FREEDOM OF RELIGION & EDUCATION

The perspective from Germany
good news – actually a miracle

• While Germany faces a enormous shortage of teachers (the states could not fill approx. 30% of all job vacancies at state schools)

• ...our schools have hardly any open positions – we have been provided in a perfect manner! (although we cannot offer the same remuneration)

• And we have a much higher demand from parents/pupils than we can meet.
...but we are a minority in the school system

- some 130 “Bekenntnisschulen” (devocional schools with some 41,000 pupils (0.4 per cent of all 11 million pupils in total).
complicated constitutional setting

- In Germany, private schooling at primary level is constitutionally forbidden.
- But there are 2 exemptions – one of which allows parents to found a Christian school für their children.
- As late as 1992, a High Court ruling made this work.
Entwicklung der Bekenntnisschulen in Deutschland

1973

1981

2000

Verband Evangelischer Bekenntnisschulen e.V.
Entwicklung der Bekenntnisschulen in Deutschland
1973 - 2018
small, but growing steadily

• Today, there exist about 130 such schools with some 41,000 pupils and 2,500 teachers in 80 towns.

• Sounds great, but this represents only 0.4 per cent of all 11 million pupils in total.

• What makes us distinct is that we only employ believing Christians.
our staff must show their beliefs at all times

• Interpreting our constitution correctly, we not only may talk about our God and Jesus Christ as our saviour, actually we must do so!

• „The entire school day ought to be characterised by the belief of the teachers“ the High Court ruled back in 1992.

• If we do not, the right to operate a school ought to be revoked! (However, this has not happened yet.)
we may be and teach different

We have to teach the state curricula only „in general“, we may be different, if our belief so requires (for example gender issues).
the more outspoken we are, 
the more attractive...

• While both big churches in Germany are losing members in large numbers, there is a heavy demand for our denominational schools.
• We are having enough teachers.
Thank you, Lord!

• God provides us well, and we are living in a good country.
• We are enjoying freedom.
  • Searching for new teachers, we may ask for true believers – despite the German legislation (Anti-Discrimination Act)
• However, there are problems looming:
  • same sex marriage.
Thank you!