



GERMANY

Vision

FOR A NEW PUBLICATION

Albrecht Fietz, owner of ImageDesign and provider of graphic design services to Der Auftrag and numerous other Christian publications in Germany, describes his vision for a new Christian magazine.

Luther, Gutenberg and Zinzendorf laid a solid spiritual foundation for Germany. The Reformation led to salvation, prayer and missionary efforts around the world. Today, this heritage appears to have been

sense of belonging and church attendance dropped.

The situation allowed for the start of various independent churches. Whether fundamentalist, charismatic or pentecostal, unfortunately these churches mistrust one

another. In addition, the relationships between state-funded churches and free churches have been fraught with discord. Although there were various revivals during the 1950's and the 1970's, it is only since the fall of the Iron Curtain that believers are seeking to work together.

Christians in Germany see this as a hopeful sign. They are experiencing a biblical renewal of the church, like in other parts of the world, due to all the confessions of faith. They believe the German people can have renewed international influence, especially as the world moves closer together through technology. German believers ask, "God, how do you want to use us?"

Given this background, only small quantities of evangelical Christian books and magazines have been printed. Circulation for most magazines is between 500 to 5,000 copies. Very few reach 10,000, and only the largest magazines reach 30,000. All publications have had a strong denominational agenda, whether fundamentalist, charismatic or pentecostal.

Who is going to produce a magazine that prepares and equips God's people for the future? What significant and meaningful difference will Christians make in the next

15 years, especially if greater revival is coming? There are a number of good German Christian magazines on the market, but none direct Christians towards the promises God has made for the future of Germany.

Christian leaders meet

In December 1999, some Christian leaders met to discuss the vision for a new publication to meet these needs. The meeting was brought about through the initiative of a representative of the Lutheran charismatic revival movement and of a Christian publisher. The publisher is the only one in Germany who publishes both fundamentalist and charismatic literature. The leaders unanimously decided to explore the development of a new Christian magazine.

Christian magazines in Germany can direct believers toward the promises God has made for that nation's future.

lost. Germany is a neo-pagan society. How did this occur?

Ninety percent of the churches in Germany are part of two denominations recognized by the state: the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church. These bodies receive funds from a government-collected church tax and are not dependent on contributions of their congregations. Over time, needs of local congregations were ignored, fewer people experienced a

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Catholics have surpassed Protestants

in number in Germany. "There were 27.15 million Catholics and 27.12 million Protestants in late 1998," the German Evangelical Alliance said. The two churches had 27.38 million members each in 1997. Protestants outnumbered Catholics almost by a 2-1 margin in 1950. Protestants and Catholics together make up about two-thirds of Germany's 82 million population.

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