



# Prayer for Berlin

May, 2007

In spite of the positive total balance, there are some negative developments: So-called violent crime, such as robbery, assault, and abuse has increased by more than four percent. Berlin remains the city of theft – 38.5 percent of all cases are theft.

For this reason, keep on praying, with thankfulness for the evident decrease in crime.

Source: Kriminalstatistik Berlin, [www.berlin.de/polizei/](http://www.berlin.de/polizei/)

## **Good News: Opportunities in Berlin**

'He who is looking for the future will want to go to Berlin.' This motto, which is a description, not an advertising gimmick, was the title of a series of articles in DER TAGESSPIEGEL in the last weeks of April about people who are using the opportunities that the city offers. The background is a development which just a short time ago was hardly believable—a real answer to prayer: 'Berlin is the second-most innovative location in Germany. In the second quarter of 2006, more jobs were created here than anywhere in Germany. The innovation index of Berlin is higher than in Baden-Württemberg or Bavaria. Following years of economic stagnation, the city is back on its way to the future... Berlin has nearly as many tourists as London and is thus near the top of Europe.' For the first time in ten years, the population of the city has once again grown to over 3.4 million. On the other hand, the economy in Berlin is growing slower than in other parts of the country and remains a 'poverty metropolis'.

### **Prayer:**

- **Thank God for these surprising developments**
- **Ask God for further economic growth and spiritual and moral renewal**

## **Good News: Crime rate is down**

We have continually asked for prayer for the safety of the city. In this regard there is good news: The number of known crimes in Berlin in 2006 decreased by 2.4 percent. The total of registered cases is the lowest since re-unification. The number of murders and attempted murders would have decreased by 10% had it not been for a rampage by a youth at the central train station in May, 2006, which added 37 attempted murders to the statistics, although most victims had only minor injuries. According to the crime statistics, the rate of solved crimes has increased. With a rate of 50 percent, it is the second-best results over the last ten years.

## **Berlin's Potential**

Recently the three opposition parties held a 'Berlin Conference' with the motto 'Reshaping the capital city'. Berlin is still looking for its identity. One suggestion made at the conference was to formulate a mission statement in order to define the self-image, potential, and goals of the capital city.

Recently, a young Professor at the Humboldt University, who is new to the city, wrote, 'Berlin is full of conflict and friction. That is an inspiring environment for me both in my private life and in my profession.'

Berlin is a city that attracts many creative people. They feel comfortable here, and it's obvious that they can develop their potential here. This is shown by the many patents (about 200 per year)—important inventions which are being made year after year in Berlin. Among other things, the following revolutionary inventions were made in Berlin: sound films, TV, computers, airplanes, the splitting of atoms, and perlon. In past times, Berlin had an industrial base (it was the largest industrial center in Europe), now jobs are being created through mental work and provision of services—the development of intelligent provision of services, product development and new information technology.

Berlin has a great innovative potential. For companies that are doing research and development, the city is an ideal location. Berlin is in second place among the states on the innovation index of the statistics agency. This potential is being developed in three areas, for which we want to pray:

### **1. Center of higher learning and research and development**

Nearly every second Berliner works in a scientific technical job. In the area of research and development, Berlin is at the top of the EU. There are four universities, ten universities of applied sciences, three colleges of art, and many other research institutes. Berlin has research centers in Buch and Adlershof, where techniques for renew-

able energies are being researched and new energy concepts are being developed. The connection between science and business is growing closer and is leading to the creation of new jobs. The number of companies locating in Berlin is growing – in the year 2005, 75 companies moved to Berlin; in 2006 there were 88.

#### Prayer:

- **Pray that science and business would relate well to one another and that many jobs will be created**
- **Pray that Berlin will play a leading role in the research and development of renewable energies**

### 2. Media, Communication und Culture

Berlin as the 'forge of ideas': Large companies in the media industry have moved to Berlin in the last years. The film industry, radio, publishing companies, and multimedia companies have all moved to Berlin or are growing. 115,000 people work in these areas.

Courses of study at the university in media and communication support this trend. Persons engaged in the cultural sector find Berlin to be an inspiring place. More and more creative people, for instance in the areas of fashion and design, film and music, are being drawn to Berlin. Berlin's old reputation of being a fashion city is being renewed. The Unesco gave Berlin the title 'City of Design' in 2006.

Three operas, many theatres, concert halls, the museum island and a further nearly 100 museums—Berlin is full of culture. There are over 400 art galleries—more than in any other city in Europe. 'No other city can out-do the variety and the quality of cultural events offered in Berlin,' says Stephan Interthal, the head of the Hotel Adlon.

#### Prayer

- **Pray that Berlin's creative potential will not be abused, but rather would increasingly serve God's purposes in the city**
- **Pray that films and other media would have a positive influence**
- **Pray for more jobs in the media**

### 3. Medicine

A year ago, an association 'Berlin—the city of health' was formed, led by the former Senator for Health Ulf Fink. The founding of a center for health technology is planned. 180,000 people, nearly one of every eight Berliners, work in the area of health.

It is hoped that Berlin will become a 'place of healing' for foreigners. Hospitals are working on developing departments for international patients, which would make allowance for language and cultural differences.

Berlin's university hospitals are leading in research and development. In the coronary center, vessels and heart valves that grow are being developed.

#### Prayer

- **Pray that Berlin will become a place from which healing and health come, both physical and spiritual**
- **Pray for further trailblazing developments in the area of medicine that will be of benefit to many people**

### Jesus at School

From August 20-September 9, a first-ever coordinated evangelistic outreach at Berlin schools is being planned by the SMD (Studentenmission in Deutschland—Inter Varsity). High-school students from other regions in Germany who are still on summer vacation (for instance Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, and Saxony) are coming to Berlin for two weeks. They will support Berlin students and student Bible study groups who are doing evangelistic outreaches at their schools. Creative and lively events will help point the way to Jesus. The goal is to talk about Jesus with students and to begin new student Bible study groups. For more information contact Anne Möbius, moebius@smd.org

#### Prayer

- **Pray for successful preparation and that many from southern Germany and from Berlin would take part**
- **Pray for open doors at the schools and the 'right' choice of schools**
- **Pray for long-term results for students and schools in Berlin from the outreach**

### Dates

- The next **24-7-week of prayer** for Berlin is from April 30-May 6 in Neukölln. Further information and registration at: <http://home.arcor.de/24-7prayer-berlin/>
- May 1<sup>st</sup>, 11am to 1pm **Prayer service** on the Mariannenplatz in Kreuzberg
- May 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm: **interdenominational praise service** with 'Um Gottes Willen' in the Lukas Gemeinde, Kurfürstenstr. 133.