

**The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province
Thailand**

Newsletter 02 - 03 2020

Dear friends and prayer partners,

thank you for your interest, your prayers and your gifts. We are back from our trip to Pakistan. From 15 °C there we came here in Thailand to a 15 to 20 °C hotter climate. The heat here is hard for us to bear

Our trip to Pakistan February 12 - March 13, 2020

After we had finished and sent our last newsletter and had completed our travel preparations, we were able to fly from Bangkok to Lahore in Pakistan on 12 February shortly before midnight on a direct flight. We wanted to meet people personally to whom Christine forwards donations, strengthen the relationship to the Christians we had met on our first visit to Pakistan a year ago, and in general to be available to God for whatever else He had planned for us.

On the Situation of Christians in Pakistan

In the 19th century India had become one of the most important parts of the British colonial empire. After World War I, efforts in India to become independent became more and more intense. India had been almost completely ruled by Muslim rulers in parts of the 18th century and some areas were mainly inhabited by Muslims. The Hindus, however, were numerically considerably stronger than the Muslims, and so the Muslims feared being treated in India only as 2nd or 3rd class citizens. Therefore, efforts were made to split off a state from India for the Muslims and in 1947 British India was divided into the states of India and Pakistan. It was intended that in the Republic of Pakistan all religious minorities should be able to live their religion peacefully. However, Muslim movements in Pakistan, which want to live the Qur'an literally and assume that the statements in the Qur'an, which are written in the late phase of Mohammed's life, replace statements from his earlier life that differ in content. This leads to the view that in an Islamic republic Christians are only allowed to survive as an intimidated second-class minority and that Muslims should always take the leading positions. Christians should therefore endure insults and harassment by Muslims without complaint. For example, Christians in Pakistan find it difficult to get good professional positions and their situation has clearly deteriorated in recent years. Laws have been passed that put blasphemy against the Prophet Mohammed and the Koran under the death penalty. These laws have been used to combat Christians. Incited mobs have forced local courts to sentence innocent Christians to death for this reason, and these miscarriages of justice could only be corrected by Pakistan's Supreme Court. A Pakistani minister who was

demanding that Christians be given justice was killed by radicals. Youhanabad is a large Christian neighbourhood in Lahore, where there are many Christians who are prepared to defend themselves against attacks by Muslim extremists. Therefore it is a terrible nuisance to radical Muslims. And so, on one Sunday, two churches were attacked by suicide bombers, killing 25 people in one church. The security guard of the other church was able to prevent the assassins from entering the church, but he himself was killed. In the meantime, more and more Muslims are moving into this part of the city. Only 3 streets away from us Asia Bibi was attacked by a mob because she had drunk water from a well used by Muslims. She was falsely accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad and therefore sentenced to death. The Supreme Court acquitted her, but radical Muslims forced the government to ban her from leaving the country and to reopen her trial.

The Government of Pakistan

The current Prime Minister of Pakistan is Imran Khan, a proud Pashtun from the tribal areas in northwest Pakistan. He did not accept this defeat of the state, but took tough action against the radicals and publicly declared that Christians are an important and accepted part of Pakistan. The demand for revision of Asia Bibi's acquittal was rejected and Asia Bibi was allowed to leave the country. During Sunday services, the police protects the Christian quarter. As in the previous year, we got our visas after a few days at the Pakistani Embassy, although Reiner had stated his profession as a Christian missionary and had presented his Thai work permit. This time our host traveled to the Ministry of the Interior of Pakistan and inquired whether we were allowed to make Christian preaching in the country. He was told that we have full freedom to preach indoors, but for safety reasons we should not preach in open-air events. Also, we should not visit the areas in the northwest of Pakistan. In all our time in Pakistan, we have never experienced any threat from the state and its organs. We even heard that the state was extremely keen to ensure that no harm was done to us. The Christians in the country hold Imran Khan in high esteem. To the state, our host vouched for our safety. Before we left our house and got into the car and before we went to another place, it was always checked if it was safe. This could mean waiting. Therefore we could only go to one mission 3 hours later and to another one not at all. We wore Pakistani clothes and Reiner had a moustache, so we were less conspicuous. Christine was mistaken for a Pakistani several times. We were always accompanied by men who we knew were willing to die for our protection.

What we did in Pakistan:

1) Trips to Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh and near Clarkabad

After a day of rest we first drove to Faisalabad. There we went to an orphanage of the Shining Stars Care Foundation. This foundation is run by friends of ours who now run a second orphanage in Lahore, while relatives of them have now taken

over the first orphanage in Faisalabad. For 2 days the orphans and staff from Lahore had come to Faisalabad. In the first afternoon there was an event on the topic "Lovingly helping to shape the future of Pakistan", to which Reiner was also asked to give a contribution. The following day Christine had been asked to speak at a meeting of widows. We stayed there overnight with relatives of our host, who were very kind to us. There in the house we also attended a Sunday service and a prayer meeting where Reiner preached. In the evening we drove on towards Toba Tek Singh. In a village near our destination we stayed overnight with other relatives of our host. After a nice visit to the primary school of the village, we visited a woman in Toba Tek Singh with whom Christine had got in contact via internet. It was a very sad meeting. From there we went back to Faisalabad to our quarters there and the next day back to Lahore to our quarters. All further activities we did from there. This included a day trip to a woman near Clarkabad, who Christine had met over the internet. She does very good social work in the village, has founded a small school, cares for widows and poor families and looks after women in need.

2) Lahore: Shining Stars Care Foundation

We spent an afternoon with the leaders of this foundation, and in the evening we went with our host and them to a meeting with Margret Meier, who runs two schools in Lahore, among others. Part of her team were Christoph Graf and Armin Knothe, with whom Reiner had met regularly for years before he married in 2010 and then left for Thailand. It was a beautiful and warm meeting. The following morning we were allowed to participate in a session of the Council of the Foundation. We were impressed by the other members of this council. In the afternoon we went back to the orphanage. On March 7th we visited this orphanage again for two and a half hours.

3) Preaching and prayer in services in churches and Brickkilns.

Most of our time in Pakistan was marked by 8 visits from Christian churches and 4 events for Christians in brickworks. Mostly Reiner preached, Christine occasionally gave additions, and once she preached. Mostly we were asked after the service to pray for individuals and in some brickkilns we were invited to visit homes and pray there. In the preaching we experienced very strongly the help of God, both in what we were to say and in how we could say it. God helped us to speak into the situation of our listeners and to speak in a way that was understandable for them.

4) Teaching Units at a Bible College

Am 9. März hielten wir in 3 ½ Stunden vier Lehreinheiten für zukünftige Pastoren. Dafür hatten wir einiges vorzubereiten.

5) Other activities

With the family of our host and 2 pastor families we made a trip to a big park in

Lahore, and another day we made a trip to the beautiful museum of Lahore. There were days when we could not leave the house because the streets were flooded and then you could not see the sometimes very deep holes in the streets anymore.

6) General remarks

Dieses Jahr wohnten wir im Haus unseres Gastgebers, und damit entfielen die Fahrten zu unserem Quartier, die bei unserem Besuch im Jahr vorher etwa eine Dreiviertelstunde für eine Fahrt in einfacher Richtung betragen. Wir lebten in der Familie und im Christenviertel und waren auf diese Weise sehr viel mehr Teil des Ganzen. Wir sahen sehr viel Not und das enge und arme Leben dort, und wir empfanden stark den Druck, unter dem die Christen dort leben. Wir wurden sehr froh, über das, was wir dort zu verkündigen hatten. Obwohl uns deutlich war, dass wir jeden Tag unter Lebensgefahr standen, hatten wir keine Angst um unser Leben.

Back in Lum Sum

a) Foundation

After our return, practically nothing had been done with the processing of our documents, which we had submitted in full on August 6. We went to our district complaints office and complained. As soon as the general situation returns to normal, we will see whether something will be done about this or whether we will have to go to a central government complaints office.

b) Our coworker Khun Hwan was involved in a traffic accident.

When she was riding her motorcycle, she was hit by a truck. She suffered contusions, abrasions, and two fractured cervical vertebrae. Her full recovery will probably take some time. She was on sick leave for several weeks and now the doctor allowed her to do lighter work. So we keep her busy with lighter work 3 days a week in the afternoon for 2 hours each. The heavier work in the morning is now done by Khun Saichon, and she does it well and thoroughly.

c) Our cats

Our tomcat Grigio had developed so splendidly with us in the meantime that we could let him out and he can now assert himself against all other tomcats. On January 5th we could catch a small, retarded and intimidated cat. We call her Lissy. In the veterinary clinic she got medicine and we take care of her in the house. She has developed very well and is seeking our closeness. On January 23rd our housekeeper brought us a beautiful white kitten with light blue eyes, who was hit by a car and was in great pain. We brought her to the veterinary clinic. There they found out that the root of her tail was broken and therefore her beautiful straight long tail had to be amputated on January 30th. She has developed into a very stubborn, strong-willed daredevil and can now already partly leave the house again.

On February 11th, one day before our departure, our tomcat Ziggy dragged himself to our front door. A dog had bitten him and caused very deep bite wounds and a broken spine. Fortunately he did not have paraplegia, but he had to be taken to the vet clinic every day for 5 weeks for wound care. Our employee Khun O took over this very faithfully in our absence. Now he is so strong again that he can be mainly outside. In order to prevent further offspring of our mother cat Cimet, who lives outside our house, we brought her to the vet clinic for sterilization on March 23rd. From there we could pick her up again on April 2nd.

d) Support for poor people in our village

During our absence, our two-weekly care of the poor in the village continued. Our staff was able to buy the necessary supplies and then distribute them to the recipients. We will continue this supply as far as possible.

e) Reactions to the corona virus

The women's conference in northern India from March 27 to April 2, which Christine was supposed to be working on, was postponed to October, and the planned men's conferences and pastor training sessions, in which Reiner was supposed to be involved, are also not expected to take place in the next few weeks. Children ministry was to be suspended for the time being at the request of the state, and for the service it is necessary to take the temperature of the participants and again 10 minutes later, and the service participants should sit far away from each other. This is not possible with us in this way. Therefore, our Saturdays for children and our Sunday services are currently cancelled without substitution.

Fortunately, we can visit shops and banks and our internet continues to work very well. We can keep ourselves busy at home and have a large garden in which we can go for a walk. We do not fear the corona virus at all, because on the one hand we do not fear death but look forward to going home, and on the other hand we have been threatened by life-threatening infections several times. Our life is in God's hands, and we will only die when God sees fit.

On March 25th, the curfew was declared in Thailand, provisionally until the end of April 2020. For the poor people in the 3rd world, the curfew is a catastrophe. Most of the time they earn so little that they cannot save up any reserves, but live directly from what they earn day by day. Also all small businesses, like street snack bars and shops, will be extremely hard hit. Those who do not earn money will not be able to buy food. According to the Thai Hotels Association, 95% of hotels in Thailand are unlikely to survive the curfew. Since tourism is the main source of income in our province of Kanchanaburi, hotel employees and all those who otherwise live from tourism will become unemployed. This could mean the economic collapse of our whole province. (Quelle: https://der-farang.com/en/pages/ueber-30-000-hotels-muessen-schliessen?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook&fbclid=IwAR2fU1nmHke_gepirJM5LMOkqrHinV-mN2yjafnU6X2-9R3An7gEAHZ2tA8)

So the question is how many people will survive in our immediate environment. From Pakistan we learned that in the meantime 3 widows have died, who had diabetes and had nothing to eat for 3 days. Our host has been given a special permit which allows him to move freely and care for the poor even in this situation. Within 2 days he and his team provided food to 389 people for 1 week. From Rajahmundry in India we received news that Christians there had prepared the monthly provision of 100 widows and old men, but could not deliver them because of the curfew. At the moment the delivery is not possible there, but everyone who leaves the house is beaten by the police. In the end the question will be: How many people would have died from the virus without the curfew if the virus had been allowed to spread unchecked, and how many people will die because of the curfew since they cannot buy anything to eat and therefore starve to death or are so weakened by it that they fall victim to the virus which they could otherwise easily have coped with.

This situation hurts us very much. We help where we can, and Christine is currently almost only busy collecting and forwarding donations. For this she is also in very close contact with our contact persons in India and Pakistan. We are very grateful that some of our friends currently give a lot of financial support for our friends in India and Pakistan.

One day, at the latest after his death, every human being will have to stand before God and give account to God for what he has done. Everything will be revealed and will be visible to all, and no one will be able to avoid it. Before the authority and truth of God, all wishful thinking will cease. No one will be able to avoid his guilt and shame any longer. All those who contribute to people being deprived of their possessions, pushed into loneliness and losing their health and life will be presented with a bill that they will never be able to avoid and that they will never be able to get rid of for eternity. There is still a possibility that guilty people can return to God if they turn away from their evil way, acknowledge God as God, stand by their guilt, ask God for forgiveness and then are determined to obey God and go on His way. However, this possibility can be over much sooner than one thinks. And then all consequences are inevitable.

Prayer

We give thanks to God:

- for a deeper insight into the situation of Christians in Pakistan,
- for the love and care of our brothers and sisters there,
- for the open doors and hearts we experienced there, which made it very easy for us to preach there,
- that God has given us a message that has spoken into the situation of the Christians there, and that we could say it in such a way that the listeners

- understood it,
- that houses and properties have been preserved during our absence,
 - that our cats are doing fine,
 - that we could give much more than last year to poor Christians in Pakistan and India.

We ask God:

- that more people in our village come to faith in Jesus Christ and grow in faith,
- for God's guidance and strength for our ministries in 2020,
- that God will prepare the Christians for the new situation and that they will be ready to go with Him, no matter what it costs,
- for a speedy recognition of our foundation,
- for a very good and safe women's conference with Christine in North India in October.

We wish you God's protection and His blessings during the next weeks and send you warm greetings from Lum Sum

Yours sincerely

Christine and Reiner Hennig

*** Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version) ***

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We continue to use our old bank account at ING-DiBa, but are not allowed to receive on it money for others.

Christine supports persons in need in India and Pakistan (we know most of their leaders and many of them personally). These donations will arrive at their destination by 100%, as we pay the expenses for money transfer and administration. For more information please contact Christine under cmhennig23@yahoo.com.

Our Cats and We



Lissy



Mitzi



Ziggy



we

Travel to Pakistan: Shining Stars Care foundation



With the leaders of the Shining Stars Care Foundation



Children of the Shining Stars Care foundation from Lahore and Faisalabad

Mit den Christian Follow Up Ministries (CFUM)



The Team of CFUM and we



Free afternoon in the park



Service in a bigger church



Service in a bigger church



Service in a small church



listeners



Christine preaches.



10 *listeners*



Service at a brick kiln



at another brick kiln



Christian initiative: sewing course and ...



... schooling for children who cannot go to school



State elementary school



Preschool



With the principal (2nd from left) and teachers of the school

The Current Situation: A Great Opportunity for Us!

Before the mountains and the earth and the world were created, You God are from eternity to eternity. (Ps. 90. 2)

God was before there was anything else. At a certain moment in the past, through his powerful Word, God created space and time, the elementary particles and fields, their properties and the forces between them.

God is a person.

God decided to create the world at a certain moment. And everything in this world can only exist because and as long as it is held in existence by the powerful Word of God. (Hebr. 1, 3) It follows that God is present, active and effective in every moment.

God is stronger and greater than anything in the world.

Our sun has a mass of about $2 \cdot 10^{30}$ kg, this is a 2 with 30 zeros behind it, and our Milky Way system has a mass of 140 billion masses of the sun. So God is bigger and stronger than anything in this world. God was before there was space and time, that's why He is outside of space and time, and nothing in space and time can attack and defeat Him. Nothing can compete with Him only remotely. Since God can intervene in this world at any time, He can do things at any time that are outside our everyday experience. Wonders are no problem for God.

God is still acting today.

A large number of conditions must be met for atoms, stars and planets to exist in this world. The astrophysicist Hugh Ross lists 60 conditions for this. These include the fact that some quantities in nature must be extremely finely tuned. For a planet to enable intelligent life with high technology in the long term, at least 150 further conditions must be fulfilled for our Milky Way system and its surroundings, for our sun and its place in the Milky Way system, for our earth, its place and orbit in the planetary system and the other planets there, for our moon, for our atmosphere, for the movements of the earth's surface. According to Hugh Ross, the probability that these conditions are fulfilled on any planet anywhere in the whole universe, even if one takes into account that these conditions are partly not independent of each other, is about $1/10^{1032}$. 10^{1032} is a one followed by over a thousand zeros. Such a low probability means that direct and planned intervention by God is imperative, not only at the beginning but throughout history. (See: Ross, Hugh: The Creator and the Cosmos: How the Latest Scientific Discoveries Reveal God . RTB Press. Kindle-Version. | Covina, CA: RTB Press, 2018, fourth edition.

God knows everything, down to the smallest detail, and knows all interconnections. This is true now and for every moment of the past.

Every cell in our body contains a lot of information. Richard Dawkins states, that even such a small animal as the amoeba (that consists of one cell only) contains in its cell nucleus alone as much information as the 30-volume encyclopaedia Encyclopaedia Britannica, and this whole animal contains thousand times that amount. (Dawkins, Richard: *The Blind Watchmaker* (New York: Norton, 1987), 17–18, 116.) It is also now known that a large number of machines and processes are at work in the cell. A cell is more complicated than any human factory. Everywhere in the cell you see targeted planning. From this one must conclude that God knows about even the smallest details and at the same time has the big picture. Therefore God knows everything much better than we could. And since God is outside of space and time, everything that has been is also open before Him.

God is love (1. Joh. 4, 16)

Love is not only a quality that God has among others, but the essence of God is love. Therefore God is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These 3 persons act in mutual love and esteem in unity of will and feeling. Love does not seek what is its own, what is useful to itself, but it desires that the one it loves be well, and it does everything in its power to achieve this.

Evil comes into this world.

God created spirits to whom He entrusted this world. He created them in such a way that they had the possibility to love God voluntarily, trust Him and receive everything from Him. But these spirits choose to go their own way and be independent of God. The world under their control was thus no longer guided and shaped by the power of God, which carries life and makes it possible in the long run. So it came to be the property of this world that in the long run everything dissolves and perishes, and so to the rule of death and ruin. Lucifer ("the bearer of the light"), the highest of these spirits, became the adversary of God, Satan.

Man

Into this evil world, God created man as a creature of matter, like all animals, but also with God's spirit. God created man out of love, so that man may receive the love of God and all that he needs for his life and for his service, and that he may voluntarily love God, trust in Him and obey Him. God's intention was that man cultivates and preserves this world and thus brings it back into the order of God and thus back into life. God created a garden for man, paradise, so that he could practice his tasks there in a limited and protected space. After a good beginning,

however, man no longer trusted God sufficiently and became disobedient to God, thus destroying his close life connection with God and had to leave paradise. This separation from God then led man to no longer be able to do all the good things he was supposed to do and to really understand the world completely and comprehensively. It leads to attachment to other people and to things in this world. This separation from God leads to the fact that man too is subject to decay and must finally die. It leads to people doing evil, and some even open themselves up to evil spirits and become their instruments of death and destruction. The destruction of people, nature and the world is being sought by these powers in an ever more effective and comprehensive way.

God's longing for mankind

God loves man and the world. His aim is that man should return to his original calling, overcome the dark powers and so then also free the creation from destruction. In this way, He searches for people who love Him, trust Him and walk the path with Him in obedience. He called Abraham, who walked with Him in trust and thus became the Father of faith and the Father of the people of God on earth. He called Moses, who led God's people through the desert and through the Red Sea against all human possibilities. God wanted to speak directly to the people, but the people of God did not trust that God would speak in such a way that they could bear it. Therefore they asked that God would not speak to them directly, but only through Moses and later through the prophets. When the people were then to take the land of Canaan, they reckoned only with the visible powers and not with the power of God. So they rebelled against God and the leaders appointed by God, and God had to let a generation die in the desert. To the next generation, God offered to give them the whole land of Canaan and supernaturally give them victory over all enemies. Again, trusting in God was not enough, despite a good beginning, to take the whole land, and the surviving enemies became a trap and oppression for Israel. When the people cried out to God, He gave them helpers, the judges, but at some point the people got tired of always having to rely on God, and they wanted something solid and tangible instead, a king. Then there were some very good kings, but also bad kings, which finally led to the people being led away into exile and the temple of God being destroyed. God had warned the people many times through prophets, but in the end they did not want to listen. Again and again God invited them to return to Him, and the people were even allowed to return to the Promised Land and rebuild the destroyed temple. People dealt very intensively with what God had said before, the scribes, and there were people who tried with all their strength to keep the commandments of God, the Pharisees. However, God's diagnosis for this was that the scribes had not recognized the essential, and that all good human efforts were not enough. Something fundamentally new had to happen in people's lives

God the Son became man out of love for man.

God's longing for mankind to be close to them and to do good to them became so great after all this failure of mankind that God finally decided that God, the Son, came to this earth as man and shared our poor and small human existence to enable bad and incapable people to have an eternal and loving fellowship with God. God the Son became a little child in the womb of a human mother, was born, grew up and became adult, in everything a human being like us. He renounced all his power and glory. He could do nothing out of himself and was dependent on God for everything. So He could only begin His public service at the age of about 30 years, which then only lasted about 3 years. At the end of this ministry He took all the guilt of the world, all our sickness, all curses and our corrupt human nature upon Himself. It ended by Him even taking on all the separation from God the Father. This death of Jesus causes that everyone, even the worst and the stupidest, has the chance to turn back from His evil way, to get rid of everything that separated Him from God until now, and then to be welcome and pleasant to God. God wants to have a loving relationship with us, and he has done everything to make this possible for everyone.

The New Life in Christ.

God, the Father, raised Jesus from the dead and placed Him in the highest of all positions: To His right hand, high above all other powers and authorities (Eph. 1, 20 - 22). He is already reigning now, but still invisible to us human beings, until He will come again and will be visible in His glory for all. If we turn back to God from our wrong ways, return what we have stolen and correct where we have lied, and if we accept what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, then we will receive a new, divine life, the same life that Christ received. We will be incorporated into a great organism, the Body of Christ, in which Jesus Christ is the head and all of us together with Him the Christ (1 Cor. 12, 12). We are to receive glory together with Christ, reign together with Christ, and be revealed together with Christ when He appears in glory on earth. So the place of the Christian is already in heaven today. God has already paid for everything, and we only need to accept it. God then works on us with the same power with which He created the whole world from nothing and with which He brought Jesus from death to life (Eph. 2, 1 - 6). Nothing is impossible for Him, even in our lives. Therefore, it is essential for us to remain in this close relationship with Jesus and, if we have left it, to immediately turn back from the evil way of asking God for forgiveness and to place our whole life at His disposal again. To remain in this close life connection with Christ is also translated as "to remain in Christ". Jesus says about it: "He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing. (Joh. 15, 5)

Life According to the Spirit.

God, the Holy Spirit lives in us and is so close to us. He speaks to us, mostly quietly, and we can choose to ignore His voice. When we decide to listen to Him and do what He tells us, we live according to the Spirit. We trust that God is good and means well with us and therefore His ways are the best for us. We stand before God empty-handed, so that we can always receive from God whatever we need right now. In particular, the love of God is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who is given to us (Rom. 5:5). We only need to let this love out to the one who meets us right now.

Life According to the Flesh

But if we do not trust God enough and think that we know better than God what is good for us and what to do now, we live by our own natural powers. The Bible calls this "life in the flesh" or "life according to the flesh". This is not only a life driven by base instincts such as selfishness, greed for money or sex addiction, but anything that is not lived in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit, no matter how generous, selfless and noble it may be. Paul writes about this in the Epistle to the Romans: The life according to the flesh aims at death, it is enmity against God and cannot submit to God, and whoever lives according to the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8, 6 - 8). If you live according to the flesh, you will die (Rom. 8, 13 See also Gal. 5, 16 - 21). Before God nothing we do or build up from the flesh endures. With all our activity, which we do not do out of God, but only out of ourselves, we are only standing in the way of God and are damaging the building of His kingdom, no matter how noble, social and progressive it looks. Everything that we do for God but not out of a life in connection with Him only harms and is doomed to failure. Every man will one day have to stand before God and give an account to Him of all that he has done. At the latest then, everything that we have done out of the flesh will reveal itself as the nothing that it already is today.

Our Situation today as a Chance from God

Our situation today is characterised by the fact that all the securities we could have relied on in the past have been taken away from us. Suddenly a pandemic appears, suddenly our profession and our income are no longer secure, suddenly all religious services are banned, suddenly a great many basic rights are abolished. And it can happen very quickly in the meantime that our honor as Christians is taken away.

This situation is an invitation to come to God, to no longer put our trust in people and things of this world and in ourselves, our insight and our ability, and to put aside all that we desire, move and plan, and ask what God actually wants from us today. For this it is necessary for us to come to God and ask the Holy Spirit to show us what stands between God and us, to turn away from the wrong ways we have gone and therefore, for example, to refund stolen goods, to report lies in our tax returns

to the tax office and to make the necessary tax back payments, to put things right where we have lied, slandered or even falsely accused, and to decide to let Jesus really be the Lord of our lives. We decide to trust God that He really loves us and will give us everything we need to live with Him, including the power to do His will in every situation. We trust that God will give us the necessary insight at every moment, that we can recognize what is needed right now and the strength to do it.

In preaching this means that we ask God to show us what we are to preach, that He lets us understand the texts and then gives us the necessary ideas and words. In the end, it is about God being able to say through us what He wants to say today. This is preaching in authority, and it has a profound effect on the life of listening, and it works for decades. In all other areas of Christian life it is also about God doing in us and through us what He wants to do. And since God is selfless love, He has poured this love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit and wants to live it in us and through us. We only need to let it out. And the Holy Spirit brings about in us a living hope in God and the glorious future that we have with Him, so that we can hope even where there is nothing more to hope for in human terms.

So the new situation is ultimately an invitation to finally give God a chance, so that he can really do something lasting through us.

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