and Baden-Baden. The whole world will be watching this summit. Government leaders, defence and foreign ministers as well as guests and support personnel from 26 nations are attending. The American President Obama will be staying in Germany for the first time since taking office to attend this summit. As about 25,000 demonstrators are expected, the police are preparing for their largest deployment in the history of Baden-Wuerttemberg with up to 3,000 security officers equipped to deal with violence. **Let us also pray in this month not only during the NATO summit but generally for the difficult work of police officers all over Germany using Psalm 17 as well as declaring Romans 13 v.1-5 in their honour.** - OS/RS -

Prayer for Israel after the elections

Israel voted on February 10th 2009. There was a swing towards the right. After the appointment by President Peres, the new prime minister designate, Benjamin Netanyahu, made every effort to form a sort of "grand coalition", but met with failure when Livni and Barak refused. The main area of disagreement was the different understandings of the "two state solution" that is rejected by Netanyahu in its currently discussed form. He supports the idea of an extensive Palestinian Autonomy with the emphasis on economic growth, but remaining under Israeli sovereignty. The new government must be formed by April 3rd. This government will rule against the background of the dangerous threat to its existence from Iran in collaboration with the allied Hizbollah (in the north), Hamas (in the south) and Syria (Golan), as well as in the current situation of a newly elected government in the USA. **"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases."** (Proverbs 19 v.1). **Prayer:**

- **For the new government of Israel, for the fear of God, wisdom, courage and a calm approach, so that God's good purposes for Israel are fulfilled**
- **For the protection of Israel according to Psalm 80** - HE -

Birthday gift for the Call of the Watchman

You are great, you are wonderful! Between December 8th (some simply couldn't even wait!) and March 9th we received about 24,000 Euro – a rich offering, a sacrifice pleasing to God! It improved our account with our covering church (BBG-Stuttgart) so much that we hope to have no debt at the end the year despite continuing expenses for wages, mail and special flyers. May I say that I am very proud of you! You have confirmed your commitment to prayer for Germany in a tangible way. You have confirmed that we all work together for the Call of the Watchman. This encourages us as leadership team in our work here in Stuttgart and in Berlin. Your gifts will be a blessing over and beyond their monetary value. Also for you, yourselves. Many thanks from Ortwin, Rosemarie and Oliver. - OS -

Personal note

At the end of January the wife of Oliver Stozek (Call of the Watchman office manager) had a stroke in her spinal column. This illness is so extremely rare that the doctors have no comparable experience to treat it. She is suffering from paralysis in her arms and legs. **Please pray for complete healing and the best medical care! Her husband Oliver and her parents need much comfort, wisdom and encouragement.**

Other events for prayer:

March 29 -April 5 ProChrist 2009 in Chemnitz Arena transmitted to almost 1000 locations in Europe. Please pray!

April 13 –18 Spring – interdenominational holiday festival for Christian families

April 9 Harz Prayer Day for unity

April 25 - May 2 European Union of Prayer in Prague under the leadership of Ortwin Schweitzer

Warmest greetings from Ortwin Schweitzer and Rosemarie Stresemann