



Dear friends,

if we are occupied by something important or if we feel the call for something higher, it makes sense to pursue it more intensively and to dare to take steps towards it.

During my numerous outdoor activities, I try to realize my own dreams on one side, but they have also been an integral part of my Christian life for many years. Because I also like to pray to God in nature, especially out of movement. I often combine both like I did in 2016 during my solo ascent of Mont-

Blanc with a focus on prayer for Europe. **The same is true now.**

On February 8th I will set out on a longer solo winter tour above the Arctic Circle. This will be a combination of fulfilling a dream I had for a long time and a **prayer for our unique world** in the current situation.

My prayer will focus on following topics:

- We live in a time that is characterized strongly by uncertainty, helplessness and a lack of solutions. Unexpectedly, the current crisis has triggered a new competitive struggle. Domestically, many people suffer from a painful division of society, e.g., due to differences in dealing with the Corona issues. Internationally calls for a new world order are becoming louder. A struggle for supremacy among the big nations becomes more recognizable, while the smaller nations are being ignored again.
- Although ecological issues are addressed broadly, they are often dealt with only rhetorically. They threaten to mutate into a new socio-political activism. In order to develop a target-oriented consensus, a lot of encounters and exchanges between opposing groups on an equal footing are required.
- Once again, we as a world community are failing to recognize that our political, economic, social and ecological problems are also directly connected to our ethics in life. As a modern society, we have a lot of knowledge and almost miraculous means and opportunities, but in order to be able to make sustainable decisions and set the right course out of the crises, more is needed. We also need "wisdom from above", more cohesion in togetherness, healthy ethics and a spiritual intuition we must feel and pray for.
- All of this is not just about the future of our children, but also about our credibility and our ability to change. We must learn from the mistakes of the past and create a world that can be a good and just place to live in for everyone. For this we need a new reflection individually, nationally and as a world community and an updated concentration on the essentials - on our inner values and on our responsibility before the God of all creation!

Invitation to pray

I would be happy if as many people as possible would join in on this **PRAYER FOR OUR UNIQUE WORLD** between the **8th of February and the 8th of March 2022**. Please pray with me personally and also invite other people from your congregations and circles of friends.

Anyone who would like to add anything individually to the prayer topics (listed on page one) is welcome to do so, as well as copying this flyer or forwarding it via social media. In the biblical tradition, common prayer plays a particularly important role and has proven itself many times in the history of our world.

I want to encourage people to also pray outside while exercising in nature. This helps us to feel our own creatureliness more intensely and to see ourselves as part of the entire creation. From this perspective, prayer can take on a different intensity...

Travel plans

In order to stay ecologically sustainable and to have more encounters with different people, I will travel by train. My journey starts in my hometown and takes me over 2,500 kilometers to Abisko in northern Sweden (Lapland). From Abisko I plan to cover about 450 kilometers to Hemavan on skis and with an expeditionary sled in tow, when negative temperatures are still guaranteed there. Well equipped, I will usually spend the nights in a tent and prepare my meals on a gas cooker.

The trail is called "Kungsleden Nord" (the King's Road) and is characterized by an overwhelming beauty of snowy landscapes. It offers a great opportunity to concentrate the mind on prayer in almost complete silence and with a lot of freedom of movement. I hope to go as far as possible...

Since there is hardly any internet reception in the region of my tour, I will only very rarely be able to send current information or pictures. But you can generally find my posts on social media at @valerynetzer (Facebook and Instagram).

Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who has advised me during the preparations and supported me in various ways over the past three years. I would also like to thank everyone who will pray with me and I look forward to the experiences that we will have during this time!

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