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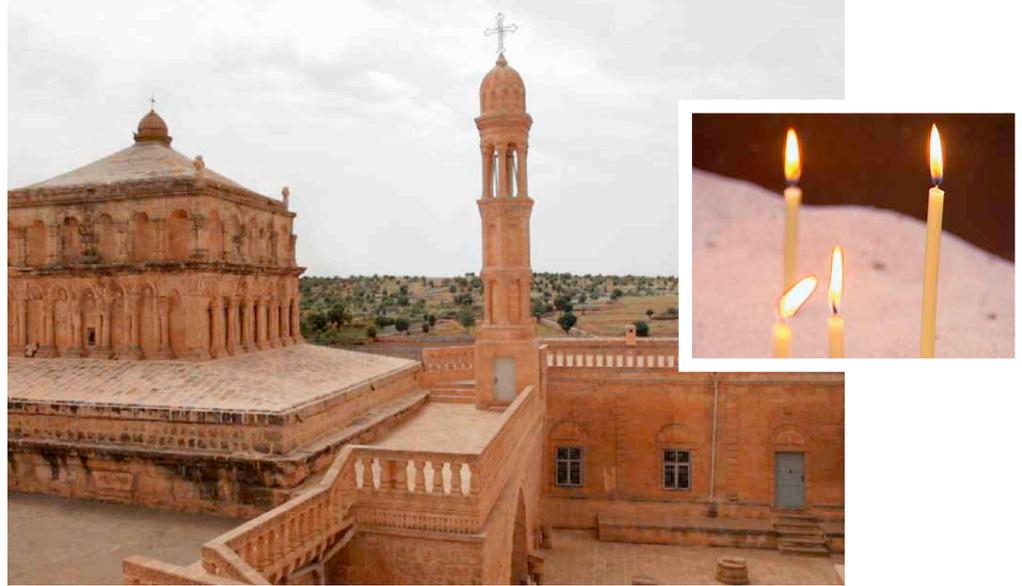
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Faith Matters

Faith provides many people with a framework for life and a moral code. This series provides insights into matters of faith, with reports on contemporary Catholic and Protestant communities across the world. The main focus is on the purpose of existence, Christian values and social responsibility, as well as contributions Christians make to society, culture and the arts. **Faith Matters** portrays the everyday life of Christians; it reports on the latest events in the Christian community and on the work of churches in Germany and worldwide.

- 01 Saints and Spirits**
From the Wartburg to Brazil
- 02 Stones for the Dead – In Remembrance**
Central Holocaust Monument in Berlin
- 03 From Child Soldier to World Youth**
Help for Liberia's Underage Combatants
- 04 Water for Nigeria**
- 05 The Work of the Berlin City Mission**
Helping the Homeless in Central Berlin
- 06 "Why Luther Appeals to Me"**
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- 12 Everyone Wants a Say**
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Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez and the Lay Preachers of Honduras



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14 The Rebirth of the Baroque – How Bach came to Bahia

A German Conductor Brings Back Baroque Music to Salvador da Bahia

15 Providing a Touch of Home

A German Woman Priest in Beirut

16 God Has More than One Name

17 Young, Devout, Political

Christians in the German Parliament

18 Helen Zille – Mayor of Cape Town

Helen Zille, a former mayor of Cape Town, wants to plant a seed of hope in the fight against corruption and violence. She is a member of the Democratic Alliance, and was the only victor in a local authority election not to belong to the ANC. As a journalist, and later as a member of parliament and minister of education for Cape Province, she worked for a just balance between blacks and whites.

19 Sister Gisela – A Life Dedicated to Helping Others

For more than forty years Sister Gisela Borowka has been trying to help people in eastern Indonesia. Born in Thuringia 72 years ago, retirement is the last thing on her mind. After a stay in Ethiopia in 1963, she went to help leprosy patients in Indonesia. In 1991 she went to the eastern Indonesian island of Alor and initially worked in leprosy aftercare. Leprosy was successfully contained by effective therapies and education. Sister Gisela was looking for a new task. For the last ten years she has devoted her life to caring for orphans. This programme reports on the life and work of this extraordinary woman. Her work with lepers inspired the renowned German author Luise Rinser to write a book about her.

20 Protestants in China

Today, China is still officially atheist but its constitution now also allows “freedom of religious belief”. Under that umbrella, new churches are being built across the country, religious services held in converted factory bays. More is booming in China than just the economy; after decades of suppression, religion is also on the rise.

21 “O Come, My Soul with Singing” – 400 Years of Hymns by Paul Gerhardt

Paul Gerhardt (1607–1676) was a pastor in a time ravaged by war. The poet experienced the death of his wife and four children, and was removed from his position at Berlin’s St. Nikolai church by the prince-elect, due to a dispute regarding confessions between the Lutherans and Reformists. Traditional hymns from Paul Gerhardt are moving today as they were 400 years ago.

22 The Future Needs Hope – MISEREOR Marks 50 Years in Burundi

Together with the Congo, Burundi in central Africa was the first country in which the Catholic relief organization MISEREOR became active. Throughout all the upheavals of civil war MISEREOR has been supporting projects in Burundi for fifty years. Burundi is still one of the world’s poorest countries. More than ten years of civil war and forty years of military dictatorship have pushed it to the brink of ruin. The film forms a bridge from MISEREOR’s origins in Burundi to the situation today. Even though conditions have changed vastly over the last fifty years, MISEREOR has continued to uphold one principle: that of providing help “for the poorest of the poor, irrespective of creed or ethnicity”. And it does so in solidarity with church organizations on the spot who adapt aid to the respective culture and needs.



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23 Fatima and Sumaya – A Moslem-Christian Friendship in Palestine

Fatima, the daughter of a famous Bedouin sheikh in the Judean Desert, and Sumaya, a farmer's daughter from near Ramallah in the West Bank, have been close friends for over fifty years. They both attended a Protestant school in Bethlehem where Christians and Moslems are taught together. Today Sumaya Farhat-Naser is an author and peace activist and Fatima helps families with disabled children.

24 Rescuing the Torah Scroll – A Christian and Jewish Story of Courage

During the night of the 9th and 10th of November 1938, the first in a series of pogroms launched by the Nazis against the Jews, the Catholic priest Gustav Meinertz risked his life to rescue a Torah roll from a burning synagogue in Cologne. After the war, he returned it to the vestigial Jewish community. Sixty-nine years later in 2007, the valuable scripture was sent to Jerusalem for restoration paid for by the archbishopric of Cologne. The process removed the fire damage that had made it impossible to use the Torah in religious services, and in a memorial service, it was formally returned to the Torah shrine at the Cologne synagogue.

25 What the Church Is Doing with its Churches

More and more people are rediscovering religion, but this doesn't necessarily mean they follow a direct route into the church. Germany is full of churches – some 25,000 in all. Sacred architecture has a long tradition here. But congregations are becoming ever smaller, and funds ever shorter. It is still rare that a house of worship is demolished. But other proposals are under consideration, including sale, conversion or alternative use.

26 Rwanda Looking for Reconciliation

A million people were massacred in the east African country of Rwanda in 1994. Most of the victims were members of the Tutsi ethnic group, and moderate Hutus. Most of those who perpetrated the violence were Hutus. The killing was triggered by the death of Rwanda's Hutu president, but animosity between the two ethnic groups had been stoked much earlier, during the colonial period. Today, the church is trying to help people deal with the trauma of the genocide, which still casts a long shadow over Rwanda.

27 Emergency Pastoral Care – Preparation for a Pandemic

We talk of a pandemic when an infectious disease spreads not only from country to country but also from one continent to another. Epidemics that claim millions of lives are nothing new. Europe has been struck by the plague many times in its history. Between 1918 and 1920 over 25 million people died from the Spanish Flu. AIDS is also a pandemic, and world-wide phenomena like bird flu give justified cause for concern. With this question in mind, pastoral workers have been taking part in a nation-wide disaster control exercise here in Germany.

28 Wealth Goes – Poverty Stays: Gold Mining in the Peruvian Andes

The Catholic priest Marco Arana, winner of Peru's most prominent human rights prize in 2004, is more than just a representative of the church. For seven years now, his organisation GRUFIDES has been fighting for the rights of indigenous people living around the largest gold mine in Latin America, the Yanacocha gold mine in northern Peru. He and his co-workers are engaged in tireless mediation between local farmers and the mining company, and run an information campaign concerning the ecological consequences of gold mining.

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29 “Like a Family” – Wichern, Founder of Modern Paedagogics

Through his work as a priest in the mid-18th century, Johann Hinrich Wichern encountered poverty-stricken districts of Hamburg. Realising the extent of the neglect, he founded a refuge for neglected and difficult children. The children lived in a structured environment similar to that of a large family, with 10-12 children together with one guardian. It was a revolutionary educational model that has changed little over the years.

30 You Are My God: I Search for You – The Poetry of the Psalms

150 prayers and songs make up the Book of Psalms. Read as poetry, they number among the great works of world literature. They venture something neither heard nor seen before in writing: a personal response to God. The journalist sets out to plumb the mysteries of the Book of Psalms that, though replete with the pain and horror of Earthly existence, sings out in praise and exaltation.

31 The Apostle Paul and His Successors in the Early Church

Saint Paul was born in Tarsus, in what is now Turkey, roughly 2,000 years ago. Pope Benedict XVI launched international St. Paul Year 2008/2009 in the hope that it will help bring signs of more religious tolerance in the mostly Muslim but secularist country. What role does St. Paul play today? Follow in his footsteps through what was once called Asia Minor.

32 Under Threat of Death – Erwin Kräutler, Bishop to Brazil’s Indigenous Flock

Dom Erwin Kräutler is Bishop of Xingu, one of the world’s largest dioceses. Based in Altamira, Brazil, Dom Erwin fights the destruction of the rain forest, and also campaigns on behalf of landless peasants, of children forced into prostitution and of the indigenous people who are being driven from their hunting and fishing grounds. His work has made him enemies – there is a price on his head. Because of the death threats, he is under police protection 24 hours a day. He merely turns the other cheek, and carries on working for what he believes in.

33 Can Faith Move Mountains?

In 1858, a young French girl called Bernadette Soubirous from Lourdes claimed that the Virgin Mary had appeared to her in a series of visions. Today, Lourdes has become a major pilgrimage center for the sick and infirm, with thousands of apparently miraculous cures resulting from a visit to the shrine. Our documentary explores the Lourdes phenomenon and examines the human need to believe in miracles and prayer.

34 Barack Obama – Hero to the US Afro-American Community

In the mid-1980s, Barack Obama began working as a community organizer in some of Chicago’s poor, black neighborhoods. As the Democrat presidential frontrunner, he has come a long way since then, and has distanced himself from his former pastor and mentor, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright. Even though Obama has consistently avoided emphasizing race issues in his campaign, many Afro-Americans are pinning their hopes on him.

35 Pskov – A Social Model for Russia

In Russia, it is quite usual for the handicapped, the mentally ill, the homeless, ex-convicts and orphans to be referred to what are known as “residential homes”, places that are actually more like prisons. Not so in the northwestern town of Pskov, where they are accommodated in care homes and benefit from a variety of welfare projects.

36 Hymns of Praise – Felix Mendelssohn’s 200th Birthday

In his Symphony No. 2 “Hymn of Praise”, Mendelssohn set Bible texts to music. He composed cantatas, motets and the most important oratorios of his time. The film focuses on this great music for church and concert hall.



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- 37 “For the Children” – A Blind German Woman in Peru**
Renate Ratzel has been blind since her youth. But this does not prevent the former teacher at a school for the blind from traveling to Peru for several months each year to look after children living in poverty.
- 38 Securing Peace through Justice**
This film shows how individuals in Africa and Europe try to bring justice and peace to the world. Not through grand gestures, but in their everyday lives. Children in particular learn to experience our world as a unified whole, despite the huge disparities that prevail in so many societies.
- 39 The Sermon on the Picture – Church and Art**
Art and the Church hold each other at arms’ length, even though there are significant parallels between the two. Art explores important questions about human self-perception, life, death and the purpose of existence. Religion does exactly the same. This film shows how inspiring it can be when art and religion start opening up to each other.
- 40 A Faith Divided**
The construction of the Berlin Wall not only divided Germany, but also its churches. What role did the Protestant church in East Germany play in the peaceful revolution that led to the fall of the Wall? How did Christians deal the division of their country and their church, and how have they fared since re-unification?
- 41 God’s Stargazers**
The Vatican Observatory is one of the oldest astronomical research institutes in the world. Jesuits run the main observatory at Castel Gandolfo southeast of Rome and a second Vatican research center in Arizona. They see themselves as bridging the gap between science and the Church.
- 42 Paradise Will Sink First – The Consequences of Climate Change**
The effects of climate change can be felt by people all over the world. Polar ice is melting and sea levels are rising. Low-lying coastal regions and islands are under threat. Are the Carteret Islands in Papua New Guinea or the Halligs, the little islands off Germany’s North Sea coast, set to disappear under the waves? Their fate will be determined by the pace of climate change.
- 43 Winning Through Fair Play – Does the God of Soccer Come from Africa?**
In South Africa, social projects harness the enthusiasm of the young for soccer to teach them important values such as fair play and team spirit. The youngsters also learn to be good losers. The coaches work with girls and boys on non-aggressive strategies for dealing with conflict.
- 44 Forgotten: Namibian Children in East Germany**
In the 1970s, racial tensions forced many Namibians to flee to neighboring Angola. As a “socialist brother nation” to Angola, East Germany offered to help and took in more than 400 children. But no one knew what to do with them after German reunification; many were uprooted yet again and sent back to Namibia, where they ended up in a refugee reception camp. This program relates the tragic stories of two such individuals.
- 45 Brother Sun, Sister Moon – St. Francis of Assisi’s Canticle of the Sun**
Saint Francis of Assisi wrote his Canticle of the Sun in the year 1225. Today, it is considered a major work of literature. It is also one of the best known, most triumphant songs written in praise of God’s creation. The German composer Enjott Schneider has written a new score for the famous text.



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46 "I'm a Star" – Young People's Opera as a Social Project

Children from a poor neighbourhood in Berlin put on an opera. With the support of music and dance teachers as well as social workers, they create their own work based on the romantic opera "L'Étoile" by Alexis-Emmanuel Chabrier. The children explore the world of opera for the first time, and discover their own creative potential.

47 A Hand and a Heart – Alternatives for Care of the Elderly

As life expectancy in industrialized nations rises, the cost of caring for the elderly increases. There are more and more cases of Alzheimer's and other diseases that typically affect the aged, and there are not enough qualified care workers or funds to cope with the problem. One option is to hire cheaper home-care personnel from abroad: some 10,000 eastern Europeans are employed as carers in Germany. Another option is for senior citizens to move to countries such as Thailand where the cost of care is much lower. But can such measures solve the underlying problem and allow millions of people to grow old in dignity?

48 Following in Mother Teresa's Footsteps – A Volunteer in a Calcutta Hospice

When Mother Teresa died in 1997 in India, a nine-year-old German girl named Laura pledged she would one day help out in the hospice founded by the nun. Laura grappled with the subject of death at an early age. After qualifying as a carer for terminally-ill patients, she set off for Calcutta to fulfil her goal.

49 "If It's Great, It's Great" – There's no Such Thing as Disabled Art

Art connoisseurs and collectors have admired their stunning paintings for decades. The music they create is a huge success. They are taken seriously by the critics. They are judged on their art, their creativity and their individuality alone. But there is something special about the members of these two artists' groups from Hamburg: They are all physically or mentally disabled, or mentally ill. Their achievements are nonetheless outstanding.

50 Cluny Abbey – The Light of the World

In the 10th century, 12 monks settled in the small eastern French town of Cluny, to live by the monastic rules of St. Benedict. The settlement evolved into the largest monastic order in Western Christendom. The abbey was shut down in 1790 as a consequence of the French Revolution, and more than 90 percent of the building was destroyed. In spite of this, Cluny still manages to attract 100,000 visitors every year from all over the world.

51 Anything but Meek and Mild – Nikolaus Schneider at the Helm of the German Protestant Church

With Nikolaus Schneider, the German Protestant Church has a man with firm political convictions as its president. As a young pastor in the 1970s, he fought alongside workers in his parish for just welfare provisions following the closure of coal pits and steelworks. Schneider has retained his fighting spirit to this day.

52 Where is Home? – Pomeranians in Brazil

Am I Brazilian or German? This is a question Roger Behling has often asked himself. He grew up in Brazil, and is now studying in Germany, the country his forefathers left in the 19th century. He wants his children to grow up learning the German language and Christian values. Whether they do so in Brazil or Germany, is not important.

53 Learning from Germany – Korea's Chance to Reunite

Cellist Young Chan Cho is a member of one of the large Presbyterian churches in Seoul that are campaigning for reconciliation between North and South Korea. Professor Cho believes that Koreans should follow the example of Germany and seek peaceful reunification; otherwise, they could face disaster.



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54 Celestial Light – The Fascination of Church Windows

The magnificent architecture of churches and cathedrals has captivated people for centuries. A particular point of interest in these houses of worship has always been the artistry of their stained-glass windows. Drawing on examples of famous churches in Cologne, this program shows how glass artists – from unsung masters of the Middle Ages to renowned contemporaries – create atmospheric sacred spaces, using the tools of their trade: color, glass and light.

55 Talitha Kumi – The oldest Lutheran School in the Holy Land

Talitha Kumi was founded in 1851 by German Protestant deaconesses as a kindergarten for Arab girls in Jerusalem. It is now located in Beit Jala near Bethlehem and is one of the most famous international schools in the Palestinian autonomous territories. The region is often the scene of conflict between Jews, Christians and Muslims. Talitha Kumi aims to make a contribution to efforts to overcome conflict and violence, thereby helping to pave the way towards peace.

56 New Houses of Worship – Contemporary Church Architecture in Germany

A church conveys something transcendental – faith. New churches must therefore translate the spiritual zeitgeist into a physical experience, as well as unify contemporary and traditional church architecture. Although very few new churches are being built in Germany, several of these impressive new constructions are causing a stir.

57 In Harmony with Creation – An Education Project in Sri Lanka

The young German biologist Andrea Launhardt was in Sri Lanka when the tsunami hit in 2004. She remained on the devastated island after the catastrophe, to found an aid project for children and orphans. Although it is small in scale, it puts many other aid projects in the shade – in particular some launched with millions of dollars in donations following the tsunami that have since disappeared.

58 Sonidos de la tierra – Sounds of the Earth

In 2002, the musicologist, composer and conductor of the Paraguayan Philharmonic Orchestra Luis Szarán founded the project ‘Sonidos de la tierra’ (‘Sounds of the Earth’). The project’s aim is to foster a culture of responsibility and respect through music, as well as to give children and young people the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and make a better life for themselves.

59 From Reformation to Ecumenism – The Augustinian Priory in Erfurt

500 years ago, Martin Luther entered the Augustinian monastery in the German town of Erfurt. No one could have known at the time that this would mark the start of the Reformation. At first, Luther wanted to modernize the Catholic Church, but his ideas eventually led to a schism in western Christianity. Today, the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt is an important historical site and meeting place.

60 Mount of the Servants of God – Arameans in Turkey

The Arameans were among the first peoples to adopt Christianity and to this day speak the language of Jesus, Aramaic. In their home region of Tur Abdin in southeastern Turkey, they have been persecuted for centuries. The Aramaic-speaking Syriac Orthodox Christian community living near the ancient monastery of Mor Gabriel numbers just 2,000. The slow demise of this ancient people is occurring almost without the world noticing it. A culture is disappearing, and a Biblical language is being lost.

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61 Sound and Faith – What Makes Music Religious?

Music plays a central role in the Protestant church. The reformer Martin Luther wrote sacred texts to the melodies of well-known folk songs, securing their place in church songbooks. Church music is a vehicle to convey what Christians consider to be the word of God.

62 Kolumba – The Archdiocesan Art Gallery, Cologne

The Kolumba Museum in Cologne is very different from most museums. It endeavors to encourage a more reflective and slow-paced appreciation of art. The museum exhibits works from 2,000 years of western culture in a building by Peter Zumthor that has won many accolades for its distinctive architecture.

63 The Bishop of Georgia

Georgia's Lutheran community has just 2,000 members. They live strewn across the nation, and most of them are very poor. One of the most important tasks facing their bishop, Hans-Joachim Kiderlen, is to collect donations to alleviate the plight of the old and the needy.

64 The Courage to Protest

German Lutheran ministers Helmut Frenz and Axel Becker lived in Chile in the 1970s. After the military coup, they were banished for their work in the field of human rights: Bishop Frenz had to leave the country, and Pastor Becker lost his congregation. Forty years later, the two friends planned to retrace the steps of their shared struggle for freedom. But Helmut Frenz died shortly before their scheduled departure, leaving Axel Becker to make the trip alone.

65 Tacumbú – Hope in Paraguay's Harshest Prison

Tacumbú is the largest prison in Paraguay. Overcrowded cells, drugs and violence are the order of the day. But a small separate block run by Mennonites is home to prisoners who are willing to live by a strict code: above all, they must respect others and renounce violence.

66 The Religions of Sarajevo

Sister Magdalena Schildknecht lives in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, one of the poorest countries in Europe and a transit route for drug trafficking to western Europe. Undeterred by the tough conditions, the Franciscan nun from Switzerland runs a drug prevention program for school children and students.

67 Turning Around a Troubled District

In the days of communist East Germany, thousands of Stasi employees lived in the East Berlin district of Lichtenberg. Most of them were unemployable following German reunification. This in turn had a destabilizing effect on their children. Some rebelled and turned to violence and extremist political groups. Protestant deacon and social worker Michael Heinisch helped them find a way back into society.

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68 Part of the Scenery – Wayside Chapels in Germany

Chapels are an integral feature of the German landscape. They can be found everywhere: close to expressways, on country lanes, in the mountains and in places of pilgrimage. Some are decidedly simple, others ornate artistic gems. But they all have one thing in common: They invite passers-by to pause for a moment and forget the stresses and strains of their daily lives – whether they be locals or travelers, young or old, Christians or non-Christians. In increasingly secular times, chapels can still address a need for some kind of spirituality.

69 “I’d Rather Be Disabled Than Disgruntled”

Rainer Schmidt was born without forearms and with a shortened femur, owing to a rare metabolic disorder during his mother’s pregnancy. He has learned how to overcome what might be perceived as a disability and leads a normal life. He is a Protestant pastor, as well as a successful writer and sportsman who has won several Paralympic titles in table tennis. He also has a talent for entertaining people and has made a name for himself as a cabaret artist.

70 When the Dead Come Visiting

Mexico marks one of its most important public holidays every year at the beginning of November – the Day of the Dead. While some cultures experience death as something terrible and sad, the Mexicans embrace it with joy. As popular belief would have it, the Day of the Dead is when the souls of the dead visit their loved ones and is therefore a cause for great celebration, with good food and drink, singing and dancing.

71 Military Chaplain Uwe Becker

Uwe Becker is a chaplain responsible for the wellbeing of German soldiers stationed in the US. He previously worked with the Franco-German Brigade and the mission to Afghanistan. He is currently serving in the US at the Reston base near Washington, supporting personnel of all ranks. He is also available for baptisms, weddings and confirmation classes.

72 The Art of Living: Wilhelm Schmid’s Philosophical Quest

What gives human life meaning? How can we find happiness? These questions are the focus of Wilhelm Schmid’s philosophical inquiries. The successful Berlin author’s work builds on an almost forgotten tradition: the art of living. Schmid’s intelligent guides are bestsellers in Germany. They provide a thorough and far-reaching analysis of how we can shape our lives. In this popular philosopher’s view, the art of living includes searching for the meaning of life. It also raises questions about our relationship to faith and religion.

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73 Maria Regina Martyrum – A Place of Quiet Remembrance

The Maria Regina Martyrum Catholic church in Berlin serves as a memorial to the many people who stood up for what they believed in during the Nazi era and paid for their bravery with their lives. Maria Regina Martyrum, dedicated in 1963, is a unique monument, which attracts many visitors with its unconventional architecture and works by famous artists.

74 Dump Site Missionary

The German Divine Word missionary Heinz Kulüke works in the Philippines with the poorest of the poor. He spends time with people who live on garbage tips, helping them to collect recyclable materials. He visits street children and, at night, roams red-light districts helping to free girls from the clutches of their pimps.

75 Vita Christi – Bach, the Fifth Evangelist

Vita Christi was the theme of the 2013 Bach Festival, the life of Christ as set to music by Johann Sebastian Bach in his magnificent oratorios, cantatas and masses. To this day, people all over the world are fascinated by the music of Bach, the most influential composer of the Baroque period. His sacred music also earned him the sobriquet 'The Fifth Evangelist'.

76 Luther's Man in St. Petersburg

We accompany German pastor Gerhard Hechler when he takes up a new job at the Lutheran Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in St. Petersburg. It was converted into a swimming pool in Communist times, and restored to its original function in the 1990s. What common language does Pastor Hechler find with the faithful? And what can he learn from his hosts, both Protestant and Orthodox Christians? We also go with him on a trip to the Orthodox Valaam monastery in Karelia.

77 A Bastion of Christianity – The Knights of Malta

The Order of St. John was founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century. After being displaced from Palestine in the early 14th century, the knights settled on the island of Rhodes. In the 16th century they were expelled from Rhodes by the Ottomans and moved on to Malta. Since then, the organization has been known as the Order of Malta. Today, the knights number 13,500. They stopped carrying swords a long time ago. Just as the founders of the order did before them, today's Knights of Malta pursue humanitarian and religious goals.

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