



May, 2006

Good News: 2.8 Billion Euros for non-profit use

During the past years, Berlin has been experiencing a boom in financial foundations. The 536 independent private foundations in Berlin have a combined capital of around 2,8 billion Euros at their disposal. They foster projects in the area of education and science, environmental protection, religion, culture and social issues. Many churches and Christian organizations create foundations to support social welfare and evangelistic projects. A new record was set in Berlin in the year 2005: 37 foundations were called into being—10 more than the year before. Source: Berlin Partner GmbH

Calling all Nations

On July 15th, six days after the final game in the soccer World Cup, the British worship leader Noel Richards is gathering youth and people of all generations who have “stayed young” together in the Berlin Olympic stadium for a day of worship. He has been preparing for this day for nine years, communicating his vision and overcoming many hindrances.

This date in 2006 is important in history and also from a spiritual point of view. In 1936, Hitler called the youth of the world together and misused their passion and devotion for his own ideological purposes. And now, exactly 70 years later, we plan to praise Jesus with all our strength and devotion. This span of 70 years reminds us of things in the Bible--the Jubilee Year and the length of time spent in the Babylonian captivity.

The goal of Calling all Nations is not just to hold a concert, but rather to help to produce lasting change in the lives of the participants, and to help people in Germany to experience God’s presence more. Things that happen in Berlin often have widespread influence, even on other countries. Zinzendorf once said, “When I go into a city, I preach to the city. But when I got to Berlin, I preach to Europe!” For three days in advance of this event, praise and prayer will take place in a church in Berlin. Tickets and information can be found at: www.callingallnations.com

Prayer

- **Pray that many people will respond to the call to united praise**

- **Pray for widespread support and mobilization among churches in Berlin**
- **Pray that many tickets will be sold soon, which will help finance the event**

Keeping On: No Loveparade

The past two years, the Loveparade has not taken place, but on the same day as Calling all Nations, July 15th, a Loveparade is once again being planned, made possible by the sale of part of the Loveparade GmbH to an investor. In order to help finance the event in 2006, it is supposed to be more commercialized, for instance through the sale of advertising space on the music wagons. However, it is highly unlikely that enough sponsors can be found. The initiator of the Loveparade, “Dr Motte”, has withdrawn from the event, because it no longer represents his original ideas. The Loveparade has always been criticized because of its drug abuse, the damage done to the Tiergarten, and its sexual excesses. A “revival” of the Loveparade would be damaging to Berlin from a spiritual, ethical and ecological viewpoint.

Prayer

- **Pray that no further sponsors can be found**
- **Pray that sponsors would support ongoing youth projects instead of this event**
- **Pray for the development of events for youth that encourage positive values**

Political aspects of the district Neukoelln

Neukoelln has been in the headlines recently. As a result of the things that happened in the Ruetli-Hauptschule, the topics of parallel societies and integration are (finally) being discussed nationwide. Let us accompany this necessary process in prayer.

District Mayor Heinz Buschkowsky wrote to us:

The *strength* of the district of Neukoelln lies in its dazzling heterogeneity. The potential for the future lies in its ethnological diversity of life-style and culture. Neukoelln is young and colourful and has an attractive cultural life.

The largest *problems* lie most certainly in the social area. There are many families who live in poverty. The children in day-care centers who beg for food are not visible to the public, but they are there. Nearly every third person among the residents of Neukoelln is unemployed, among foreign immigrants every second person. They are dependent on welfare.

The challenge for the *future* is the preservation of social peace and the integration of all people in a value system of basic rights. In 10 years, people with a foreign immigrant background will be in the majority in North Neukoelln.

My *desire* is that in the next five years, social problems and the difficulties of immigration will be more openly and honestly discussed. Blaming people for what has taken place in the past and the division between Good and Bad do not really contribute positively to a common future. Ignorance, thoughtlessness, and indifference are the ground upon which conflict, suppression, fear, and jealousy grow. The key to the solution of the problems is making education available, arousing ambition, and creating perspective for the future. I desire a self-confident democratic society which names its values and boundaries, and reaches its hand out to all those who embrace these values.

Prayer

- **Pray for a decline in ethnological and social tensions and difficulties**
- **Pray for effective concepts against the formation of parallel societies**
- **Pray for the development of concepts of education for foreign immigrants**

Church life in Neukoelln

The **Pastor of the Herrnhuter Brudergemeinde**, Bishop **Theodor Clemens**, wrote the following concerning church life in Neukoelln:

Neukoelln does not have only bad news. In the „Boehmischer Dorf“ around the Richardplatz and in other burroughs, ecumenical events such as “Kids’ Days” and Bible Study evenings have been taking place for years. On Pentecost Sunday, on the “Night of Open Churches” in the old village church, the sound of African drums and Taizé songs will be heard, among other things. On the Monday following Pentecost, an ecumenical service will be held in a park in North Neukoelln. Nearly all churches are also being used by foreign congregations. Thus many nations living together can be seen in the churches. Discussions with Moslems about faith and life have been taking place regularly twice a year for quite some time. Conflicts and difficult topics can be brought up during these regular meetings.

Individual Christians are actively looking for ways to confront the problems of the district, for instance the lack of security on the streets and the potential for violence. More commitment would be welcomed.

Prayer

- **Thank God for the bond between Christians from different nations and denominations**
- **Pray that individual Christians and churches as a whole would be more committed to the district**
- **Pray for the development of transferable models of solutions to social problems**

Kick Off – Soccer World Cup

Together with international teams, churches and Christians in Berlin want to use the World Cup to be good hosts and to bring the message of Jesus Christ to Germans and guests from other countries alike. Along the “Strasse des 17. Juni” and on the “Breitscheidplatz” there will be „Rest-Areas“, where encounters, conversation, and a place to rest will be offered. In the Dom and the Gedächtniskirche daily “Half-time devotions“ will take place. Many churches will be showing the games on screens in their buildings and are inviting Berliners and guests to join them. However, Berlin churches on the whole are rather reluctant to use this chance, mainly because of lack of finances and workers. An informational brochure with all the Christian activities surrounding Kick Off can be printed only if 4000€ can be raised by May 3rd. Places for missions teams from other countries to stay are still needed. For more information, see: www.kickoff-berlin.de and www.wm-gucken.de

In addition: A South American shaman is travelling throughout the country and will allegedly “cleanse” all 12 World Cup stadiums with his magic. His goals are being portrayed as peaceful and unifying, but they are in opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer

- **Pray for more enthusiasm and more workers among Berlin churches**
- **Pray for needed finances for the events and publications**
- **Pray that the activities of the shaman can be prevented**

Dates

- **May 11-13: Prayer Retreat with John Mulinde.** Registrations and further information through H. Gretzmacher, Baerwaldstr. 63, 10961 Berlin, Fax/Tel: 030-694 31 85, email: wh.gr@t-online.de
- **15. July Calling all Nations**