



Edition 189 – November 2020

Good News: Siemens Energy is coming to Moabit

Three weeks ago, Siemens Energy announced that it would be relocating the management to Berlin. In the plant here in Berlin, more than 2,000 Siemens workers produce the world's most efficient gas turbines. In Moabit there is still enough space on the site to create a new building with office space for the management board. The Siemens management board also decided in favour of Berlin because it is close to politics, and the corporate managers expect a lot from the Berlin scientific landscape. Last year, the division generated sales of around 29 billion euros with 91,000 employees worldwide.

Prayer: Thank God for this development

Opening of the BER airport

BER is really opening on October 31. The capital's airport was actually supposed to open on June 3, 2012, but construction defects, planning errors and technical problems continually made BER a "breakdown airport". The fact that it is now opening on October 31 seems like a miracle in light of all this - and perhaps it is also due to all the prayers over the years. Tegel Airport, which was getting on in years and had become much too small, and which was also an unacceptable noise pollution for the people in the flight corridors, will close on November 8th. The new airport was initially considered too small when it opened; another terminal was therefore built. But now in Corona times it is too big and the second terminal is not being used. At 6.44 billion euros, the construction costs are more than three times as high as projected when planning began in 2006. In addition, the airport will need large grants from its owners Berlin, Brandenburg and the federal government in the next few years, not least because of the corona losses. The opening ceremonies will also not take place because of the pandemic. Nevertheless, it is cause for joy and satisfaction that BER is finally going into operation after so many difficulties and such a long time. The public transport connections are good despite the lack of a direct fast train connection.

Prayer:

- **Thank God that BER is finally open**
- **Pray for a trouble-free and accident-free operation**

- **Pray that BER will soon become profitable**

Series Berlin Districts: Marzahn-Hellersdorf

The Marzahn-Hellersdorf district is Europe's largest high-rise area and has 270,000 inhabitants. The district is growing rapidly because high-rise buildings that were demolished after the fall of the Wall are being rebuilt on every corner. Two thirds of the population live in the "Platte". For years, the district suffered from a "grubby" image that still affects some residents today. But now the district has the highest per capita area of green in Berlin, bike paths, countless playgrounds and tourist highlights such as the Gardens of the World and Berlin's only cable car. In the last ten years the district has changed a lot due to immigration and is now a colourful mix in terms of age structure and education. The number of refugee housing units and Russian-German residents is above average.

Some Christians view the district as "hard ground" and a "church planting cemetery" because of its strong atheist character. Indeed, there are hardly any stable, growing, independent churches. Instead, there are a large number of small groups and churches, mostly Russian-German congregations, and a handful of other free churches. The number of born-again Christians is believed to be less than 0.5%. The Protestant state churches are also recording a strong decline in membership. It is difficult to reach adults with the gospel, but it is easier with children and young people. An example of this is the successful work of the Arche, the Kinderhaus Bolle (Straßenkinder e.V.) and the YMCA House Trinity. However, it is challenging to integrate these young people into churches and to reach their parents.

Prayer:

- **Pray for more church planters, missionaries, and evangelists with a long-term vision**
- **Pray for ways and motivation to better reach the refugees with the gospel**
- **Pray that children and young people not only accept social help, but also open their hearts to Jesus**
- **Pray that the Christian university students living here get involved in the local churches**

Economic Consequences of the Pandemic

Many areas of economic life are suffering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. In August, 26 retail and restaurant chains filed for corona-related bankruptcy. At the moment “the filing for bankruptcy is suspended. We are pushing bankruptcies like a bow wave before us. We are increasingly noticing that people are losing their jobs and that small entrepreneurs are going bankrupt,” said the board member of the Diakonische Werk Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz (DWBO), Andrea Asch.

Prayer:

- **Pray for creative solutions from entrepreneurs and unbureaucratic help from politicians**
- **Pray that hygienic measures in companies will be effective**
- **Pray for personal support for the health and public safety authorities so that they can perform their tasks promptly**
- **Pray against the fear of job loss and employee frustration**

Shortage of Staff in Public Service

After extensive job cuts in previous years, many new jobs have now been created in the public service. However, there are not enough qualified applicants. Since Berlin has not trained young people for many years, around 50% of administrative employees are over 50 years old and only around 6% are under 30 years of age. This also leads to high sickness rates due to age. Now lateral entrants are to be recruited, but due to poor pay and unattractive jobs, not many job seekers want to come into administration, or they look for another job soon. In addition, there are very long recruitment times: there are approx. 3.5 months between an advertisement for a job and a hiring.

Prayer:

- **Pray for good ideas on how to recruit new staff**
- **Pray for better pay and good working conditions in administration**
- **Pray that the training of young people will become a focus again**

Report on the Quality of Schools

A panel of experts has presented its report. It became clear that much more money is being spent per student in Berlin than in other federal states. School policy is in place, but it is not sufficiently effective. Initiatives happened "ad hoc" and are oriented towards

solutions to current problems. As a result, money was spent without anyone evaluating the result. In addition, the Berlin teacher training is quite disoriented. This is now to be changed by a state institute that will accompany student teachers and also provide further training and coaches for all other teachers. The Senate Administration, which is poorly structured, also needs renewal.

Prayer:

- **Pray that the Senate Department for Education can be structured more effectively**
- **Pray that acute short-term problems do not prevent long-term solutions**
- **Pray that the money will be used wisely**
- **Pray for the establishment of the state institute so that helpful training and coaching are available**

Prayer Initiative for Berlin

The small team from Multiply Berlin invites you to 30 days of prayer for the city and its residents in November. It dreams that in this god-distant city many people will find Jesus. Every morning there is a short email with a prayer request. If you want to pray, you can register at fwolfert@dmgint.de.

Keeping On: Current Corona-Situation

Like everywhere else, the number of infected people in Berlin is increasing rapidly. The whole city is now a risk area with an average of 155 infections per 100,000 inhabitants in seven days (October 30th). Hospital admissions and intensive treatments due to Corona are also increasing at an accelerated rate. From November 2, both in Berlin and nationwide, stricter restrictions on public and private life apply (partial lockdown). There are enough intensive care beds available, but there is a lack of intensive care staff everywhere.

Prayer:

- **Pray for God's protection, that the increase in the number of infections would stop, and for more intensive care nurses**

Dates:

- **Nov. 11, 6-7pm, Prayer for city politics at the Rote Rathaus**
- **Nov. 18, 7-8pm, Prayer for Couples and Families in Berlin via Zoom, information and link at info@gfberlin.de**