

January, 2006

Good News: A good year

We Berliners have every reason to be thankful for all that God has done during this past year. Some things have been so sensational that they have been talked about way beyond the borders of our city.

For instance, May 1st, 2005 was the first almost peaceful holiday for nearly the past 20 years. Nazi demonstrations were prohibited by the general populace, and a decline in crime and unemployment has taken place. It's not yet a breakthrough, but at least a turnaround tendency.

Spiritual highlights were the Jesus Day 2005 worship service with prayer for national elections and the Africa-Europe Reconciliation Conference in November.

We will be continuing many prayer requests from 2005, and new ones will be added. No one is saying that untroubled times are up ahead. And yet, in the words of the Apostle Paul, we *rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance* (Romans 5:3). And we need „perseverance“ in order to see the desired changes in our city. Thanks to all our prayer partners—thank you for bringing our city before the throne of God and helping to see His kingdom come and His will be done, in Berlin as it is in heaven!

The year – Looking forward

Let us pray for God's protection and blessing for our city at the beginning of the year 2006. Here are some of the highlights coming up for which we can already begin to pray:

Prayer and Praise

1. The year begins with the good tradition of the **Week of Prayer** sponsored by the Evangelical Alliance from January 8-15. During this time of united prayer within the body of Christ, more than 107 prayer meetings will be held, traditional and innovative, small and large. Among other things, prayer evenings for various city districts, a youth prayer concert, and a concluding worship service in the Gedächtniskirche are planned. This is a great opportunity for unified, specific prayer for the city, and will certainly motivate all those taking part! More information can be found at: www.ev-allianz.de

2. For the third year in a row, people all over Germany will be joining in the **40 days of fasting and prayer** for our country during Lent. People in Berlin are leading the initiative and providing editorial staff.

Brochures with daily prayer requests have already been printed (order at dte@chrismedia24.de; Tel: 06406-8346-0; Fax: - 125). Further information can be found at www.40tagebetenundfasten.de

3. On July 15th, the Berlin Olympic Stadium will be filled with the international event **Calling all Nations** -- An entire day of praise with lots of music, prayer and motivation for evangelism. Dozens of musicians and praise bands from Germany and other countries will be participating.

The primary goal however is not to just put on a concert, but rather to praise God in unity among the generations and the nations. Details and tickets – until March 31, 2006 at a reduced price – at www.callingallnations.com

Prayer

- **Pray for motivation, courage to believe and multiplication of all prayer impulses**
- **Pray for a change in the spiritual climate and the situation in Berlin through prayer and praise**
- **Pray for successful motivation for participation in Calling all Nations**

Evangelism

1. From Feb. 16-18, Together for Berlin is hosting a conference entitled **Transforum 2006** with the topic: „The whole gospel for the whole city“.

Speakers from Berlin and abroad will be speaking about the Biblical principles and implementation of Christian work in mega-cities during plenum events and workshops.

Models and experiences from Berlin and other cities will be presented in order to motivate and train the approximately 250 participants from Germany and other countries to be evangelistic and socially and culturally relevant in their cities. Details and registration: www.transforum-berlin.de

2. From March 18-23 **ProChrist 2006** „Doubting and Being Amazed“ will be taking place all over Europe and in 15 different locations in Berlin. Christians and churches will be inviting their friends to evangelistic evenings. Ulrich Parzany will be preaching through satellite transmission from Munich at these local events. Every evening there will be an invitation to receive Christ.

3. During the World Cup in Germany from June 6-July 7, there will be various evangelistic events in Berlin sponsored by **Kickoff 2006**. Christians will be present at celebration areas all over Berlin, using the large churches and other smaller ones for evangelistic events surrounding the broadcasts of the games. Thousands of Christians from other countries will be coming in missions teams to support the churches in these evangelistic activities.

Prayer

- **Pray for the mobilisation of churches and workers for Transforum, ProChrist and Kick-off**
- **Pray that people will find Jesus directly and indirectly through these planned activities**

Society

1. An open-air worship service and various prayer events will most probably take place again on **May 1st**. Our prayers in the last years have been answered, and we will again be praying for a peaceful day. We are also considering whether it would be wise to take more initiative in evangelism on this day.

2. A **Christopher-Street-Day** parade to demonstrate for the rights of homosexuals is once again being planned for July 22. Many find this objectionable. It is once again a challenge for Christians in our city to stand up for God's positive arrangement for marriage and family.

3. On **September 18** elections for the House of Representatives will be held in Berlin. The Parliament, senate and governing mayor will be elected. Please pray for the nominating of candidates, the election campaign, and the formation of the new government.

Prayer

- **Pray for peace, protection from violence and terror**
- **Pray for an increase in Biblical values in politics and society**

Hooligans and Neo-Nazis

The end of November, the police were able to break up a secretly planned massive fight between Polish and German hooligans near Berlin. Nearly 100 people were arrested. It had been designed to „practice“ for the upcoming soccer matches during the upcoming World Cup.

Hooligans and Neo-Nazis overlap in some cases. According to the Senator for the Interior, Mr. Körting, every eighth known right-wing extremist in Berlin (approximately 150 people) has already taken part in hooligan activities during a soccer match.

Authorities are seeing an increase in the willingness for violence among the entire right-wing.

Since May 8th, various planned demonstrations of right-wing extremists in Berlin and Brandenburg have been averted through opposing demonstrations, but willingness for violence even against the

police is growing in the Neo-Nazi scene. Right-wing activities in the city are increasing noticeably. More demonstrations and anti-Semitic slogans scrawled on buildings have been registered. The number of members in the so-called „free comradeship“ is growing. Right-wing activities have increased especially in Lichtenberg and Treptow-Köpenick. Neo-Nazis in Treptow-Köpenick are demanding a youth center and have demonstrated three times for this. It has just been announced that the national government is cutting funding for the successful „Exit“ program (for those wanting to get out of Neo-Nazi groups) in 2006.

Prayer

- **Pray for protection for the police during their activities against Neo-Nazis and hooligans**
- **Pray for appropriate concepts to prevent violence, especially during the World Cup**
- **Pray that youth who are looking for meaning and purpose in life will find Jesus**

Social Work „die Arche“

The Christian social mission „Arche“ (the Ark) in Hellersdorf is meeting the needs of many children through school lunches and other programs and is thus bringing the love of God in practical ways to families who would otherwise not normally come in contact with the gospel.

The leader of the Arche has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit among other things. However, even so, the local government decided to cut funding for this important social work. These cuts were reversed following massive protests among people and in the media. Further projects are being developed in other areas of Berlin and in other cities (Hamburg, Munich).

Prayer:

- **Thank God for the work of the Arche which serves as a model and has brought blessing**
- **Pray for successful multiplication of the „Arche Model“ in other areas of the city and in other cities**
- **Pray that the crisis which was weathered and the echo in the media will bring increased blessing**

Dates

- Jan 14th 7pm **Evening of Prayer** Together for **Reinickendorf**, Evangelische Apostel-Petrus-Gemeinde, Wilhelmsruher Damm 161, (Märkisches Viertel). Information about the church: www.apg-berlin.de
- February 16-18 **Transforum** – register now to get a place! www.transforum-berlin.de