

## New prayer house for three religions

24<sup>th</sup> June, 2014



A new project has started in Germany to build the world's first building where Christians, Jews and Muslims can pray. It is called the 'House of One'. The project's

leaders hope it will open in 2016. They are asking people to donate money to help build it. The project will cost €43.5 million to finish. The idea started in 2009 after archaeologists in Berlin were digging and found the city's earliest church, called the Petrikirche. An architect called Wilfried Kuehn decided it would be a good idea to build a multi-religion building on the same site. Mr Kuehn said: "We quickly agreed that something visionary and forward-looking should be built on what is the founding site of Berlin."

The project's Jewish leader, Rabbi Tovia Ben-Chorin, said Berlin was the best place for the building because of what happened to millions of Jews during World War II. He said: "Berlin is the city of wounds and miracles. It is the city in which the extermination of the Jews was planned. Now, the first house in the world for three religions is to be built here." The Christian leader, Gregor Hohberg, agreed, saying: "Berlin is the city of the peaceful fall of the Berlin Wall and the peaceful coexistence of believers from different faiths." Muslim leader, Imam Kadir Sancı, hoped the building would let people from different religions understand each other better. He said: "We want our children to have a future in which diversity is the norm."

Sources: *The Independent* / *OnIslam.net* / *FreePressJournal*

## Writing

It is better to have one building for all religions. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*project / pray / hope / donate / archaeologists / digging / a good idea / building / site / leader / millions / wounds / miracles / peaceful / Berlin Wall / understand each other*

## True / False

- Three houses will be built in Berlin, one each for three major religions. T / F
- The project will not be finished in the next five years. T / F
- The building will be on the same site of Berlin's earliest church. T / F
- An architect said Berlin needed a forward-looking building. T / F
- A Jewish leader said Berlin wasn't such a good place for the building. T / F
- The Jewish leader talked about the building and World War II. T / F
- A Christian leader said Berlin was a city of peace. T / F
- A Muslim leader said in the future diversity would be uncommon. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. project       | a. construct  |
| 2. build         | b. religions  |
| 3. donate        | c. place      |
| 4. found         | d. occurred   |
| 5. site          | e. venture    |
| 6. happened      | f. difference |
| 7. extermination | g. discovered |
| 8. fall          | h. give       |
| 9. faiths        | i. collapse   |
| 10. diversity    | j. killing    |

## Discussion – Student A

- Do you think the project will bring the different religions together?
- What do you think of the idea of the 'House of One'?
- Is it a good idea to visit places from different religions?
- Why do people from different religions fight each other?
- What can religious leaders do to bring people together?
- Is Berlin a good place for the 'House of One'?
- What do you think of the name 'House of One'?
- Should every town and city in the world have a 'House of One'?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. where Christians, Jews            | a. were digging            |
| 2. donate                            | b. from different faiths   |
| 3. archaeologists in Berlin          | c. looking should be built |
| 4. a multi-                          | d. other better            |
| 5. something visionary and forward-  | e. the norm                |
| 6. what happened to millions of Jews | f. money                   |
| 7. fall of the                       | g. during World War II     |
| 8. peaceful coexistence of believers | h. religion building       |
| 9. understand each                   | i. Berlin Wall             |
| 10. a future in which diversity is   | j. and Muslims can pray    |

## Discussion – Student B

- How often do you go somewhere to pray?
- Why are there so many religions in the world?
- Why hasn't such a house been built before?
- Should the house have been built in a famous religious city?
- How important is religion to you?
- Will people from all religions respect each other one day?
- Will children in the future know that "diversity is the norm"?
- What questions would you like to ask the project's leaders?

## Spelling

- A new rtpjeco has started
- They are asking people to dteona money
- found the city's ileesrta church
- An trichate called Wilfried Kuehn
- We quickly dearge
- something viiasyrn and forward-looking
- the best place for the ubdlniig
- olsiilm of Jews
- the city of wounds and imrasecl
- the cpalufee fall of the Berlin Wall
- believers from different fasthi
- yrvedstii is the norm

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. a	3. h	4. g	5. c
6. d	7. j	8. i	9. b	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – A place of prayer

You think a place of prayer is the most important building for a town to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their place isn't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): school, shopping mall or a police station.

### Role B – School

You think school is the most important building for a town to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their place isn't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a place of prayer, a shopping mall or a police station.

### Role C – Shopping mall

You think a shopping mall is the most important building for a town to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their place isn't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a school, a place of prayer or a police station.

### Role D – Police station

You think a police station is the most important building for a town to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their place isn't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a school, a shopping mall or a place of prayer.

## Speaking – Buildings

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • Internet cafe | • place of prayer     |
| • airport       | • school              |
| • shopping mall | • police station      |
| • museum        | • government building |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.