



Edition 195 – June 2021

Good News: Decline in Corona infections and the number of intensive care patients

On May 27, the 7-day incidence for Berlin was only 34.1, the 4-day R-value 0.58. The occupancy of the intensive care beds fell below 15%. This means that two of the “Corona traffic lights” are back to green.

Prayer: Thank God for the decline in the pandemic

Parties for the Berlin Election Series: Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen

On September 26, 2021, three parallel elections will take place in Berlin - in addition to the Bundestag election, the election for the State Parliament and the District Councils' assemblies (BVV) in the 12 districts. In the months up to then, we want to present the parties that have so far been represented in the State Parliament in a series with their election platforms and top candidates, while remaining as neutral as possible in terms of party politics.

Nationwide and also in Berlin, the Greens are on the rise in the polls. If that continues, they will have their first chance to become the strongest party in Berlin and to provide the governing mayor. The Berlin Bündnis-Grünen are usually known to be left-wing. With the choice of their top candidate Bettina Jarasch with 96.6% they have set a surprising accent that emphasizes the middle and - as Jarasch says - bridge building. The core demands of their electoral programme are consistent climate protection, a social change in traffic and affordable rents. These include a zero-emission zone in the city centre by 2030, the rapid expansion of cycle paths and local public transport, a new building offensive and a housing market in which at least 50 percent of all apartments are in public-welfare oriented leadership. The program under the heading “Green light for tomorrow” also contains a green economic stimulus program for Berlin’s economy and for the rapid digitalization of schools and administration. Bettina Jarasch describes her vision as follows: “The task of this time is to avert the climate crisis. As the governing mayor, I would like to set the course for Berlin to become a climate-neutral city. ... And to a city of solidarity and mindfulness where no one is left behind. For this I would like to forge alliances with everyone who wants to shape the future of

this city with us.” There is a proximity to Christian positions on issues such as climate protection, preservation of biodiversity and ecological renovation, intercultural cooperation and the housing offensive. On issues such as abortion and gender politics, however, the Greens' program contradicts beliefs that many Bible-oriented Christians hold.

Prayer:

- **Pray for social cohesion and clarity of the respective profiles of the parties**
- **Pray that candidates will have servant attitudes**
- **Pray for respectful interaction with one another and fair election campaigns**
- **Pray for well-informed and spiritually responsible voting decisions also by believing, praying people**

Israel Criticism and Anti-Semitism

There have been several pro-Palestine demonstrations in Berlin. Not everyone agrees with the policies of the Israeli state. In this country, legally guaranteed, anyone can protest against decisions by the Israeli government - peacefully and in compliance with official requirements. In the context of these demos, however, anti-Jewish slogans were chanted. Again and again in conspiracy theories, “the Jews” are accused of causing the pandemic, child murder or desiring world domination. Protest against the politics of a country is mixed with centuries-old reservations and hatred of Jews. No distinction is made between the politics of a state and the members of a religion. The Jews in Berlin no longer feel safe. On May 22nd, a man with a kippah in Berlin-Schöneberg was insulted with anti-Semitic abuse and beaten.

Prayer:

- **Pray for differentiation between political protest and hatred of Jewish fellow citizens**
- **Pray for protection for Jewish institutions (synagogues, schools) and for people of the Jewish faith in all places (schools, public places, etc.)**
- **Pray that Christians will courageously oppose hatred, defamation and exclusion of Jews in Berlin**

Future Job Shortages in the Public Service Sector

After reunification around 50% of all jobs in the Berlin administration were cut. In the years that followed, more staff were eliminated due to financial constraints, especially in the district administrations. In addition, the training of administrative specialists has been greatly reduced and the vocational training in so-called advanced administrative service is no longer financed by the city. For years it has been known and foreseeable that the older administrative employees will retire and that there will then be too few trained people. By 2029, more than a third of the current employees (approx. 44,000 out of a total of 124,000) will retire. Currently, 12% of the positions in the Berlin administrations are not filled – because there are no trained young people, because the jobs are not very interesting and poorly paid, and because potential applicants apply to the federal and state authorities on better terms and are gladly be taken. Although the municipal administration of Berlin already had to take on many additional tasks due to the corona pandemic and there is already an acute shortage of staff and consequently a significant overload, the Berlin Senate continues to see the situation calmly and sees no need for action.

Prayer:

- **Thank God for the commitment of all administrative staff despite the heavy workload**
- **Pray for wise Senate decisions on job creation, training, and fair pay**
- **Pray that employees in the administration can cope well with the stress and that there is no damage to health; Strength and joy for work**
- **Pray that all administrative tasks are still carried out and that no resident has to suffer from the lack of staff**

Large Raid Against Child Abuse

The large raid took place in six districts of Berlin in a total of 42 apartments. Around 230 police officers took part. And the many computers, laptops and other data carriers must now be sifted through. The suspected men are charged with posting children's pornographic material online. The mission was made possible because the police increased the number of employees in this area to 50, and also because there is an automated reporting of suspected cases in the USA and the providers are legally obliged to report criminal content including the IP address of the respective user there. We are still a long way from that in Germany.

Prayer:

- **Thank God for the increase in the police force in this area**
- **Pray for emotional protection of the investigating police officers, as they are dealing with shocking images**
- **Pray for protection and healing for the affected children**

New Airport Manager

Aletta von Massenbach was appointed by the airport company as the successor to Engelbert Lütke Daldrup. She will begin on October 1, 2021. She has been the commercial director of BER since September 2020. She was born in 1969 and worked for Fraport AG in the international area for over 20 years. Among other things, she managed two airports in Bulgaria for three years and then Antalya Airport in Turkey for almost a year. She herself says: "Taking BER out of the financial crisis and making it a successful airport for Berlin and Brandenburg is a special challenge, but also a great opportunity."

Prayer:

- **Pray that the new boss will be successful in financial restructuring**
- **Pray that BER will become the international gateway to the world for Berlin; Berlin has led an island existence for too long (airlift and division)**

Keeping On: Right-wing Extremist Series of Attacks Still Unexplained

An initiative has been demonstrating in front of the State Criminal Police Office every week for two years and is calling for the right-wing extremist attacks in Neukölln to be investigated. The clarification is still a long time coming.

Let us continue to pray that clarification will happen soon!

Dates:

- **June 5, 3-7pm: Nationwide Day of Prayer for Children and Youth**, pray together for an hour at Josua-Gemeinde Spandau, Bismarckstraße. 20, Registration: julienne.mabell@web.de
- **June 9: Prayer for City Politics, 6-7pm, Rotes Rathaus, Main Entrance**
- **August 27 and 28 Transforum-Conference** with accompanying 27 h prayer for the city