



Edition 159 – November 2017

Good News: Peter Steudtner freed

After a hundred days, on October 26th, the human rights activist Peter Steudtner (and some others) were surprisingly released from detention in Turkey. The Amnesty International activist had been accused of supporting a terrorist organization, and accusation which obviously could not be upheld. The Gethsemane church in the Prenzlauer Berg had been holding intercessory prayer for him during the entire time. We, together with the church, are grateful for the **answer to prayer**. Other Germans, however, remain unjustly imprisoned in Turkey.

Turkish Consular Teaching

The Turkish Consulate School, in which Turkish children in municipal schools can voluntarily participate in the afternoons, has been operating for a long time. The original intention was to learn the mother tongue and local history of the country of origin. Classes also take place in other languages and are a relic of the time when the Italian, Yugo-Slavic and Turkish guest workers brought their families to Germany or started a family here. The concept is now completely outdated. After the attempted coup against Erdogan, the view of the Turkish consular education has changed. The curriculum, which was designed in Ankara, has been more closely examined and, according to the Education Administration, contains "clearly religious and nationalistic content". A potential influence of the Erdogan-influenced authoritarian government is becoming increasingly clear. Therefore, on the one hand, a change in the curriculum is necessary; on the other hand, the state would like to develop an alternative offer, but the Senate has not come up with a concept yet. So far, fees for the classes have not been charged, but that is now changing. The Mitte district now wants to charge € 30,000. The Turkish community has protested. Native-speaker instruction in Turkish or also now in Arabic offered by school administration requires teacher training that does not exist yet. Therefore, adult education centers are being included. (Tagesspiegel 22.9.17)

Prayer:

- **Pray for a completely new concept of mother-language teaching that integrates**
- **Pray for good transitional solutions**
- **Pray for all students of other nationalities, that they will get enough support at school for their specific needs**

The Amri Case and the Consequences

The detailed report of the Special Representative Jost in connection with the terrorist attack by Anis Amri on the Breitscheidplatz in Berlin on December 19, 2016 has been completed. It became evident that there were many wrong decisions and serious mistakes on the part of the authorities. They range from non-granted support by the Berlin State Criminal Office to subsequent file forgery. On November 10, 2017, the Amri Investigation Committee of the Berlin State Parliament will meet. According to Berlin Interior Senator Andreas Geisel (SPD) there will also be an inquiry committee from the Bundestag. This is due to the mistakes made by the state authorities and also at the federal level, and the lack of communication between the security authorities. Since "there are still a number of potential attackers in the country" who should be deported, this should, according to Jost, be better organized at the federal level (tagesschau.de).

Prayer:

- **Thank God that the mistakes were openly addressed within the security forces**
- **Pray that good conclusions will be drawn from the report that bring improvement**
- **Pray for security, order and God's protection over our country**

Vision for Berlin 2050

"Berlin 2050 Concrete Density" is the name of an exhibition designed to inspire debate on urban development. Unfortunately, for the past 20 years, no Senate has dared to try to coordinate urban development. However this is urgently needed. Berlin is growing by 60,000 people every year. The housing shortage is massive, and office space is now scarce. There is a lack of schools and day-care centres. Berlin is growing and bursting at the seams.

Now well-known architects and professors have given their students five areas for creative rethinking: Westkreuz around the ICC, Westhafen near Wedding, Karl-Marx-Allee, Charlottenburg-Nord, Niederschöne-weide. The result is images of a new Berlin, which is more diverse, colourful and bigger. They want to encourage courageous brainstorming about the future of the city. "But the Senate is content with careful repairs and additions to the cityscape, as if the wall were still protecting the West Berliners from the market and

competition and the East Berliners from the class enemy." (Tagesspiegel Oct. 13).

Other obstacles include the competence-wrangling between the Senate and the districts, the clientele interests of the three parties in the Senate and residents' initiatives and referendums that seem to resist everything new. In other areas (such as start-ups, culture, medical technology) Berlin is rightly known to be very innovative - does it not also deserve innovative, courageous urban planning?

The Exhibition: Architektur Galerie Berlin, Karl-Marx-Allee 98, 10243 Berlin; October 13 – November 11

Prayer:

- **Pray for more courage for creative city planning**
- **Pray that the innovative and creative God will equip people to do that**
- **Pray that urban development becomes top priority**

Homeless in Parks

More and more homeless people are staying in public parks. The problem came to light among the public after a woman was murdered in Tiergarten. The number of homeless people in Berlin is increasing. These include rejected asylum seekers, drug addicts, or especially many Eastern Europeans looking for work, and also Germans. There is alcoholism and drug-trade. Young people and young men are prostituting themselves. Anyone wanting to prevent this will encounter hate and violence. The police do not want to crack down because they do not want to be appear to be too harsh. The district mayor of Neukölln, Franziska Giffey (SPD), reports that, in cooperation with Caritas, it is organizing voluntary bus return trips for homeless people to Eastern European EU countries.

The Berliner Stadtmission often feels the significant increase in homelessness first. It is a well-known contact point and also offers a hygiene centre for the homeless. The Stadtmission does not feel that deportation is a solution. Housing the homeless also requires increased efforts and a concept. There are not nearly enough places for the winter.

Prayer:

- **Pray that enough overnight places can be found before winter**
- **Pray for increased Senate efforts for an overall solution for homelessness**
- **Thank God for all the Christians who wholeheartedly work or volunteer**

Safety in Traffic

White-painted bicycles can be seen in different places around Berlin, commemorating cyclists who have died there. It happens relatively often that a truck does not

see a cyclist when turning, and the person on the cycle gets run over.

Both technical and practical solutions are needed – from a large glass window as a passenger door (required beginning 2022 in the EU for new trucks) to a right-turn green light for cyclists, re-construction of intersections, or a truck ban in inner cities.

Prayer:

- **Pray for God's protection and preservation for all those using the roads**
- **Pray for the development of efficient, sustainable and implementable concepts**

Suicide in Local Transport

Even if no exact figures are known to us - the number of emergency medical responses in the S-Bahn and subway trains appears to be increasing. In the course of his professional life, an S-Bahn driver runs over an average of two people. Often suicide is the reason. Sometimes it results from brutal behaviour of other passengers.

Prayer:

- **Pray that God would encounter and give hope those who are considering suicide**
- **Pray that effective measures can be found to protect those using public transport**

Keeping On: Air Berlin

Following the insolvency of the airline Air Berlin, around 3,000 of the 8,000 existing employees are still without a job perspective. Flight operations were discontinued the end of October. The involved federal states and the federal government could not agree on an Auffanggesellschaft, which would have helped employees receive further training or continued employment. But most likely a Transfergesellschaft will be able to help 1,200 people find new employment. The Senate, the Deutsche Bahn and others are offering jobs. **Let us pray for jobs and perspectives for those affected!**

Dates

- **Nov. 8, 6-7 pm, Prayer for city politicians** at the Rote Rathaus
- **Nov. 24, 5-7 pm Prayer for the Kotti**, Adalbertstraße 97, Gebetskeller Kreuzberg

New: Our Prayer Mail App in German

- **Download the app "Deutschland betet" from the app store (available for Android and IOS)**
- **Subscribe to "Gebet für Berlin" and then "bis Ende des Anliegens" Done!**