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The Miracle of Leipzig



In Leipzig, Germany there is a church founded in 1155 AD known as The St. Nicholas Church. Both its age and name are historic, of course, but it's the Peace Revolution Memorial – a column with palm leaves sprouting out the top that remind people of a much more modern day historic miracle that occurred here in 1989. The Church is known as the “cradle of the peaceful revolution” due to its courageous Pastor Christian Fuhrer and the actions of its congregation on October 9, 1989, 25 years ago. This “revolution” is the real cause of the fall of the Berlin Wall that few know about.

Martin Luther intended a peaceful revolution in 1517 when he nailed 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church on October 31. Luther's gift to the German people was the Scriptures translated into their own language. But however, Germany, like other European nations, became the battle ground of holy and unholy spiritual forces. The mixture of Christianity and socialism stunted Germany's spiritual growth by the late 19th century. The mixture much of the German church embraced eventually allowed tyranny to rise a few decades later.

World War I and II put Germany on world stage when its leaders chose tyranny over the happiness and security of its people. The results of World War II divided Germany, as well as its capitol, Berlin – into East and West – or enslaved and free. Those under Communist rule, including the churches, became pawns in a game of political correctness. If a church sought to speak out freely in East Germany the results were not a game - for persecution was the norm for all non-conformists.



On August 13, 1961, Communist Germany began construction of the Berlin Wall under the guise of keeping the west from infiltrating the east. Thousands of eastern citizens fled each day to freedom in the west. The Communists were losing all their professionals who would rather have freedom than tyranny. Even as the wall was constructed people risked their lives for freedom. President John F. Kennedy, on June 26, 1963, proclaimed at the Brandenburg Gate: “...the wall is the most obvious and vivid demonstration of the failures of the communist system... lift your eyes beyond the dangers of today to the hopes of tomorrow... we look forward to that day when this city will be joined as one.”

President Ronald Reagan spoke at the same spot 24 years later on June 12, 1987. He stated “behind me stands a wall that encircles the free sectors of this city... as long as the gate is closed, as long as this scar of a wall is permitted to stand, it is not the German question alone that remains open, but the question of freedom for all mankind.” Speaking before General Secretary Gorbachev, he said “in the Communist world, we see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards of health.... Even

today the Soviet Union still cannot feed itself... there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: Freedom leads to prosperity... Freedom is the victor. In response to Gorbachev's "glasnost" promises, Reagan then proclaimed "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"



The proclamations of President Kennedy, Reagan and others alone did not bring down the Berlin Wall. When it was finally taken down beginning on November 9, 1989, the Soviet authorities admitted defeat and the people poured through to West Berlin. If it wasn't the policies of Reagan alone that brought Soviet tyranny to its knees, what was it? A little known event occurred one month before the tyrannical forces of East Berlin relented, and those events started in a church under the leadership of its pastor. Pastor Fuhrer understood that Christianity advances through voluntary conversion and thus by definition is a peaceful religion. The most powerful weapon the Christian church has is prayer but the most powerful force is God Himself. So what was the key to the fall of the Berlin wall?

Pastor Fuhrer began a prayer meeting in 1982 to intercede for the tyrannical government of Eastern Germany as the Scriptures exhort in 1st Timothy 2:1-5. It began with only a handful of people. It continued for seven years until 1989 when it got so large the thousands couldn't fit in his church.

The German government sent spies to infiltrate the prayer meeting and they took names of those who participated. At one point Pastor Fuhrer was put in the snow to die, and members of his prayer meeting were fired from their jobs. The young people took their parents place since they had no jobs to lose. There was no political agenda – only prayer for God to intervene in the face of tyranny. On October 9, 1989, Pastor Fuhrer sent the prayer warriors into the streets with candles. They were met by 100,000 fellow Germans who had been inspired by this "peaceful revolution"!



The German government prepared for conflict. Riot gear, rifles and tanks formed on one side and prayer warriors for freedom, carrying candles, on the other. All knew the possible consequences and those in prayer were willing to pay the price. But what the German government faced was a different kind of power than they were used to. One remarked they were ready to face anything "except candles and prayer."

The prayer warriors approached their fellow Germans, bravely praying for those carrying rifles and driving the tanks. They offered them their candles and suddenly they began to take the candles and join them! Soon, rifles were on the ground and the tanks were removed! The next week the German leader resigned, and Pastor Fuhrer said "we did it" because "the church has to do it." The candle carrying prayer warriors saw God win a victory peacefully in the face of tyranny! As our culture continues to disintegrate and conflict appears on the horizon, may we arm ourselves with this kind of courage and *pray for victory like we have never prayed before!*

