

June, 2006

Good News – peaceful May 1st

This year, the night before May 1st was the quietest “Walpurgis night“ for nearly the last 20 years.

On the whole, the May 1st holiday was peaceful. In the evening, there was a little damage done to property and some conflict between youth inclined to violence and the police. But those celebrating in Kreuzberg didn't let that disturb them, and they just kept dancing around the stages where music was being played.

Once again this year, Christians took active action to ensure a peaceful May 1st. They held an open-air worship service on the Mariannenplatz, which was attended by around 850 people. They helped to collect trash and established mobile prayer teams who went around in various volatile areas blessing and praying.

This year, even the press indicated that they were hoping for and expecting a peaceful May 1st. This is a real change in news coverage! Along with many other residents, we are very thankful for this development and view it as a real answer to prayer! We will continue to pray that the violence will be stopped completely on future May 1st holidays.

Good News – Arche (The ark) School for the poor

Following the poor headlines Berlin schools have made in recent months, there is now something positive to report. At the start of the new school year, the “Arche-Grundschule“ (The Ark Primary School) will begin. It will be run by the Christian children and youth social project with the same name and will focus on children from deprived families. There will be social workers as well as teachers present in the classrooms.

In addition, the cost of schoolbooks and other expenses will be paid for, so that children who cannot be assisted enough in other schools can have a chance.

Soccer World-Cup in Berlin

Berlin will be at the centre of attention in the media because the final game of the World cup is being played here. When the Bavarian soccer team “Bayern München“ won the DFB-trophy at the end of April, two of their black players ran around the track of the Olympic Stadium with a big sign. For a surprising long time, TV viewers could read very

clearly: “Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.”

What scenes will TV viewers see after the finals of the World Cup? Will Berlin be peaceful?

The following games are taking place in Berlin:

- Brazil-Croatia June 13 9pm
- Sweden-Paraguay June 15 9pm
- Ecuador- Germany June 20 4pm
- Ukraine-Tunisia June 23 4pm
- Finals July 9 8pm

The Minister of the Interior, Erhard Körting (SPD) is expecting that hooligans from Poland, Croatia, and the Netherlands will come to Berlin. 1,000-1,500 people are expected from Croatia alone. Croatia's team plays on June 13th against the current world champions, Brazil, in the Olympic Stadium. Mr. Körting thinks that the hooligans will not be present in the stadium, because of strict entrance controls, but rather that they will go to the fan-mile on the “Straße des 17. Juni“. The hooligans are the largest challenge for the police. The start of the World Cup also marks the beginning of an extremely difficult time for the 23,000 policemen, none of whom are allowed to take vacation during this time. According to the information of the ZDF, Poland's hooligans are getting psyched up with bloodthirsty cries such as “Make blood sausage out of every German!“ and “Revenge for World War II“. During the last weeks, the gangs from Krakow, Posen, and Warsaw have been practicing for the “Third World War“. The soccer fan groups called hooligans from within Germany and those from outside the country are actively looking for violence. They come to the games to fight a “battle“. The thought that someone might be killed is just simply accepted.

The fact that we have just experienced such a peaceful May 1st has clearly shown us what effect prayer can have on people prone to violence. As a result, let us pray during these days especially for peace in the city.

Prayer

- **Pray that the Spirit of peace will come upon people prone to violence**
- **Pray that God will send angels to protect people from aggression**
- **Pray that the police will be able to respond wisely and appropriately**

Christians are hosts

In the last prayer mail, we asked for prayer for the events sponsored by Christians and churches during the World Cup. We have an answer to prayer: All missions teams from other countries have a place to stay! Unfortunately, we were unable to produce a brochure listing all activities because of lack of funds.

We need to continue to pray for the other requests: Organisational details and Christians who are willing to talk to people on the two fan-miles; participation

of soccer players who are believers and Brazilian samba bands on the public open-air stages; the events sponsored by many churches in the their neighbourhoods (large-screen showings of the games, evangelistic events surrounding the games). Advertising on the subway is encouraging people to look at the internet site www.wm-gucken.de, which lists these events.

Dead Ends and A Way Out

Actually we could put this under „Good News“. In the April, 2006 issue, we had the following prayer request: *“pray that the division among the leftist parties in Berlin will work for good in Berlin and further God’s plan for the city...”*

In the meantime, the small leftist groups and splitter groups have become so complex that they will not have much impact on the election. The Berliners against the federal steering committee of the WASG have founded yet another new party called “Wahlalternative Berlin” (Election alternative Berlin). “This is to ensure that those against red-red will be represented on the ballot. The chairman of the new group is a former social democrat, who was shut out of the SPD because of his membership in the WASG. He has since also left the WASG.” (dpa)

We also asked for prayer in April *“that God, the Lord of history, will strengthen democratic processes which bring good to the city, and that those which are not good for the city will be weakened.”*

It is good for our city when, as in the last weeks, politicians act responsibly. The press has reported about many such decisions, such as Ms. Junge-Reyer (PDS), for whom the good of the city—in spite of the election campaign—is more important than her party colleagues. The newspaper “Die WELT” wrote: „One wants to say to you, “Right on!” As Senator for City Development, you have overridden an absurd red-red coalition decision and have let actions speak. Amidst the blockade of some so-called traffic experts in your own ranks, you have relied upon facts in order to bring about an opening in the “Französische Straße” in the district Mitte. You did not shy away from confronting your own party members – even with an election coming up in September.” (Die WELT, 20. Mai 2006)

The SPD is building its campaign around Mr. Wowereit. Since 2001 he has nearly always been on the list of the most-loved politicians. The SPD is unwilling to make any definite coalition plans. It is keeping the option of red-red, red-green or red-red-green open.

The CDU candidate, Pflüger, introduced a twelve-point program to create more jobs. This includes: encouraging the middle class, more public investments, combating illegal employment, emphasis on research and science. The CDU in the capital city of Berlin knows that it has a chance on September

17th only if it presents a united front, because its candidate is relatively unknown.

There’s not much being said about the Greens and the FDP – perhaps that will change as the election draws closer. We still have a ways to go, but let us remember to pray that God’s kingdom will come to our city, and that His will may be done here.

Prayer

- **Pray that the increasing division among the leftist parties in Berlin will work for good in Berlin and further God’s plan for the city**
- **Pray that the election will not become nasty and that the qualities and the convictions of each of the candidates will be apparent**
- **Pray that God, the Lord of history, will strengthen democratic processes which bring good to the city, and that those which are not good for the city will be weakened.**

Prayer for Calling all Nations

We are looking forward to a fantastic day of worship and prayer at the Olympic Stadium, Berlin on Saturday 15th July. We hope you and your friends will join us and we are thankful for every participant. But so far only 15,000 tickets have been sold – that is a heavy burden for the people who are responsible. It is not easy to motivate Christians and spiritual resistance is obvious. Hard work, good planning, international advertising campaigns and massive reduction of costs alone cannot be enough – we need an enormous increase of tickets sold in order to meet the spiritual vision and budget of Calling all Nations. There are plenty of challenges along the way to see this event take place. That is why we ask for your support in prayer.

To intensify prayer for the event and it’s preparations, we are introducing a 24/7 prayer chain where you can participate and commit yourself to pray for half an hour for CAN at a time of your choice. We have prepared an Online database where you can register your name for a time slot. Please feel free to fill in more than one slot.

It is our belief that through prayer and/or fasting we can achieve real breakthroughs in many areas and can release huge blessings.

Please go to <http://www.bonnen.info/can/> to access the prayer chain online form. Thanks for your support,

Noel Richards and the CaN Team

Prayer

- **Pray that God’s purpose with the stadium comes into operation**
- **Pray that motivation to participate increases drastically**