



Edition 219 – November 2023

### ***Good News: New Trade Fair, Direct Connection***

Dubai's technology trade fair Gitex, one of the largest events of its kind in the world, is scheduled to come to the halls under the Berlin radio tower beginning in 2025. Almost at the same time, Lufthansa announced that it would be offering direct flights between BER and Dubai via its subsidiary Eurowings beginning in November.

**Prayer: Thank God for these two steps to strengthen Berlin as an international metropolis**

### ***Endangerment of Jewish People and Institutions***

Two unknown perpetrators threw two Molotov cocktails on the night of October 18th towards a building on Brunnenstrasse in Berlin-Mitte that houses various Jewish institutions. People and the house remained unharmed. Governing Mayor Kai Wegner (CDU) assured the Jews in the city that he would do everything to ensure their safety. Berlin's police chief Barbara Slowik wants to better protect Jewish institutions because of the tense security situation in Berlin: "For example, we will fence off synagogues and other objects more closely - also to conserve our own strength." This is necessary because police forces are increasingly required to respond to pro-Palestinian riots. "The situation is currently very tense," said Slowik. But there is also support coming from other federal states and the federal police.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for protection for Israelis, Jews and Jewish institutions**
- **Pray for courage to confront anti-Semitism at all levels**
- **Pray for strength and determination for the police to ensure protection**

### ***Prayer for the Districts: Mitte***

**The Evangelical Alliance Berlin and Together for Berlin are praying for one district every month in 2023. In November it's Mitte's turn.**

Mitte is not only the centre and heart of Berlin; it is also where the city was born. On the banks of the Spree, it all began sometime in the 13th century with a small settlement in what is now the Nikolaiviertel.

Mitte is made up of the districts Mitte, Wedding, Tiergarten, Hansaviertel, Moabit and Gesundbrunnen. Mitte-Alt with all its tourist attractions and the seat of government is the extreme contrast to Wedding, where there are more poor people. The district has 395,599 inhabitants and is the second youngest in the city in terms of average age (57% under 40 years). 43% have no migration history and only 17.8% belong to one of the major churches. Stefanie Remlinger is the district mayor (Greens). Other city councillors are Ephraim Gothe (SPD, urban development), Benjamin Fritz (CDU, school), Carsten Spallek (CDU, social affairs), Almut Neumann (Greens, order, nature) and Christoph Keller (left, youth, family).

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for politicians to promote coexistence between the different districts and to keep an eye on the different needs**
- **Thank God for the good cooperation between the Christian churches in Wedding**
- **Pray for the youth and children in schools**

### ***The New Senate Members: Senator for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection and the Environment: Manja Schreiner, CDU***

**We are introducing the new Senate members of the CDU-SPD coalition in a series.**

Manja Schreiner was appointed Senator for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection and the Environment on April 27, 2023. The 45-year-old is a certified lawyer. Schreiner has been a member of the CDU since 2012, and in 2019 she was appointed deputy state chairwoman of the CDU Berlin. At the beginning of her term as senator, Schreiner announced that the Berlin districts should stop the expansion of cycle paths for the time being. For example, an already completed cycle path on Ollenhauerstrasse in Reinickendorf had to be painted over. Schreiner's move was sharply criticized, especially in the media. The transport senator has now corrected her statements about stopping cycle paths several times. Schreiner has been criticized for her decision on the cycle paths since the beginning of her term in office. Her tasks also include climate protection and the environment; both play an important role in the coalition agreement.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray that the Senator will react appropriately to criticism of her decisions**
- **Pray for smart measures for transport policy in Berlin, including cycle paths**
- **Pray for long-term sensible decisions for more climate protection in Berlin**

### ***Islamist Threats in Berlin***

The Neukölln district has been hit by serious riots again in recent weeks. Hundreds of demonstrators rioted for several hours in the Sonnenallee and Hermannplatz area. They had responded to calls for undeclared and ultimately banned pro-Palestinian protests. There were 194 arrests and 274 misdemeanour and criminal charges. The Berlin House of Representatives has passed a resolution against anti-Semitism. Berlin's Governing Mayor Kai Wegner (CDU) has strongly condemned anti-Israel actions in the wake of Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel. "Anyone who justifies, trivializes, relativizes or even glorifies terror does not belong to our Berlin," said Wegner at the beginning of his government statement in the Berlin House of Representatives.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for understanding that radical Muslims are a minority among the Palestinians living in Berlin**
- **Pray that the injustice of anti-Semitism would be revealed among Muslims**
- **Pray for protection from further riots**

### ***Organized Crime***

From prostitution to illegal gambling: Organized crime has long concerned the authorities in Berlin. The Senate now wants to take tougher action against criminals in this area. In a model experiment, the public order offices will issue confiscation notices instead of fines. In the case of confiscations, perpetrators have to pay back more of the money they acquired illegally than in the case of fines. The state of Berlin would therefore benefit financially. With the exception of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg and Steglitz-Zehlendorf, ten of Berlin's twelve districts are taking part in the model experiment. Justice Senator Felor Badenberg (for the CDU) said the project should start as soon as possible.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for the success of the model project in the fight against organized crime**
- **Pray for sensible policy decisions to reduce them**
- **Pray for fast, unbureaucratic help for victims of organized crime such as forced prostitution**

### ***Semester Start on the Universities***

The winter semester starts in October at Berlin's universities and colleges. The total number of students in the last winter semester 2022/23 was 199,593. This corresponds to roughly 5% of the city's population. The Christian student initiatives Campus Connect, Student Mission Germany (SMD), and Students for Christ (SfC) are starting the new semester with invitation campaigns and events. Too often, new students in particular become lonely during their time studying in Berlin because the overabundance of the large and lively city overwhelms them and the prevailing individualism means that the campuses do not develop a familiar community as is the case in smaller cities. Finding apartments for new students is also a big problem.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for a good start, especially for all first-year students, but also for higher semesters and the teaching staff**
- **Pray for blessings for the Christian student initiatives and that many students dare to come to the events and meet God there**
- **Pray that students find connections and contacts that become friendships**

### ***Keeping On: Climate Activists Announce Further Measures***

The "Last Generation" announced further blockades on the city's streets for the months up to Christmas. They also plan to spray-paint the Brandenburg Gate again.

**Let's keep praying that they stop their measures, also because of the additional demands on the police to protect Jewish institutions and the demonstrations**

### ***Dates***

**Nov. 8: Prayer for City Politics**, 6-7 pm, Rotes Rathaus, in front of the main entrance

**Nov. 24: Prayer for Kreuzberg**: 7pm, Cafe Sehnsucht at the Kotti