

# Call of the Watchman

## 24 HOUR PRAISE AND PRAYER FOR GERMANY

- July and August 2009 -



### Discovering my prayer potential

*Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. (1 Chronicles 16 v.10)*

When I talk in other countries about the positive changes in Germany in the past few years, I always mention that most of this is due to the continuous intercession of prayer watchmen. I am convinced that nothing in Germany has so touched the heart of God and blessed our nation as 24-hour prayer, brought before God both day and night in more than 200 cities and regions. At the same time there is yet an untapped potential in this prayer. We need the Holy Spirit to release it and to sharpen it. Prayer in the authority that comes from faith changes our nation! Every crisis is a wake-up call from God to turn from our own ways and with our hearts to seek him in prayer. For this we constantly need times to experience a personal renewal in our prayer life. When our relationship with Jesus runs dry, prayer becomes frustrating. Therefore we need a daily encounter with God to be able to pray with power and authority. Here are some suggestions:

1. Break out of your routines and just wait on God. Spend a few hours or even a whole day alone with Jesus! We can only seek him when we take the time!
2. Sin separates us from God. Seeking God in prayer always begins with personal purification and confession of sin and guilt.
3. Expect a new touch of the Holy Spirit. Just ask and he will come and fill you once again.
4. Sharpen the focus of your prayer. In all our intercession we want to reach the heart of our heavenly Father with our prayers! Intercessors who seek him, love him and honour him, will open up the heavens with new power in prayer!

Jobst Bittner (TOS Dienste)

### Protection for marriage, family and children

In the coming holiday period many Christians will again be involved in reaching out to children and youth for Jesus through various summer activities. This is very challenging and we must support them in prayer. There is an increasing number of emotionally damaged children as now one in every two marriages ends in divorce. These children do not have role models for a sustainable, loving relationship between a man and a woman. Alcohol abuse, addiction to computer games and growing aggression are only some of the disastrous consequences that make it difficult for teachers to do their job right from the first class (grade) in school. Children are increasingly the victims of a society that has lost all standards for sexual behaviour. The fight against child pornography in the Internet is only the tip of the iceberg. Any standards of acceptability have been thrown out of the window by the many TV programs in which intimate relations are trivialised. Fathers and mothers are now watching pornographic videos along with their children. The consequence: children and young people are sexually abusing those in their own age group !!! Caritas has already set up counselling stations in many cities for such underage perpetrators. Although Article 6.1 of the German Constitution requires special protection for marriage and family in state laws, more and more political decisions are working against this provision as for example, in the reform of maintenance rights. On top of all this, the Minister of Justice Ms. Zypris (SPD) demanded on May 22<sup>nd</sup> that so-called "homosexual-sex-marriage" be placed under the protection of the constitution.

#### Prayer:

- **We mourn before God this advancing destruction of protection and pray for his mercy over the restoration of marriage, family and children. (Joel 2 v.12,13)**
- **That the media and politicians will stand for the protection of marriage and family with real actions.**
- **For all (Christian) work among children, youth and marriages: for strength, wisdom and success. - RS -**

### Economic crisis and election campaigns

The state appears to be the saviour for many companies hit by the worsening economic crisis. In this time of elections the bigger companies can exert great pressure on the government with the threat of the loss of many jobs. In the past few weeks we have been able to see how difficult it is for the "Grand Coalition" to find a united approach. Many medium sized businesses have the greatest difficulty to get credit from state financial institutions and go under "in silence". Medium sized businesses are however pillars of the German economy. We need constant prayer that the necessary lessons have been learnt and for our land to come out of this crisis in a stronger position. The parliament begins its summer break on July 4<sup>th</sup> and only meets again after the elections. Emergency governmental decisions will therefore be made under the increasing pressure of the election campaign.

**Prayer:**

- **Wisdom for politicians to know the just way to help large and small companies.**
- **That the fewest possible number of jobs are lost (pray especially for firms in your area). (Jeremiah 29 v.7)**
- **That not only the causes of the crisis will be recognised, but that there will be real changes to avoid the failures of the past.**
- **For a fair election campaign that clearly reveals political alternatives to the voters.** –RS-

**Dealing with the history of east Germany – Part 2**

Some Leftist and SPD politicians have recently started a debate about a term in German that means “a state that does not respect the rule of law” in relation to the GDR (former East Germany). A state that *does* respect the rule of law is characterised by the division of power whereby the executive, legislative and judicial institutions are separate from one another. This division of power did not exist in the GDR and therefore there was no rule of law. Freedom of faith, conscience, assembly, press, employment and travel were limited or non-existent, and the supposed equality of the citizens was an ideological illusion. Now the dictatorship of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) in the GDR is increasingly being covered up and played down. This is politically expedient. In this way the selective and nostalgic memories of the GDR in the minds of east German people are being kept alive. In the current economic crisis in the market place, an amazing number of young people in the east and west of Germany are receptive to such an idealised picture of socialism as a supposedly realistic alternative. **Prayer:**

- **For the proper place for GDR history in the school curriculum!**
- **For the exposure of injustice and distortion of history. (Psalm 94)**
- **For deliverance from old ways of thinking and recognition of democratic forms of government.** - KH -

**State elections**

State elections will take place on August 30<sup>th</sup> in Saxony, Thuringia and Saarland, and in Brandenburg on September 29<sup>th</sup> along with national elections. In all four states the Leftist Party is trying to make a red-red coalition with the SPD to gain power. In Thuringia a model for positive family development, unique in the German Federal Republic, is at stake, and is supported to a large extent only by the current CDU majority in the state parliament. The declared intention of the opposition is the discontinuation of the state education allowance to the benefit of child day-care centres. **Prayer:**

- **For coalitions that conform to Biblical values. (Psalm 37 v.34-40)**
- **That the policy in Thuringia for the strengthening of the family will be extended beyond this state election and will also be effective across the country.**
- **We stand against the rebuilding of socialist domination particularly in east Germany and refuse to accept it. (Hebrews 4 v.11-13) !** - KH -

**Israel under pressure**

During my visit to Israel a few weeks ago, I noticed that the people there are realising more and more that evangelical Christians from all over the world are true friends of Israel. With the growing trust in Christians, there is an increasing openness for Jesus/Yeshua. This is a reason to rejoice – please keep praying.

Our Messianic brothers and sisters in Israel are also seeing the benefit from this change of heart. At the same time however there is a radical Ultra-Orthodox splinter group who act against Messianic Jews more aggressively and in some cases also with violence. The Messianic leaders and congregations in Israel need our continuous love, prayer and encouragement! The same also applies to Arab Christians – particularly for those in the Palestinian areas who are exposed to massive pressure and sometimes persecution. **Prayer:**

- Protection and favour for the Messianic and Arab Christians.
- That God will increase the number of “Saul to Paul” conversions among the Ultra-Orthodox Jews.
- For the government of Israel and the right combination of resoluteness and wisdom.
- In the run-up to the German elections, that politicians with a responsible attitude towards Israel will find special favour before God and the people. -Harald Eckert-

**Worship event on the Rhine**

The vision: *On September 9<sup>th</sup> many towns and regions along the Rhine will join together in worshipping God for the whole day on hired boats and so fill the Rhine from the source in the Alps to its entry into the North Sea across national borders with worship and praise.* Every region or city is organising its own event. Afterwards there will be a conference called “Prophetic Voice for Europe” in Strasbourg from September 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

To take part please contact [www.rhein-vision.eu](http://www.rhein-vision.eu) . **Pray for the success of this vision and many participants.** –RS-

**Other events for prayer:**

**July 8 to 10** G8 Summit in La Maddala, Italy

**August 21 to** Prayer Action: 30 days of prayer for the Islamic world. Information: [www.ead.de](http://www.ead.de) .

**September 19**

*God's richest blessings from Rosemarie Stresemann and Ortwin Schweitzer (on special leave).*