

RELIGION IN GERMANY

- ❖ Complete religious freedom is guaranteed by the German constitution.
- ❖ Germans, who are members of a church, support it through their taxes, not directly as in the U.S. When German taxpayers list their religious affiliation on their employment record, a part of their income tax is collected by the tax authorities and given to the church to which the taxpayer belongs.
- ❖ Today, the number of believers in all religions in Germany is smaller than it was in the past. Most people claim a church only out of tradition, but do not faithfully attend. They belong to a church only in name, but not practice.
- ❖ Nearly half of the religious population is Lutheran and the other half is Roman Catholic. Most Germans take no part in church life except at such events as weddings and funerals.
- ❖ The majority of Lutherans are located in the north and east; and the majority of Catholics are located in the south and west.
- ❖ For forty years Eastern Germany was controlled by Communist rule, thereby making the people of Eastern Germany to have one of the lowest church attendances in the world, with only 5% attending at least once per week, compared to 14% in the West according to a recent study.
- ❖ About 30% of the population has no religious affiliation - In the East this number is considerably higher.
- ❖ There are over three million Muslims, from 41 nations, who live in Germany, most of them coming from Turkey.

- ❖ After the World War II, only a few thousand people of Jewish origin remained in Germany. Today the Jewish communities have nearly 100,000 members, a number that is expected to increase. The largest and fastest growing Jewish community in Germany exists in Berlin with more than 11,000 members.

OTHER RELIGIOUS DEMOGRAPHICS:

- ❖ Jehovah's Witnesses - 166,000
- ❖ Baptists (Mostly part of the Baptist Union) - 85,000
- ❖ Methodists - 63,000
- ❖ Pentecostal/Charismatic - 1,001,000
- ❖ Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church - 37,460
- ❖ Mennonites - 39,000
- ❖ Mormons - 36,000
- ❖ Orthodox - 893,000
- ❖ Armenian Church - 35,000
- ❖ Muslims - 3,300,000(4.0 %):
- ❖ Buddhists - 230,000
- ❖ Jews - 100,000
- ❖ Hindu - 90,000

- NONRELIGIOUS - 24.4 MILLION (29.6 %)