



Edition 190 – December 2020/January 2021

Good News: Successful Investigation in the Clan Environment

Around a year after the jewel theft from the Grüne Gewölbe in Dresden, several apartments in Berlin were searched in Berlin on November 17. A total of three suspects from the Remmo clan were arrested. Warrants have been issued for two more members. More than 1,600 officers were involved in the large-scale raid. The investigators came across the clan members through traces at the crime scene and recordings from security cameras. Berlin's Senator for the Interior Andreas Geisel said this was another signal to the clan scene; nobody should believe that he can disregard this nation and its rules.

Prayer: Thank God for this success. Pray that the other wanted suspects will soon be arrested

Series Berlin Districts: Kreuzberg

Kreuzberg is one (formerly western) part of the Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg district. There are two parts to Kreuzberg: the larger SO61 (formerly Südost 61) and the smaller SO36. The name of the district comes from the 66-meter high Kreuzberg in Viktoriapark. The district, located in the heart of Berlin, is the smallest of the Berlin districts in terms of area and at the same time has the highest population density and the lowest average age. Among the general public, Kreuzberg has long been known for its lively night and cultural life as well as for its complex problems - and not least for the riots on May 1st in previous years. In particular, the area around the Kottbusser Tor has been designated by the Senate as a social hotspot with special development needs. The numerous problems include: one of the largest drug scenes in Berlin, high crime rate and unemployment, high proportion of migrants, vandalism and littering, gentrification. District mayor is Monika Herrmann (Greens). Recently, building councillor Florian Schmidt (Greens) has been particularly controversial because of his politics.

Two "camps" compete against each other in the district: the former generation of guest workers, who have grown into large families over the decades and make up a large part of the Muslim population, plus the old punks and the long-established left-wing squatter scene - and on the other hand the new (bourgeois) families who have moved here, international, young entrepreneurs and startup founders, tenants of the newly built condominiums and office floors. Due to the

high demand for living space, Kreuzberg is experiencing a structural change in the form of gentrification, which is also the cause of numerous protests. There are a number of Protestant and Catholic regional churches as well as free churches and missionary associations such as the prayer cellar and the Café Sehnsucht.

Prayer

- **Pray that the internal conflicts of Kreuzberg can be overcome through wise politics**
- **Pray that Christian churches will have more influence in the neighborhood and that more Christians move to the social hot spots**
- **Pray for change of hearts and circumstances, especially among Muslims and the left**

Lonely Christmas

Because of the partial lockdown during the Corona pandemic, despite the easing over Christmas and New Year's Eve, the holidays will be very different - for many lonelier and without being together in larger groups of family or friends. Many people fear that they will spend the "festival of love" alone. Contacts via digital media or telephone cannot replace physical community either.

Prayer:

- **Pray that the number of infections would decrease**
- **Pray for creative solutions to spend the holidays together and safely**
- **Pray for mercy and an alert mind to discover how everyone can face the need of loneliness personally**

Christmas Services during Corona

The Chancellor has clearly advised against larger church services. But so far, services can continue to take place. Most municipalities have a hygiene concept and implement it responsibly. Let us pray that many people will be able to attend worship services in many places. For many, a digital offer is not an alternative.

Prayer for Berlin

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Let us pray that God himself can be experienced in church services and that people receive new hope. With some Christian organizations and churches, Together for Berlin wants to hold an open-air church service on December 24th at the Brandenburg Gate at 4 p.m. The applications are still in process. Among others, Samuel Koch and Kirk Smith plan to be there.

Prayer:

- **Pray that church services can take place**
- **Pray that new creative places are found that enable people outside the church to participate**
- **Pray that there is no spread of infection through Christmas services**
- **Pray that the open- air service can take place**

The Jewish Festival of Lights

This year the Jewish festival of lights Hanukkah will be celebrated from December 11th to 18th. It commemorates the victory of the Jews against the Greek Seleucid rulers in 164 BC. The temple in Jerusalem was desecrated. For the re-consecration, the necessary oil for the large candlestick miraculously lasted for eight days until new oil was produced. In the tradition, an additional light is lit for eight days, which is to remind people of God's intervention to save his people. The Jews are sending out a signal: "You don't drive out darkness with violence or aggression. You conquer darkness with light." The Jewish community is concerned about the pandemic and whether the Hanukkah celebrations can take place this year. Let us bless Jewish life in Berlin. The Jewish people have blessed us with the healer and redeemer.

Prayer:

- **Pray for peace and blessings for Jewish Berliners**
- **Pray for the protection for all Jewish institutions**

48 Traffic Fatalities Since the Beginning of the Year

In the national statistics, the number of road deaths has fallen in relation to previous years. In Berlin, however, currently 48 people have died in traffic accidents in 2020. That is more than in the years 2017 to 2019. 17 pedestrians, 16 cyclists, nine motorcyclists and six people in other vehicles died. Of those killed, 18 were

over 65 years old. The number of two-wheelers killed has increased, among other things. attributed to the increasing use of electric bicycles. The fatal accidents were often caused by inattention - on both sides. The aim of all federal states is to significantly reduce the number of road deaths and injuries. However, the targeted numbers have not yet been achieved

Prayer:

- **Pray that all the bereaved and injured feel God's blessing and his presence**
- **Pray for more safety and attention for all those using the roads**
- **Pray for mutual consideration and less aggressive behavior**
- **Thank God for the protection of everyone who traveled safely on the roads**

Keeping On: BER-Finances

Time and again there are voices that the financial gaps at the newly opened BER airport are significantly larger than indicated by the airport company FBB. By the end of 2021, there will be a financial requirement of around 600 million euros, which will be borne by the owners - Berlin, Brandenburg and the federal government. However, the financial requirements could be significantly higher - as a result of the corona pandemic and the resulting loss of income and because FBB has not yet made a "financial report" and has not presented "full transparency" of the financial situation. It is very questionable whether the airport will start making profits as planned from 2025. **Let's keep on praying for BER's financial problems!**

Dates

- **December 9 and January 13, 6pm: Prayer for City Politicians at the Rote Rathaus.**
- **January 10-17: International Week of Prayer sponsored by the Evangelical Alliance, information can be found at evangelische-allianz-berlin.de beginning mid-December**
- **January 16: Day of Prayer (GEBETSTAG EINS) from 4-6pm at the Berliner Dom (likely digital) : "Pray together, celebrate, act". For the fourth time, the largest alliance of Christians in Berlin is the host. More information at einsfuerberlin.de**