



Edition 157 – September 2017

Good News: Start-up Metropolis

In the past, the development of the creative and economic potential of our city has often been the focus of our prayers. This seems to have had an effect. In a worldwide ranking of start-up cities, Berlin is now in fourth place behind Singapore, San Francisco and Helsinki. It is considered a place that is excellently suited to create new businesses. (Source: Der Tagesspiegel)

Prayer:

- **Thank God for this positive development**
- **Pray that good companies which promote life and create jobs will result from these good beginnings**

Katrin Lompscher – Senator for Urban Development and Housing

We are ending our series on the new members of the Red-Red-Green Senate which has been in office since December, 2016. On the internet, Lompscher introduces herself as a "real Berlin plant"—"Every city is ok with me – as long as it's Berlin. I was born here and grew up here. After graduation from high school and vocational training in construction, I studied urban development... Since 1987 I have been involved in the development of Berlin with professional excitement and personal passion... I became politically active when the wall fell. In 2001, I became the LINKE councillor in Lichtenberg. I learned new things every day and gained experience in politics and administration. This is also the case in my present office... I want Berlin to be a good place to live. For everyone. Whether young or old, born in Berlin or from other parts of Germany or beyond, whether with a college degree or vocational training or taught. A good job is essential in order to have a good outlook on life. A good life needs more—affordable housing, good health care, good education, good environmental conditions."

Lompscher's start was overshadowed by the affair surrounding the Secretary of State, Andrej Holm, whom she had appointed, who had concealed his Stasi past and therefore had to leave. Her Housing Department is one of the biggest challenges for Berlin—A massive acceleration in the construction of affordable housing is needed! For many observers, the Senate is doing too little in this area. The Senator is also responsible for the development of the urgently needed area at Tegel Airport, which had been planned to be used for housing,

research and education. However, there are also problems because of the referendum (see article below).

Prayer:

- **Pray that Senator will be able to assert herself wisely in the numerous problem areas**
- **Pray that she will act non-ideologically and pragmatically for the best of Berlin**
- **Pray that God's good intentions for the urban planning will prevail**

Referendum about Tegel Airport

On the same day of the Bundestag election, September 24th, the Berlin electorate may also vote on whether the Senate must take all necessary measures "to ensure the permanent operation of Tegel Airport as a commercial airport". According to the current resolution decision and legal situation, the airport should close six months after the opening of the new capital city airport BER in Schönefeld. The FDP achieved a referendum. A quarter of those entitled to vote - around 630,000 - would have to agree to the demand to keep it open, while at the same time achieving a majority. Surveys currently suggest such a majority could be possible. The mood is certainly determined by the (hopefully not) infinite history of the delays in the opening of the BER (in the meantime, one has to reckon with 2019). On the other hand, the cost of keeping Tegel open is incalculable and probably immense—redevelopment of the dilapidated airport, massive investments in noise protection for more than 300,000 residents, operating costs for a second airport, and so on. The Berlin Senate is tending towards holding on to the closure, but wants to genuinely deal with the result of the (non-binding!) referendum.

Prayer:

- **Pray that God's good will be accomplished – through the voters and the politicians**
- **Pray that law and reason will win over emotions and convenience**

Bundestag Election in Berlin

Our prayer mail is restricted to Berlin, but there are also upcoming elections in Berlin. The German Evangelical Alliance has developed a website with the motto "be a blessing" which offers helpful questions to ask about the issues. (<http://bit.ly/2wtOYuS>). The idea is that people can take these questions and use them for the basis of discussion with candidates in their own constituency.

Currently, the candidates are often talking to citizens on the street. At the moment, the campaigns are quite quiet, which seems unusual in view of the importance of the election. Overall, it is important that many people in Berlin also go to the polls.

Prayer:

- **Pray that many Berliners will vote**
- **Pray that foundational Christian values will be promoted by the representatives, parties and future parliamentary decisions**
- **Pray that the result of the election will be a viable government and stable conditions**

March for Life

On September 16th, the 13th March for Life will take place in Berlin. The call to participate has gone out nationwide. Under the motto "Protect the Most Vulnerable", we will be demonstrating for the unrestricted right to life from the beginning of conception. The demo wants to promote courage for life. During prenatal examinations, more and more selection is taking place—mothers are advised to abort, for instance, if a child has Down syndrome. The silent protest is also against such selections, but consciously *not against* people who represent other positions. However, the fact that people are on the side of unborn life is a provocation for all who represent feminist positions. In recent years there have been violent counter-demonstrations in which attempts have been made to block the registered demonstration. Those demonstrating for life have been insulted and cursed. Despite these experiences, the number of participating demonstrators has constantly increased. If you would like to participate in prayer to protect the demonstration (in advance and onsite during the demonstration), please contact info@gfberlin.de.

Prayer:

- **Pray that this year too, many will participate in the march and that the call for life will be heard in politics and society**
- **Pray for protection and an unhindered path, and for wisdom for the police**
- **Pray that Christians will be a sign of God's love for the opposing demonstrators**

Red-light District Kurfürstenstraße

The district mayor of Mitte, Stephan von Dassel (Greens) has turned to the public with a "Call for help from Mitte". Despite all measures and the activities of various associations, the situation for the residents in the Kurfürstenstraße continues to deteriorate. They complain about condoms, faeces, dirt, and injection needles on the street. Sexual intercourse takes place relatively openly. Von Dassel would like to ban the red-light district from the city centre. Nearly all major German cities have regulations about this, except Berlin and Rostock. The Red-Red-Green Senate, however,

does not think much of such solutions. Ultimately, however, it is about the well-being of people. The fact that most prostitutes are not voluntarily there, but rather are victims of human trafficking, is often willingly repressed. Christian associations such as Restart and Alabaster Jar are intensively taking care of affected people onsite. The whole situation needs a breakthrough!

Prayer:

- **Pray that there will finally be profound changes on the Kurfürstenstraße**
- **Pray that support to improve the welfare of local residents and women/prostitutes can be found**
- **Pray that God's light will penetrate the darkness of this place and that the street will become a place of life**

Evangelistic events for Turkish residents

From September 22-24, TACO, a Turkish and English language team of artists from Turkey, will be attempting to reach people in Berlin with the gospel in creative ways, for instance through events on the streets. Those desiring to pray and fast in preparation can sign up here:

<https://beta.doodle.com/poll/d5wi5pq83fchw39w>

Prayer:

- **Pray that God will prepare Turkish-speaking people and that many will meet Jesus**
- **Pray for authorizations and good weather**

Keeping On: Danger of Terrorism

The recent attacks in Barcelona showed once again, that "soft" goals and large public gatherings, especially in cities, are at risk. Berlin continues to also be at risk. Let us continue to pray: **For early detection of plans and protection from attacks, and for a turnaround on the part of terrorists.**

Dates

- **September 1-3: „Macht Bahn!“ (Make Way) German Prayer Conference sponsored by Wächterruf (Call for the Watchmen)** for the early detection of plans, protection from attacks, investigation of obstacles to spiritual revival resulting from the '68 movement. Place: Gemeinde auf dem Weg, Berlin. Program and registration: www.gebetskonferenz.de
- **September 3, 6-7pm Prayer for City Politicians** at the Rote Rathaus
- **September 29, 5-7 pm, Prayer for the Kotti**, Adalbertstraße 97, Gebetskeller Kreuzberg
- **Daily until September 24, 6-7 pm, Prayer for the Bundestag Elections:** Lukas-Gemeinde Schöneberg, Kurfürstenstr.133, Prayer room