



PRAY FOR EAST ASIA

Pray for Germany

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

— Exodus 14:14

Country Profile

As Europe's largest economy and most populous nation, Germany is a key member in the European Union (EU). Germany was a founding member of the EU, and a strong advocate of the world's largest common market, its economic and monetary union, and a joint European foreign policy. Politically, Germany is becoming more of a global player through its significant role in the EU. It has taken its place in several peace-building operations, and contributed to peace talks around the world.

Economically, Germany is doing very well. National debt has been declining steadily since 2012, and the unemployment rate is declining (3.6% - August 2017). Financially, the Euro debt crisis has not impacted the country as badly as other European nations.

People in Germany enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of religion. The German Basic Law protects freedom of religion. In effect, what this means is that nobody may be discriminated based on their religious beliefs. There is no "state church". Politics and religion are kept separate, and religion is largely a private matter. Government schools do offer religious instruction, with some states offering instruction in the Islamic religion.

The religious landscape in Germany is increasingly plural and secular. The huge influx of refugees has had a big impact on German society and integration is challenging. Christians play a big part in welcoming the refugees, but are often frustrated by the lack of cross-cultural sensitivity. 59% of Germans call themselves Christians, but the Catholic Church has seen a decline with many leaving the Church. This, coupled with an aging congregation, are causing the number of believers to fall. In east Germany especially, the number of Christian believers are very low, with over 50% professing to be atheists. Meanwhile, the Protestant Church struggles with a shallow and liberal theology. Evangelical churches still need to find their role in German society. Islam is gaining in significance due to migration. There are an estimated four million Muslims in Germany from 50 different nations, and significant Muslim communities have formed in many cities.

OMF Germany was founded in 1967, although German Christians had served with the China Inland Mission (CIM) long before then. The OMF Germany team continues to send out missionaries to Asia and to work in church planting ministries among the Asian diaspora living in Germany. In recent years, the establishment of a high impact volunteer system has helped increase the scope and variety of ministry opportunities.



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Population

- **Total:** 82 million
 - **German:** 91.5%
 - **Turkish:** 2.4%
 - **Others:** 6.1% (mainly Polish, Italian, Romanian, Syrian and Greek)

Religions

- **Christian:** 59%
- **Non-religious:** 30%
- **Muslim:** 5.5%
- **Buddhist:** 0.3%
- **Jewish:** 0.25%

Lord, we praise you for stable relationships with the German churches and for faithful supporters over the years. Thank you for using your people in Germany to grow your church among East Asia's peoples. We pray that you will strengthen the churches in Germany, and continue to raise up and send out cross-cultural workers.