



Edition 166 – July / August 2018

### **Good news: Synagoge Fraenkelufer**

The synagogue on Fraenkelufer was badly damaged during the pogroms in 1938. After a demolition in the 50s, there was only the side wing left, where the local synagogue community currently accommodates all their activities. SPD parliamentary leader Raed Saleh (of Muslim origin!) has won well-known and influential supporters for a planned reconstruction. A multi-purpose community centre is planned.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Thank God for active Jewish life in Berlin and for the broad support for the construction project**

### **500 Teachers will be missing next school year**

Dramatic forecast for the school year 2018/19: There are an additional 7,000 students; 3,000 teachers are needed. But the market is empty. According to education senator Sandra Scheeres, SPD, 500 to 600 teachers will be missing after the summer holidays in the Berlin schools. The training capacity of the Berlin Universities for new teachers has been doubled to 2,000 graduating students per year, but the big first momentum comes in two years. So far, Berlin has relied mainly on the recruitment of transfers from other professions. Other measures: Retrieve teachers from retirement, increase salaries, postpone retirement, volunteer to teach for more hours, employ less qualified teaching assistants, send student teachers to elementary schools. The already poor education standard at Berlin schools will be additionally burdened by the lack of staff.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for a rapid and effective increase of educational staff**
- **Pray that the negative consequences for students will be limited**

### **Children in Traffic – Fatal Accidents**

On June 12, a 13-year-old girl in Rummelsburg was hit by a tram and died; on June 13, in Spandau an 8-year-old boy died when a truck turned right and overlooked him. In 2017 there were a total of 917 accidents involving children, 157 children were seriously injured and one child died. Such news affects us deeply, and people ask why and look for ways to prevent such accidents from occurring. About 64 percent of the accidents involving were caused by their own behavior.

Thus the children's traffic education plays an important role. As a preventative measure, the transportation industry has begun to drive lorries to schools to show the pupils how limited the driver's view is. Turning assistance (camera and sensor monitoring) for the vehicles are being developed and already installed, but this technique is not mature. The installation is not yet mandatory and is too expensive for many trucking companies.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for protection for all children in the traffic on the streets**
- **Pray for comfort for the parents of victims and the accident drivers**
- **Pray for effective remedies (mirrors, traffic light phases, street signs, traffic flow)**

### **Expansion of Administration and Housing Construction is stagnating**

Unfortunately, there was hardly any progress on the urgent topics at the Senate retreat at the end of June. The three parties of the coalition have so far failed to agree on the implementation of the 115 proposals from the report of an expert commission on administrative reform. Also, the criticism of Senator Lompscher continues, because the urgently needed boost in housing construction remains far behind the self-imposed targets.

#### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for more unity in the Senate**
- **Pray for ideas and acceleration in administrative reforms and housing construction**

### **Dates**

**July 4-7, daily beginning 2pm: „ICK BRAUCH KEEN HAWAII“ Youth Festival** on the Tempelhofer Feld. Attractive youth and family programs every afternoon with sports, music and art. Evangelistic worship services in the evenings. Saturday afternoon "Dance Battle". Prayer support continues to be very welcome!  
**Prayer for City politicians: July 11 and August 15, 6pm**, in front of the Rote Rathaus

***Because of time constraints, this double issue July/August has only one page with just a list of current concerns. Please continue to pray for Berlin during the holiday season! The next issue will be published the end of August. The editors wish all prayer partners a restful and safe summer!***