

Let us dream again – as we celebrate the 24th birthday of the Call of the Watchmen

A few days ago, I had a remarkable encounter with Jesus, when he encouraged me to search in a specific area within my heart where many of my past dreams in life are safely filed away. I was not that eager to enter this area because there are many unfulfilled dreams there, which I know would only make me feel ashamed and disappointed in bringing them again to my attention. I was even more amazed that it appeared to be so important to Jesus to remind me of my past dreams. He gently took me by the hand to lead me back to again face this significant area in my heart.

Jesus has much love and concern for our hearts and He always addresses our hearts with the utmost dignity and respect. Our dreams are highly valued by God. They are in fact the essence of our very being – revealing how we face the future in our lives! I believe that God has assigned special angels to help us make our dreams come true. Much lies dormant in our subconscious and we sense that we are called to something better and higher, as with a deep longing that can no longer remain hidden. Our God wants to bring our dreams to life. For dreams are never completely lost, but just saved for another time. Let us sow the seeds of our dreams once again. Through all seeming failure, hurts and disappointments, Jesus calls out: you will see the growth you longed for and the blossom! Your sense of shame must go and even your childhood dreams should come true. He is the keeper of our dreams. He knows the might of an idea and the value of our wildest thoughts, for all creative power flows from our dreams and imagination.

This is also true for Germany. In Germany we have a great longing for change, growth, for springtime and new fruit that may finally come forth from the long-hardened earth. Let us call out prophetically: Germany, come to life and bloom! You have such beauty. Bloom in the splendour of good fortune. Let us call out in all areas of society: there is real worth in learning to dream again! God will give us growth because he is a God of life!

- Search the area of past dreams in your heart, together with Jesus. What dreams do you find there? Start dreaming again, consciously sow the seeds of your dreams once again where Jesus encourages you to do so.
- When you can no longer allow yourself to dream again because of past disappointment, Jesus understands and still loves you.
- What dreams do you have in your heart for Germany for our cities and regions where you are able to sow new seeds?

In the 25th year of the Call of the Watchmen, we want to become adventurers. A vast, unexplored land awaits us. God draws us as we pray as watchmen to look behind the curtain, away from what we see naturally, to immerse ourselves deeply into a new dimension of God's glory (Isaiah 33:17). We are getting a new drive, a change in our operating system. We release all dependence on our own performance and discover that we will move forward with ease, and that it is joy and abundance that paves and lines the next path.

Alexander Schlüter

What is going on, here in Germany?

We have not yet fully worked through and adequately recovered from the pain and division caused by the Corona crisis with its destructive elements of fear, accusation, and exclusion, while other crises are now shaking us, such as the war in Ukraine, the war in Israel/Gaza, rising energy costs, the state of the economy and coming to terms with mass migration from the Middle East and Africa. But it is not so much the magnitude of the crises or the threat to our democracy that bothers us, as the resulting fear, division, shame, and the deep-seated identity crisis within our society. The certainty and the order in our lives, which we had in the past, is faltering, and we now feel disoriented and are losing confidence. There are many basic questions that have now to be answered once again, but in a completely new way.

In politics, arguments are too often moralising, telling us how we should think and what can be said, what is good and what is evil. Many policies are purely ideological, are imposed on us and not the result of intensive cooperation with us in society to reach a consensus, and are consequently not sound and soon fall apart. Instead of open debate, the claiming of moral superiority and the deriding of the political opponent take the place of the necessary sincere discussion of all the proposals. A significant sector of the population has lost their trust in politics; such mistrust paralyzes political and social progress in the country.

The media also often fail to report issues in a clear and unbiassed manner, and even fail to encourage an open discussion within society on the issues. Instead, journalism too often tries to judge the matter and draw its own conclusions. It is as if the media needs to take over the thinking from readers and viewers.

We need a joint, open interaction based on the factual issues in making political decisions which are not limited by individual party expectations. And we need vigilance as to where politics are crossing over the borders of their assigned role in society. Despite all the crises, we must not allow "images of enemies to

be defeated" to take a place in our hearts. We Germans really want to be on the right side of history. We want to follow the commandments and laws that are deeply in our hearts, and we always look for a strong person who can give us direction and guidance, and whom we can trust. And at the same time, we are afraid to be led astray once again.

At this stage we must sense even more clearly the ground on which our nation actually stands – being founded in the heart of the Father God - and not on our own wisdom. Instead of self-condemnation and accusation, we must accept ourselves in all our insecurity.

We need love for the truth, which lies not only in exposing the errors of those who think differently, but also enables an earnest desire within us, unites hearts however different they may be, and thus contributes to profound healing and reconciliation in our land. Fear and mistrust should not rule in our lives and so separate us from each other. Some things are wrong and need to come to light, for others a solution can only be found together. Only a deep reconciliation within ourselves and an acceptance our weaknesses will help us as a nation to take on God's identity in a deeper way and find the new course for our land towards the future. We want to pray for this with all our hearts.

Alexander Schlüter

Stop the train!

The protest rallies of farmers, rail strikes, demonstrations against right-wing groups, storms, and snow chaos at the beginning of the year are all warning signs for political situation in Germany. While politicians and the media are calling for a ban on the AfD (Alternative for Germany) Party, Sahra Wagenknecht and the WerteUnion (Values Union) Party are forming new parties that want to bring about a change in the political scene in Germany. However, in the targeted political polarization within the political scene no one side alone can "reroute the train" (force a change in the way in which the political system is running at present), according to democratic rules. One can perhaps ban a party (which then re-forms itself under a different name), but its voters remain. A party that even dares to call for supporters of another party with an opposite policy to be killed, as was recently written on an Antifa (Antifascist Action) banner in Aachen, is surely paving the way for terror. The way to avoid the escalation of such behaviour would be to conduct an open discourse instead of just delegitimizing the political opponent. But there is no apparent willingness to do this.

For years, the political train in Germany has been driving through "stop signs" that indicate that danger is ahead, and are in fact warnings from experts in business and from abroad of dangerous weak points in the infrastructure and in energy supply, according to tried and tested structures and principles, and at the same time thinks it can ignore these signs and continue on, regardless of the danger, to offer further benefits. In a dream, a prophetic teacher in Switzerland, Andreas Keller, saw the ICE express train in Germany come off the rails. Help came only from those who in such times come to the cross and bow down before the Lord. **Prayer:**

- For mercy, that the Lord intervenes and stops the train before it derails. (Daniel 2:20ff)
- That God suddenly removes and installs political parties and movements and that the repercussions will enable his work in politics to be done effectively. (Hebrews 12:26ff)
- That Christians in politics and business prepare themselves to act according to God's standards and to bring healing to Germany. (Matthew 6:19ff)

Karin Heepen

Standing with Israel

The Hamas attack on Israel was preceded by an internal political divide within the country, comparable to that now in Germany, thus opening up a vulnerable and least protected area for the enemy to attack. The trauma of October 7 and the ensuing war are currently welding the country together. At the beginning of January, the highest court overturned part of the judicial reform with a narrow majority, allowing the conflict to flare up again without causing the unity government to falter. Nevertheless, the democratic systems in our nations are in danger of collapsing due to conflicting worldviews.

At a deeper level, the Hamas massacre opened the wound of thousands of years of anti-Semitism and persecution of Jews in the Diaspora. Even in the re-establishment of their national home in Israel this wound was not healed and is still vulnerable to further attack. Their own strength was not enough to prevent the catastrophe. Through the massacre the Jewish people were forced into a dependence God in a way not seen since the wars for independence in 1948/9, in 1967 and at Jom Kippur in 1973. People are praying all over the country, soldiers are marching into the Gaza Strip with "Hear, O Israel" on their lips and are now experiencing God's intervention once again.

Germany and Israel stand together in their previous strength and in their current weakness and are both thrown into dependence on the Lord our God. The Father is in the process of healing the exposed, painful wound of the Jewish people and calls for the support, love, care, and prayers of us Germans. In this way both nations should receive healing from the Father-heart of God.

Prayer:

- Thanks for the announcement by the Federal Government that it will defend Israel as a third party in the genocide proceedings brought by South Africa at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). (Psalm 7)
- That in line with the basic national interests of Germany, there will always be a heartfelt connection with Israel that heals the wounds of both nations. (Jeremiah 30:12ff)
- Praise that love for Israel is also growing among Muslims in Germany and that there will be a highway of blessing in the Middle East – from Egypt through Israel to Assyria. (Isaiah 19:23ff)

Karin Heepen

Israel and the highway of blessing

Isaiah 19 promises a highway of blessing where Egypt and Assyria will worship the Lord together. The promised road passes through and includes Israel. Assyria currently includes parts of Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran - Muslim countries that are currently rising up, socially and militarily, against Israel. Iran is notably the mastermind behind the machinations of Hamas in Gaza and of Hezbollah in Lebanon with the aim to destroy and to annihilate Israel. At the same time, however, Jesus himself is doing a very different work. He is revealing himself to Muslims worldwide in dreams and visions! There are reports, especially from Iran, that almost everyone has at some time dreamed and saw the "Man in White", who in fact is Jesus himself. According to analysts, the fastest growing church currently is in Iran. This is where every week more people secretly convert to Jesus Christ than in all the rest of the world. There are also reports from Gaza of a massive increase in dreams about Jesus, as well as a rise in awakenings underground. In November alone, more than 200 men decided to follow Jesus virtually overnight.

Is it possible that our fight is actually not against flesh and blood? Is it possible that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has his own strategy in mind that corresponds to his very being as redeeming-love, and is in the process of carrying it out? A comprehensive revival among the world's nearly two million Muslims would provide a powerful key for us to use in the fight against terror, for Israel, the Middle East, but also for Europe and the Western world.

Prayer:

- Proclamation of God's redeeming-love over Muslims worldwide and especially in the Middle East. (1 Timothy 2:3f; John 3:16)
- Ask for workers for this ripe harvest field and for a further increase in Muslims having dreams of Jesus. (Luke 10:2)
- For Jesus to be exalted as the Prince of Peace over Israel and the Middle East. (Isaiah 9:6f; Ephesians 2:14)

Tanya Frank

Happy birthday!

The Call of the Watchmen is celebrating its 24th birthday in this month of February! Please pray for all of us, that the coming year will be a very special year of new experiences in prayer.

With heart-felt greetings and blessings, Alexander Schlüter and team