

October, 2005

Good News

The Jesus-Day Worship Service on Sept. 11 in Berlin was characterized by unity and a firm resolution to pray earnestly for our government and our society. Approximately 700 Christians from a wide variety of churches and fellowships took part in the three hours of praise, prayer, and input.

The diversity ranged from charismatics to evangelicals to Catholic believers. Blocks of prayer alternated with short information and input. Seven musicians from seven different churches made up the worship band. The large attendance and the cordial atmosphere are reasons for thankfulness and joy.

Electronic City Maps

What kind of churches, groups, movements and organizations are there in Berlin? Where are the “white spots” – regions in which the residents have little chance of hearing the gospel? What are the social and ethnographic factors in the area surrounding your own church?

At Together for Berlin, electronic city maps are being developed on which one can find visual answers to such questions. The overview is designed not only to be a review of the situation, but also to be a help in prayer and strategic planning – especially for the areas and people groups in Berlin that have little contact to the gospel. The project is still in the beginning stages, but first maps can be found in the internet under: www.gfberlin.de

Prayer Requests

- **Thank God for this project**
- **Pray for interest and cooperation among churches and organizations**
- **Pray that the maps will encourage prayer and evangelism**

The Potential of Foreign National Churches

In Berlin there are many, mostly small, churches for foreigners whose form of worship and language reflects the culture of their various home countries. This enables them to offer foreigners a valuable cultural security.

However, until now, the leaders have rarely been able to build a bridge between the German culture and the foreign culture, even in spite of the fact that many of these churches use German church facilities. Often the foreign national pastors experience difficulty learning the German language and understanding the German culture, and they often strengthen the tendency of their church members to withdraw into their own culture.

On the other hand, Berliners are not active in seeking out these brothers and sisters.

Therefore, the large potential for the good of the city that these churches have is not being developed. We need people on both sides who will actively begin to build bridges so that fruitful and friendly relationships can be developed.

Prayer Requests

- **Pray that foreign national churches will be viewed as a large blessing for the city**
- **Pray that leaders will approach one another and begin to build relationships and mutual trust**
- **Pray for bridge builders**

Hindu Temple

Approximately 6000 Hindus live in Berlin, most from Asian countries (India, Sri Lanka). A Hindu temple and cultural center is to be built around the time of the beginning of the World Cup in 2006 on a plot of land at the edge of the Volkspark Hasenheide in Neukölln. The temple's main construction is to include a 19 meter ornate tower. The local government and the mayor of Neukölln are in favor of the project and have leased a plot of ground for it. The temple will be not only a gathering place for Hindus. In order to acquaint non-Hindus with Hinduism, other things such as a library, a place for family celebrations, meditation, cooking, yoga and language courses will be available. Thus the temple also has a “missionary” effect. The temple is to be built mostly by Indian workers in order to keep the cost down. It will be financed through donations.

Christian Tamil churches, which are mostly made up of former Hindus, are very concerned about this building project. Their desire is to see many Hindus reached with the Good News of the Gospel which can set them free.

Prayer Requests

- **Thank God for the people from Asia who have found a new home in Berlin**
- **Pray that many Hindus in Berlin will come in contact with Christians and churches from their cultural background and experience freedom in Jesus**

The New American Ambassador

At his very first appearance before the press, the new American ambassador, William R. Timken, indicated how favourable he is toward Germany.

Mr. Timken and his wife Sue have six children and seven grandchildren. He did not receive his training in the diplomatic world. He was a successful businessman. He now wants to bring his experience in business to the world of politics. His main desire is to renew the relationship between his country and Germany, a relationship which has been strained for several years. He emphasized: “Germany's support following hurricane Katrina shows the depth and the strength of our relationship.”

The German-American relationship is certainly better than it often appears in the media. And yet, we hope that the new ambassador can be conducive in making friendship and solidarity more high profile in the media rather than prejudice and clichés.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that the ambassador's contacts and encounters will serve to relieve the stress in the relationship between Germany and the USA
- Pray for protection against attacks for Ambassador Timken and his family
- Pray for good contacts to Christians in Berlin

CDU-Mayor Candidate Sought

Since September, 2004, we have been praying that a political change would take place in Berlin. In connection with this, we have been praying that capable people would be brought into place in the Berlin CDU, which is still largely without much profile.

In recent weeks, Klaus Töpfer has been being talked about as a possible candidate for the office of the governing mayor. Klaus Töpfer, who is currently serving as director of the environment for the UN, will definitely be leaving that position the beginning of 2006. After a long period of reticence, the CDU has now officially gotten in contact with Mr. Töpfer, and exploratory talks are scheduled during the next weeks.

Even possible opponents see a possible candidacy on the part of Mr. Töpfer as very positive. "Mr. Töpfer would be a stroke of luck for the CDU and the city of Berlin," said the representative of the Greens, Werner Schulz, to the Berliner Zeitung. He spoke well of his competence and ability to be involved in the high-level politics of a large cosmopolitan city.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that the exploratory talks with succeed
- Pray for clear direction for Klaus Töpfer about his future
- Pray that God Himself will call the right leading candidate for the elections in 2006

30 Days Prayer for the Moslem World

Christians all over the world will be praying once again in 2005 for Moslems during Ramadan, their month of fasting (October 4-November 2).

Much has happened in the last 15 years since Christians have begun to pray more for the Moslem world. More Moslems are becoming Christians than ever before. Even though some radical Moslems have committed themselves to hate, others are showing more openness to the gospel. Many Moslems are interacting more with Non-Moslems and are distancing themselves from extremists.

Many are especially open for spiritual things during Ramadan and set out to find Allah. Let us pray that many of the 400,000 Moslems who live in our city will find answers to their questions in the person of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for "God-prepared" encounters between Christians and Moslems looking for the truth
- Pray that entire families will become interested in Christianity
- Pray that God Himself will encounter Moslems who are looking for the truth through supernatural means (visions, dreams, healings)

Planting New Churches

Among the 400,000 Moslems in Berlin, we know very few who have become Christians. Some of them meet together in special churches in which the worship service is held in their language and according to their cultures.

We know of two small Turkish churches with a total of 15 Christians, three Persian groups, one Kurdish church-planting initiative, and one house church comprised of Arab converts. These churches have in common that they are all very small. This in itself is a problem, since people from Moslem cultures feel more comfortable in large groups. For this reason, some Christians from Moslem backgrounds prefer to attend German churches.

Because of the variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the Moslems, we need many different churches and groups in various districts of the city of Berlin. Some of these desire a better cooperation with a German church, which would come alongside to support and advise them.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for further church-planting initiatives in various areas in Berlin
- Pray for good cooperation between German and foreign national churches
- Pray for new creative ideas about how to reach Moslems in our city

Dates

- Oct. 3, 2005: Evening of Prayer to kick-off the initiative „**40 Days of Prayer for the Moslem World**“ (October 4-Nov. 2 Info: www.ead.de) in the Lukas-Gemeinde Kurfürstenstr. 133. You will have the opportunity to get to know several church-planting initiatives.
- October 10, 2005: **Forum for Prayer** Info about participants, goals and more on our internet site. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Forum, please ask for information about time and place per email.
- **Preview:** Nov. 5, 2005: **Berlin Worship Night** – Praise and worship in the Christuskirche Hohenschönhausen. Start: 6 PM, more information on the homepage: www.christuskirche.de
- **Preview:** Dec. 2-3, 2005: **Road to Berlin** – Worship weekend with Noel Richards and others. More information will be coming.