



May 2012

### ***Good News 1: Angel in the red-light district***

Patricia Green's book „An Angel in the Red-Light District“ came out in March. It describes the ministry that she and the team of Alabaster Jar have among women prostitutes and victims of human trafficking. The title is not quite correct—Berlin does not have a classic red-light district. Nevertheless, the book powerfully describes the condition of the approximately 10,000 women who (must) prostitute themselves in Berlin. About 70% of these women do not do this voluntarily, but rather are forced to do so by human traffickers or are put under pressure by pimps. Yet, the book gives hope. It describes how God is continually at work in situations which seem hopeless.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Thank God for such people and projects which are giving hope**

### ***Good News 2: Small „Jobs miracle“***

By the end of March, 2012 37,100 people had been placed in regular jobs which are subject to social insurance contributions through the „Berlin Job Campaign“ – a cooperative project between the Unemployment Agency and the Berlin government. 300 extra placement officers were hired for the project. Thus, persistent unemployment is being successfully reduced in Berlin. This affirms the course of the new red-black political coalition to focus on the regular labour market. The demand for employees has risen in Berlin, including qualified technicians, and those involved in the social services, health, and commerce sectors, as well as in the hotel and restaurant industry. (Der Tagesspiegel 24.04.2012)

#### **Prayer:**

- **Thank God for this surprising development**

### ***May 1st Update***

The prayer service with the motto „Do something different – a different kind of power“ will take place at 11:30am on the Mariannenplatz. The motto is taken from the Verse of the Year (2. Corinthians 12:9) and focuses on the strength of that grows out of weakness. The largest demonstrations will a potential for violence will be on April 30 in Wedding and May 1 in Kreuzberg to Mitte.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for further decline in violence**

- **Pray for a peaceful April 30 and May 1st**
- **Pray that many will come to the service and that the message will be clear**
- **Pray for protection for the prayer teams during the evenings, for God's divine discernment, and for answers to prayer**
- **Pray for the police – for good strategies, protection, a sense of perspective, and de-escalation**

### ***Dilek Kolat – Senator for Labour, Women, and Integration***

Dilek Kolat (SPD) is a German politician with Turkish roots who has lived in Berlin since she was three years old. She has served as district chairman for the SPD and has gained much political experience as a member of the State Parliament. She has a degree in mathematics, and has worked as a controller for a bank. She has also served as finance and budget politician for the party. She is new to the job of Senator. She would like to focus on integration. The rate of unemployment in Berlin among immigrants is disproportionately high, and the intercultural opening of the administration has not been developing very fast. The number of naturalizations is stagnating in Berlin. Until recently, the „Office for Integration and Immigration“, led by Günter Piening, was under the police department. The new person in charge will lead a new department under Senator Kolat, thus making new forms of cooperation among those responsible for integration in various districts possible. In the area of labour, Ms. Kolat wants to restructure the publicly-funded employment sector which the coalition calls „Berlin-Arbeit (Berlin-Employment)“ and raise the minimum wage.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for further political measures which will have a positive impact on integration**
- **Pray for effective measures against unemployment**
- **Pray that the new Senator will be successful in her many undertakings**

### ***B-Parade instead of Love Parade?***

After moving from Berlin to Duisburg, the Love Parade ended tragically on July 21, 2010, making it clear that there would be no more Love Parades. Nevertheless, efforts are underway in Berlin to start a new sort

of parade called B-Parade with 40 band wagons on July 21. The celebration is planned to take place once again on the Straße des 17. Juni and the area surrounding the Siegesäule. The business manager of the „Dance Parade GmbH“ has made an application to the Senate, but no decision has been made yet. The decision might be made just a few days before the planned date. Since such music parades have been negative experiences in both Berlin and the Ruhr Basin, and since Christians in all of Germany have prayed that such parades would not be allowed, we do not want to see such things start up in Berlin again.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray that the B-Parade will not be approved**
- **Pray for new ideas for positive, attractive events**

### ***Berlin is attracting young Israelis***

The Berliner Zeitung reported in March that an increasing number of young Israelis are choosing to live in Berlin. It is unbelievable that the third generation following the Second World War would be so strongly attracted to a German mega-city. Among the many cities of the world that have much to offer, Berlin seems to be the most attractive. According to the embassy, approximately 10,000 Israelis live in our city. They are bringing the Israeli youth culture to Berlin through putting on their own parties with DJ's from Tel Aviv. Israeli citizens can travel to Germany without a visa, and if their grandparents were Germans, they can also hold German citizenship in addition to their Israeli citizenship. This makes it easier for many Israelis to establish a livelihood or find work in Germany. An association for new arrivals called "Habait – das Haus (the house)" is receiving many questions from young Israelis who want to prepare to come to Berlin. Those coming do not have only positive experiences. They also experience hostility in districts such as Kreuzberg or Neukölln where high numbers of Arabs live. The conflict between Palestinians and Israelis that they hoped to leave behind them follows them here.

**Prayer:**

- **Thank God for more young Israelis in Berlin**
- **Pray that the third generation following the Holocaust will find new ways of bridging the trenches of the past**
- **Pray that they will meet the God of their Fathers in Berlin**

### ***Rising Crime Rates***

For the first time in many years, the crime rate rose in Berlin in 2011 – about 4.1 percent. This is because of an increase in cases of theft and breaking-and-entering. On average, 30 flats are broken into per day in Berlin. In addition there was a rise in politically-motivated crime. Drug dealing, rape, assault, and group violence among youth declined.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for more effective crime prevention**
- **Pray that residents will be alert and careful**

### ***Global Outreach Day – G.O.D.***

On Saturday, June 2, something will take place that has never happened before – a day of worldwide evangelism not done by a star evangelist with TV coverage, but rather carried out by those who enjoy sharing their faith. The man behind the idea, Werner Nachtigal from Berlin, has been all over the world during the past year and was able to encourage the world's largest missionary groups to participate. Among other things, an event will take place on the Alexanderplatz. You can find good ideas about how to share your faith in your own way on this day at [www.globaloutreachday.com/de](http://www.globaloutreachday.com/de).

**Prayer:**

- **Pray that many Christians in Berlin will take part and that people will have life-changing experiences with Jesus**

### ***Dates***

**Worship Service for a peaceful May 1st: 11:30am, Mariannenplatz Kreuzberg (see above)**

**May 17, 6am-11pm Trip to One Spirit Camp:** The Forum for Intercultural Relationships from Together for Berlin is once again organizing a bus to Himmelfels in northern Hesse. People of all ages from both German and immigrant churches are invited to attend. Cost: 15€ per person for two-way trip and festival (11:30am-6:30pm) including lunch and coffee and cake in the afternoon. Both individuals and groups are welcome. Register by May 10 at [one-spirit-camp@gfberlin.de](mailto:one-spirit-camp@gfberlin.de)

**June 6, 6pm „Prayer for Politics in the City“ in the Rote Rathaus, more information will be coming**

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