

**Call of the Watchman**  
**24 HOUR PRAISE AND PRAYER FOR GERMANY**  
- September 2009 -



**Come Holy Spirit!**

How often have I already proclaimed this over our land! Sometimes with great faith, sometimes faint-heartedly. But if I turn to the word of God, then I feel strength rising up in me again. I know: what I proclaim now has power in the unseen and therefore in the seen world. In the story of the valley of dry bones, Ezekiel was called upon to “prophesy” which means to act as the mouth of God. He called out: “This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.” (Ezekiel 37 v.5) “And as I was prophesying there was a noise...” ! Do you understand? As he spoke, the Spirit came first. Are you with me? Will we together in the name of God call out over the valley of dry bones that is Germany: “Breath, come and blow on these bones and bring them to life!” Then breath entered them and they came to life – a vast army. We will experience this. Yes, we will! -OS-

**Germany votes – we also pray**

It was agreed at the Round-Table Prayer meeting, where various prayer organisations from all over Germany share experiences, that all the groups would join in prayer for the elections. On September 27<sup>th</sup> not only will the national parliament be elected, but also the state parliaments in Brandenburg and Schleswig-Holstein in which the coalition between the CDU and SPD prematurely fell apart.

The German Evangelical Alliance has produced a questionnaire to help people to make contact with the various party candidates. The questions are posted at [www.werte-waehlen.de](http://www.werte-waehlen.de) where you can also read some of the written answers from the parties. Christian-Israel organisations have initiated a similar project with five questions on Israel and Near East policies ([www.projekt-bundestagwahl.de](http://www.projekt-bundestagwahl.de)). If many Christians address specific questions about our values and about Israel to their members of parliament, we will draw attention and emphasise the importance of such issues.

**Prayer:**

- **That God, to whom wisdom and power belong, will set up and depose rulers according to his choosing (Daniel 2 v.20,21)**
- **May the standing of the candidates and the parties that promote the well-being of our country according to Biblical principles be strengthened, and the standing of those who promote ungodly and extremist intentions be weakened. (1. Tim 2 v.1-4)**
- **Pray for the coalitions and distribution of governmental offices that God would want to have**
- **That the current dissatisfaction with politics will be overcome and that many will cast their vote** -RS-

**The Karlsruhe Verdict on the Lisbon Treaty**

In April we prayed that the Constitutional Court would make a wise decision to avoid any possible harm to the Federal Republic of Germany. The judgement exceeded the expectations of those who brought the action in its clarity. The judges ruled that the so-called “collateral law” in the Lisbon Treaty, which establishes the rights of the two houses of government in Germany (national parliament and states assembly) to participate in the European decision process, contravenes the German constitutional law. It must be revised. More far-reaching control rights must be given to members of the parliaments over the European policies of the government in a new collateral law. The national parliament and states assembly must take care that there is no uncontrolled process in the European Union. All political decisions cannot be made centrally in Brussels. When the Lisbon Treaty comes into force, the EU Parliament will not be a democratic parliament of a sovereign European people. According to the constitutional court, the German national parliament must have many more rights, such that Germany retains some freedom over the political development of its way of life. The judges defined a national protection clause such that the German constitutional process will not be damaged by laws from Brussels. Among other things, the management of family and educational matters and the handling of the various religious and ideological beliefs are within this protection clause. A new collateral law was presented to the national parliament on August 26<sup>th</sup>, and this must be passed by the states assembly by the end of September. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a repeat referendum in Ireland on the Treaty of Lisbon.

**Prayer:**

- **We thank God for the division of power in our country and for the wise verdict of the judges**
- **That, in the development of the new “collateral law”, the verdict of the constitutional court will be properly interpreted for the protection of national sovereignty**
- **That the members of parliament will actively exercise their new control rights** -RS-

### **Continued danger of terrorism**

At the beginning of August two young Germans and two Turks stood before the court in Dusseldorf in the "Sauerland case". Both Germans, Daniel Scheider and Fritz Gelowicz, are converts. Fritz for already 13 years. In the summer of 2007 they had collected a large amount of explosives in a garage ready for launching attacks. Now the exact plans for these attacks were being revealed before the court. The statements made it alarmingly clear that Islamist terror has finally arrived in the heart of German society. The investigators have come to the conclusion that at least another three dozen young men are ready to take the leap into the terrorist arena. Let us remember: in the summer of 2007 we had a premonition of a special danger and asked you to pray against terror attacks and for the discovery of any plans. Then in September the "Sauerland Group" was exposed. We see this as a great answer to prayer and now we want once again to pray for protection for our land especially in the run up to the elections. **Prayer:**

- **Thanks for God's protection so far (Psalm 127 v.1)**
- **For skill and protection for investigators and for the timely discovery of terrorist plans**
- **For young men at risk, that they would find salvation in Jesus (Matthew 5 v.5,9)** -OS-

### **Decline in the birth rate**

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18 v.14). With these words the angel directly challenged Abraham about child-bearing. Faith and doubt wrestled in Abraham and Sarah laughed. The messenger did not wait for an answer. He put forward a reality from God: "In one year Sarah will have a son." God's promise suddenly stands like a lighthouse in the storm of fear and doubt.

And how is it with us on this subject? Do we have the faith that God can still stop the downward trend? We have already prayed and the decline is slowing down but we have not yet reached the turn-around. The latest European statistics show Germany trailing all the other 26 nations with 8.2 births per 1000 citizens. This despite "parents allowance" and the extension of the child day care system. In the meantime experts say that the causes may lay elsewhere. "The cultural and religious context clearly plays a decisive role" reports a local newspaper. There is also the question about whether partnerships will last and naturally the economic concern about the security of employment. But: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Let us challenge ourselves as intercessors to bring these issues before the Lord with renewed confidence.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Psalm 127 v.3. "Children are a gift from the Lord." Let us regard children in this way and always be thankful. He can give us children as the "dew of the dawn". Psalm 110 v.3.**
- **Pray for joy over children in our land, a supernatural trend towards children, especially for German couples**
- **Pray that couples do not just live together, but have the courage to get married and include children once again into their concept of what life is all about**
- **For a family oriented government and good people to fill posts in the Ministry for Families after the election** -OS-

### **Economic development**

About 1.3 million workers are on short-time at the moment in Germany and this has prevented a sharp rise in unemployment. Even when economic growth is slowly rising again (thank God!), the enormous shortfall in industrial production cannot be recovered in just a few months. Exports have fallen by 25% and many firms face insolvency. There will be many redundancies by the end of the year. At the moment the under 25s and over 55s are first to go. What chance then has the younger generation? **Prayer:**

- **Thanks for all the protection up until now and the social peace during the crisis**
- **For creative and wise decisions by business people and politicians to preserve jobs and create new ones**
- **Pray for the necessary changes so that industry and commerce may become more ethical and fair** -RS-

### **Answer to prayer**

In June we prayed that the atheist bus campaign would not achieve its goals but instead would result in a renewed interest in God. Campus for Christ quickly decided to send a "Christian bus" behind the atheist bus with the sign "And when he still exists ... [www.Gottkennen.de](http://www.Gottkennen.de)" ("know God" Web site). They drove the same route and this led to many encounters, much food for thought and other developments. There were deep discussions with the leaders of the atheist campaign that eventually led to a plan for Campus for Christ to organise a symposium with quantum physicists on the subject of "Quantum Physics and Transcendence". The discussions between Christians and atheists will continue. Let us thank God for this answer to prayer and for all those who have been encouraged in faith through this bus tour. -RS-

### **Other events for prayer:**

- 21.8 – 19.9** Prayer Action: 30 Days of Prayer for the Islamic World. Information and booklet from: [www.ead.de](http://www.ead.de).
- 15.9** Prayer day in Berlin "Come Holy Spirit" on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the so-called "Berlin Declaration"
- 21.– 24.9** German Bishops' Conference in Fulda
- 24. – 25.9** General Meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in Germany

*Greetings from Rosemarie Stresemann and Ortwin Schweitzer*