



Edition 162 – March 2018

Good News: Less Crime on the Kotti

We have often called for prayer for the Kottbusser Tor in Kreuzberg. According to rbb, the local police statistics show a significant decline in crime over the past year pertaining to assault and theft as well as pickpocketing, which all together fell by 14 percent from 2016 to 2017. Pickpocketing even fell by 42 percent. Unfortunately, the number of drug offenses has risen. **Thank God, and continue to pray!**

Sexual Diversity in Day-Care Centres

A new pedagogical guideline has been published for day-care centres– funded by the Senate – with the title, "Murat plays princess, Alex has two mothers and Sophie is now called Ben". The target group, 1-6-year-old day-care centre children, is supposed to deal with all sorts of sexual and gender identity, orientation and life-styles in the form of picture books and stories. Child-care workers are trained to question the sexual and gender identity of toddlers and to help them find their sexual orientation. The topics in this brochure were developed by the LGBT interest group "Queer-format" on behalf of the Senate. Despite the tolerance for different sexual orientations, also part of the Christian faith, many experts fear that children will be overburdened and experience serious interferences in their psychological development. If parents appeal to their constitutionally guaranteed parental rights and do not want to go along with this, the brochure indirectly threatens with the withdrawal of their custody rights. The attitudes propagated in the new brochure contradict standards based on biblical ethics. There is an online petition against this new guideline: <http://www.citizengo.org/de/ed/156998-kein-vielfalts-sex-kitas-indoktrinierende-broschuere-sofort-zurueckziehen>

In addition, an initiative in Berlin could be a role model for other federal states.

Prayer:

- **Pray that the focus would be on the well-being of the child and not on ideological targets**
- **Pray for the withdrawal of the guideline**

Bicycle City Berlin

Serious accidents with fatal outcome for cyclists happen over and over again. "Ghost Bikes", white-painted

bicycles commemorating a fatal accident, have been set up, and the lines for bike paths, for instance at the Kolonnenstraße in Schöneberg, have been re-painted with solid lines and red paint. But again and again, these color-coded borders are disregarded.

We already requested prayer for this issue in February. Now the Senate has decided that in the next ten years Berlin should become a cycling city. The House of Representatives still has to agree, but most probably nothing will stand in the way. The Radverkehrs-gesetz (bicycle traffic law) states that because of double proportion of cyclists, proportionally more space should also be allocated on the roads. This affects the parking along the roads, which have to give way to the bike paths. As a result, by June, a Federal Council initiative for more traffic safety will be formulated.

Prayer:

- **Pray for protection and mutual respect of all those using the roads**
- **Pray for solutions for safe conditions, especially for the weaker traffic participants**
- **Pray for speedy and successful implementation of the goal of a bicycle-friendly city**

Overcome Evil with Good – Transforum-Conference

According to Romans 12:21 "overcoming evil by good" is the opportunity and task of Christians. How can the Spirit of Christ, who is a Spirit of love and reconciliation, become more evident through us in our cities? Are there successful models? This and more is the theme of the Transforum Conference by Gemeinsam für Berlin from 8 to 10 March in the Joshua community in Spandau. Exciting plenary guests and 24 workshops invite you to listen and participate. The whole program and registration can be found here: <https://transforum-berlin.de/startseite/>

Prayer:

- **Pray for ground-breaking and sustainable impulses through the conference**
- **Pray that Berlin and other cities will increasingly be changed by the reconciling Spirit of the gospel**

Nursing Crisis

There is a lack of nurses, including in Berlin. Already last year, the Berlin Senate forecasted a need for around 4,000 additional care and nursing assistants in the capital in 2018. People who work in nursing are often overwhelmed, overburdened and poorly paid, but they render an invaluable service to society. A referendum has been launched to establish, among other things, a minimum number of caretakers in the state hospital law.

Prayer:

- **For better work conditions and pay for nurses**
- **Pray that young people will be encouraged to seek jobs in nursing**
- **Pray for the funding of more positions in nursing**
- **Pray for the success of the referendum**

Problems with the Construction of New Schools

Because Berlin is growing and therefore the number of pupils is also growing, the Senate will provide a total of 5.5 billion euros for the renovation and especially for the construction of schools for the next ten years. It is planned to complete 51 schools with a total of 55,000 pupils in just four years of construction (instead of the previous eight years). The interior design will be adapted to modern teaching methods and inclusion. To realize this goal in the planned time, the construction company Howoge is to carry out the construction work, and other private companies will carry out the renovation work. Critics fear that there will be privatization of schools and land and that the risks will have to be borne mainly by the districts and the Senate. Another problem is the lack of construction professionals in the relevant building authorities and also in the open labour market.

Prayer:

- **We bless the responsible politicians with wisdom and a clear view of the overall situation**
- **Pray for new / different ideas to carry out the necessary construction work**
- **Pray that the construction contracts do not lead to a one-sided burden on the Senate and districts**
- **Pray that the independence of education from private economic interests can be maintained**
- **Pray for more planners, engineers, and workers to carry out the planned construction projects**

New Police Chief

The Senator of the Interior, Andreas Geisel (SPD), surprisingly dismissed Police Chief Kalus Kandt on Feb. 26. He had been increasingly controversial, among other things, because of numerous mishaps surrounding the Christmas market assassin Amri and the events in the Police Academy. According to the Senator of the Interior, the dismissal of Kandt was not a hasty decision -- The Berlin police needed to renew itself. There needed to be a culture in which one could speak openly about mistakes. The new dual leadership to be found by mid-April could embody a credible new beginning. Police Vice President Margarete Koppers is also leaving the police on March 1 to take over the post of attorney general. The successor to Kandt will be the director of Directorate 5, Michael Krömer. On several occasions, he was Director of Operations on May 1 and is considered an experienced police leader. (rbb)

Prayer:

- **Pray for fast success and optimal choice in the reorganization of the police leadership**
- **Pray for God's protection from crises and disasters during the transitional period**

Keeping On: Praying for our Country

Since 2004 there has been an annual Lenten prayer campaign entitled "40 days to pray and fast for our country". It was founded prior to Jesus Day 2004, a major event with attended by 40,000 people which took place in Berlin on 9/11/2004. First there were booklets, then flyers, now everything is online. Because of digitalization, the campaign is now a smartphone app. Since this is a kind of partnership nationwide for our Prayer for Berlin, we want to let you know that for both Android and iOS there is an app called DEUTSCHLAND BETET, where our prayer requests for Berlin are included. There you will also find GEBET FÜR UNSER LAND with daily requests for politics and society. The special feature: Prayer partners are asked to keep on, not only for the 40 days until Easter, but throughout the year in prayer for our country.

Dates:

March 8-10, Transforum-Conference – see article above

March 10, 11am to 4 pm, Day of Prayer and Fasting for North Korea, Lukas-Gemeinde, Kurfürstenstr. 133, 10785 B.

March 14, 6pm: Prayer for the City, Rotes Rathaus Preview: **April 18, 6pm: March for Life**, George-Grosz-Platz, Charlottenburg, <https://www.facebook.com/events/150873725601856>