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## **A “Chance” Meeting - German President at Yad Vashem**

Today it has been announced that Germany has been plunged into its worst crisis in post-war history. The President, Christian Wulff, has announced his resignation, as reported by BBC News. While in governmental leadership of Lower Saxony, it is alleged, he improperly accepted a home loan. Along with the deepening Euro crisis Chancellor Angela Merkel can ill afford the loss of a close ally.

The sudden report reminded me of a time in late 2010 when leading a tour to Israel and the Lands of the Bible and filming for one of our films “Son, Sea and Sandals - Following in the Footsteps of Jesus”. Our group had just entered the emotion filled Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem. As I had visited and been touched by this tour of man’s atrocities to man, I touched on some of its high points and then waited for the group at the scenic and contemplative overlook at its very end. Siting there I heard two Spanish tourists talking to each other, in Spanish, about the President of Germany. Also carrying a Press card I informed the official that I wanted to take some photos of the President. Although surrounded only by his chosen press corps I was allowed a certain vantage point to take some photographs and meet the President. While waiting I thought about the unlikelihood of being here at a time when the most unlikely (to my mind) VIP to visit this Holocaust Memorial was before me. As he stood at that overlook contemplating a land that, during the war, was only a dream in the minds of Jews worldwide, it was an emotional moment. I then followed him to the building where flames on the floor in utter darkness mark the “death camps” spread throughout Germany and Poland. I listened as a tear inducing children’s choir sang a most glorious hymn. It was one of those moments that will live long in memory.

Interestingly, Christian Wulff was actually the first President to be born in post-war Germany. The significance of that fact is though provoking. That country is an entirely different land than that which raised up a leader that has gone down in infamy. Yet, its economic and political challenges has raised the bar of what people expect from politics and government. Recently I also interviewed Pastor Peter Wenz, leader of the largest church in the German speaking world. He stated that he felt that, spiritually, the country of Germany is near the bottom of the ladder. Yet, he is excited about the new generation that believes and trust in the power and life changing work of God through His Holy Spirit. Although subjects such as Divine healing and even giving are quite sensitive to this nation, Pastor Wenz shared that even the established churches are now holding healing services. Youth meetings that features music that speaks the language of this generation is reaching thousands and led by his own son. Germany is indeed a nation where church history was made and is still being shaped in the hearts and lives of its people.

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