



Prayer for Berlin

February, 2007

Good News: More births and more church members

From January to August, 2006, the number of births in Berlin rose by 1.2%. In 2005 18,323 babies were born; in 2006 18,713. We are happy about these new Berliners and pray for protection for all those yet “on the way“, and that the birth rate will continue to rise.

In 1994, approximately 22,000 Berliners left the Protestant state church. In 2005, this number was only 5,000. Furthermore, in 2005, 2000 also officially joined the Protestant state church, and this trend is still continuing. In the Berliner Dom alone, eight to ten people are joining the church monthly. 200 Berliners joined the Catholic Church last year. The current discussion about Islam has shown many people that they need to be clear about their own religious identity.

A pastor from Berlin-Mitte reported that more young parents whose children are in day-care at the church are coming to regular church services, not just on Christmas. The number of people involved in churches is also increasing. “Just a few years ago, I had to really search around for people to serve as leaders in the church,” a pastor said. “Now I can choose among several.” (Source: Der Tagesspiegel)

In an article from Spiegel-Online about the Conference about the Future of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD) in Wittenberg, the Apostel Petrus church in Berlin Märkische Viertel was presented as an example of a growing church.

Feedback welcome

The prayer mails are not to be a one-way street. Please give us feedback. Even though we cannot guarantee publication, we are happy when you send us prayer requests pertaining to the city or thoughts about prayer to be shared with others. Contact information is on the front page of the prayer mail in the footnote.

Scientology in Berlin

In January, the new Scientology Center was opened in Berlin-Charlottenburg, which came as a surprise to the public. The Office for Protection of the Constitution has been observing Scientology at a federal level and a state level in 10 states. Scientology calls itself a “church”, but in reality, it is a dangerous cult. Bavaria’s Minister of the Interior Beckstein criticized the Berlin Senate because since 2003, it had no longer ordered the Office for Protection of the Constitution to observe the sect. According to Beckstein, Scientology is a “business venture desiring economical and political power which economically exploits people who didn’t want to be under its control, breaking their will, in order to instate them as a small wheel in the machinery of Scientology.” He warns about their plans: “Scientology sees Berlin as an important address to gain influence in the highest levels of German politics, thus paving the way to entrance into the House of Parliament.” Scientology even has its own secret police, which applies massive pressure to opposition and overwhelms opponents with lawsuits. (Source: Berliner Zeitung)

Prayer:

- **Pray that the Holy Spirit will shed light on all hidden activities of Scientology**
- **Pray for protection for all those whom the cult is attempting to recruit by using psycho-tests**
- **Pray for a quick decision of the Berlin Senate to once again let the Office for Protection of the Constitution begin observing Scientology**

Problems in the coalition contract

The department for same-sex lifestyles is under the Senate Administration for Education, Youth and Sports. In an informational brochure, it says, “The department works on behalf of lesbians, gay people, bi-and transsexuals.” In the new coalition contract, it is stated that „dealings with the variety of sexual identities and life-styles” must be a mandatory part of the training of new teachers. This is new.

Up until now, this topic was covered only in advanced training of teachers. In addition, it says, “The coalition will in the future also take the topic

of lesbian-gay lifestyle into account when implementing lesson plans. Projects sponsored by lesbians, gays and transgenders as a part of sex education will be supported.”

Thus, unnoticed by the public, an attempt is being made, by influencing young people, to present the life-styles of lesbians, gays, etc. as normal life-styles. Of course, it is dependent upon the teacher as to how he/she presents this issue. But let us pray that parents will realize this influence on their children and defend themselves against it.

Prayer:

- **Pray for a parents' initiative to be formed which would fight against these intentions of the coalition contract**
- **Pray for protection for youth who are in the phase of sexual orientation**
- **Pray that the truth about God's arrangement in creation will be recognized and once again taught at the universities**

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

What we are attempting with this prayer mail for Berlin, namely, bringing God's good intentions into society through prayer, is now being repeated at the national level for the fourth time. Inspired through “50 days of Prayer for Berlin” and the preparation of the Jesus-Day 2004, the campaign “40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for our Nation” was born. There have been many significant answers to prayer. Others are not so easily seen. And many areas of our society need the input of the gospel. For this reason, we want to encourage those who receive the newsletter “Prayer for Berlin” to take part in the prayer chain beginning on Feb. 21. A brochure with daily requests, information and tips is available.

It is a good idea to abstain from something of your choice during these seven weeks before Easter, the traditional time of fasting in church history. Abstaining however should not be the focus. Our “efforts” certainly cannot “accomplish” anything before God, but fasting does show our earnest desire in prayer and helps us remember to pray and to concentrate on prayer. It is a good Biblical custom.

This year, these forty days are being called: “Your kingdom come” and will be related each week to a request from the Lord's Prayer. More than 50 prayer movements and initiatives are taking part in this campaign. This year, Trans-World Radio

(ERF) is emphasizing this topic on several programs on radio and on TV. (www.erf.de).

Order the free brochure at info@campus-d.de or www.down-to-earth.de, Tel: 0641-97518-0

Further info at www.40tagebetenundfasten.de

Prayer

- **Pray that many thousands of Christians from many different churches and areas all over the country will take part**
- **Pray for visible changes in trends in politics and society**
- **Pray that God's kingdom will come to our nation**

Christian schools

86 staff from 35 different Protestant churches, fellowships, and free churches work at the Free Evangelical Schools in Berlin (FESB). 392 students are enrolled in three different schools: 269 are in primary school in Prenzlauer Berg. 173 of them are in day-care following school. 94 students attend the Realschule. 10 children are enrolled in first grade at the primary school Immanuel-Schule Spandau. 19 children are enrolled in first and second grade at the Arche-Grundschule Hellersdorf.

Many are already registered for the school year 2007/08: 70 for the primary school Prenzlauer Berg, 26 for Spandau and 19 for Hellersdorf. Registration for the Realschule takes place in March. 26 students can be accommodated in the new 7th grade. These FESB schools are on the way to reaching their districts through “education with values”.

Because teaching Christian values in public schools even for Christian teachers is becoming increasingly difficult, these positive developments are a reason for thankfulness.

The school leadership shared the following requests with us:

Prayer:

- **Pray that the unity among the colleagues will be protected**
- **Pray for the further development of educational concepts**
- **Pray that local churches would supply, send, and bless staff**
- **Pray for the development of a network of multipliers**
- **Pray for adequate financial resources for all schools**