

### The whirlwind storm of the Holy Spirit

In this month we are celebrating 75 years of the German Basic Law. Let us thank God sincerely for his great love for Germany in the difficult post-war years, for economic growth, for the reunification of our land and for peace and friendship in Europe. But now we are experiencing forces which are trying to divide our land. The conflicts and wars we are now facing are a reality that we must take seriously, they do not however by far reveal the actual overall situation. In politics and the media, in debates and talk shows, we find a strong message that constantly, often with worldly moralistic arguments, focuses only on the problems, presenting people and nations as enemies, separating us from each other and polarizing thoughts and intentions with an incredible lack of hope for change.

A few days ago, I poured out my concern and anguish to Jesus that it is so difficult to find solutions as they almost inevitably lead to further polarization and division. A short time later I saw a jumble of differently coloured loose cables in my mind's eye. Untangling each cable and then relaying and reconnecting them properly seemed impossible. Then I perceived a second picture that was superimposing itself over the image of the tangled cables, and I saw a wide, rapidly flowing stream that symbolized to me perfect interaction and purpose. The stream was full of energy, contained in both the water and the wind. This made me think quite differently, and I heard the Holy Spirit say: "Which picture reveals to you the reality of the current situation and the way forward? Is it the way of cooperation and coordination or the way of chaos and separation?" The stream had a tremendous, irresistible power! I submerged my anguish in the stream, simply letting my concerns go, handing them over to the Holy Spirit, who pulled them all out of the water with great might and dealt with them as only He knew best.

The Holy Spirit is still a mighty wind that, as in the Acts of the Apostles, can overcome any problem or division in an instant and spread a message in a new way - with a greater effectiveness and penetration. We are invited to live at this more effective level. We must surrender completely to the whirlwind storm of the Holy Spirit. We live in a time of incredibly strong polarization and disagreement. Let us be careful that we do not ignore what God is saying because we think we are on the "right side". The most radical thing you can do at this time is therefore to no longer be divisive, to suppress negative thoughts, to stop judging, and to no longer find our identity in just being against something or someone. But rather to understand our involvement and responsibility in this world. This will change our prayer life forever.

Alexander Schlüter

### Germany's heartbeat

Cardiovascular diseases are the main cause of death in Germany. 350,000 people die from them every year, most often because they neglect to take care of their hearts and have no concern for the health of their hearts. This applies equally to our natural (physical) and supernatural (spiritual) hearts. We need to have a close personal relationship with our heart! Our heart beats 70 times per minute and, as the engine of life, is equipped by God with the finest receptors (very sensitive cells). Our hearts are not designed to handle constant stress, fear, separation and failures in our relationships, and an unhealthy lifestyle. To live healthily, we, as a society, need deeper experiences of stable relationships - of closeness with others, with tenderness, empathy, and love. The future for us as a society depends on good relationships and trust.

It is assumed that our knowledge base doubles approximately every 700 days. If the increase in knowledge in the form of new technologies were able to lead us into the future, then we would already be on the right track. However, technical solutions do not penetrate to the root of our being. Our society will remain sick at heart if we continue to look for answers in analysis, cognitive recognition, and assessment, even if we have found security in this for some time in the past. Let us ask God for new ways to care for our hearts. We do not want to maintain the spirit of the current age, filled with broken relationships from lack of understanding, judgment and unforgiveness, but rather release a new spirit of consolation and togetherness. It is only hearts that can be touched and are open to change in the building of relationships that will lead our land

into the future. "Above else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life." (Proverbs 4:23).

#### Prayer:

- **Be sensitive to your heartbeat. It is through your heart that you will be able to bring new life into Germany.**
- **Listen carefully to your heart for a moment. Does your heart have a message from God's heart that it wants you to hear?**
- **Let us pray for healthy hearts in all the people who live in Germany (and in the land where we live), hearts which will hear from and stay close to the heart of God.**

Alexander Schlüter

#### Commitment to the place in which we live

The centres of social life in our country are to be found in our towns and villages. Here is where people live together, where we find homes, shops and restaurants, schools, employment, social and sports organisations, where we experience the local culture and celebrate together. Every town and every village has its own character, is its own identity. Our land is an assembly of all its different towns and villages with due respect for one another. In the Gospels, Jesus addresses entire cities. (Matthew 11:20 ff.). In the Old Testament, God also communicates with specific cities (Isaiah 40:9). Jesus died for the whole world. (John 3:16).

God looks at entire cities, towns, and villages with love. Every place is worthy of love in his eyes. When his kingdom comes, all things will be brought together under one head – Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:9-10), including our cities, towns, and villages. We Christians should not withdraw from society. When

we feel that we are a part of the place where we live, we rejoice with the good developments but also see the pain and hardship. With a full commitment to our city, town or village comes responsibility, participation, compassion, and prayer.

**Prayer:**

- **For our commitment as Christians to the entire city, town, or village in which we live.**
- **God works in the places where we live. As members of the body of Christ, we can ask God: “what are you doing here in this place?”, in order that we can work together with Him. (John 5:19-20)**
- **For city, town, village administrations with representation from all residents, communities, businesses, and sectors of society.** Christian Fromme

**Prayer for children and young people**

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and the young men stumble and fall.” (Isaiah. 40:30). The corona pandemic has exacted a high price from the young generation with its measures in schools and kindergartens. The consumption of digital media has skyrocketed to unimaginable heights, dependencies have grown and many complain of loneliness, lack of enthusiasm, lack of prospects and fear of the future. The waiting lists for child and adolescent psychologists are long. The so-called Generation Z is afraid of many things: unemployment, burn outs, epidemics, war, climate change... and so it is hardly surprising that activists even call themselves the “Last Generation”. Seldom has an entire generation had so many opportunities and been so paralyzed at the same time. There is often a lack of role models who exude hope and drive, who can lead the way or sometimes just listen. “But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31). Let us pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the young generation. He is a spirit of hope and comfort. (John 14:26,27). Let us bless children and young people with the knowledge of God, who also has a hope and a future for them. (Jeremiah 29:11). Let us support youth leaders in churches as well as Christian psychologists, therapists, and doctors, and let us bless them with wisdom and authority. Let us stand on behalf of a whole generation before the throne of our Heavenly Father, so that they are able to clearly recognize who their Father really is, so that they can gain new strength, and are able to shape our land for God’s glory and the good of all people.

Frank Laffin (Bremen House of Prayer)

**Surrogacy – modern human trafficking**

Unlike in many other countries, surrogacy is still prohibited in Germany. Surrogacy is the practice of allowing embryos to be implanted in another woman for the development and delivery of a baby. The current German multi-party government is now however examining the possibility of legalising “non-commercial surrogacy”. Many men and women desperately want to have a baby. Reproductive medicine allows egg-cells to be fertilised artificially with sperm and then implanted into a woman's uterus. In order to fulfil the desire in childless couples to have children, but also for single men and women and for homosexual couples, a network has been created worldwide in recent years that mediates between customers who want a baby, egg-cell and sperm donors, laboratories, clinics, and surrogate mothers.

Surrogacy has become a billion-dollar business. Surrogacy can be obtained for around \$50,000 to \$100,000. However, the agencies receive most of the money.

The physical stress and dangers caused by the strong hormone treatments on surrogate mothers are enormous. And it is also not uncommon for major complications, for miscarriages and premature births to occur - not to mention the psychological consequences for the surrogate woman of having to give up a child that she has just carried. The physical impact and the consequences that the child may experience as a result of being separated from the surrogate mother directly after the birth, and the later identity crisis, are totally unpredictable and are in no way considered. It is a new form of human trafficking that must be outlawed as is the trafficking in human organs. There is no absolute right to have a child and not everything that is medically possible is ethically permissible.

**Prayer:**

- **Let us take time to be still, listen to our hearts and weep. Perhaps it is only our tears that can first draw attention to how awful such plans are. (Ezra 10:1).**

- **Lord, have mercy!**

Alexander Schlüter

**Israel and our weeping**

The current situation in and around Israel, and also the mostly irrational reaction to it world-wide, makes it clear that we are here dealing here with a critical issue which primarily has a clearly spiritual dimension. This is a situation which we seek to fully understand in the spirit and that we must and can face in the spirit. We are at least experiencing, right here and now, how the nations unite to gather against Israel, how God's inheritance is derided and the whole world assumes the right to scorn and condemn Israel, telling it how to behave correctly in their view.

The prophet Joel takes up such a circumstance and presents a strategy for the people to follow and in order to receive God's blessing and restoration. (Joel 2:16ff). He is calling the people to come forward and take some action. He tells the priests, and thus also us as a royal priesthood, grafted into the precious olive tree of Israel, to “weep between the temple porch and the altar” and to ask the Lord to look upon his people with compassion, and to not make God's inheritance “an object of scorn, a byword among the nations”. This weeping of the priests is in fact a call for the recognition of God's people and of God's eternal decrees. It also symbolizes sincerity and total devotion to the call, including our emotions. It takes place looking to the people and seeing what is happening in the land (the porch) and at the same time also with a view to the atonement which God offers for admission of guilt and sin to which He himself is totally committed (the altar). As we continue, we read how God reacts to weeping and calling out: He answers and promises his intervention, his blessing, and his restoration, and the removal of the danger from the north.

"Do not be afraid, O land! Be glad and rejoice! Surely the Lord has done great things!" (Joel 2:21).

**Prayer:**

- **Lord, please enable us to take part in weeping between “the porch and the altar” (in recognition of your people and your decrees, with sincerity, total devotion), agreeing with the requests of the priests to save your people.**
- **Praise the Lord that His goodness, His nature and His very being are glorified in His people of Israel. Let us, as your people in the nations, also offer Him our sacrifice of praise for this and give Him the glory.**

Tanja Frank

*United with you in prayer,*  
Alexander Schlüter and team