

## At the Berlin Mosque in April 2009

### *Activities and visits*

Report by Muhammad Ali, Imam

#### **Berlin FM Radio**

**On 8th April** Miss. Juliette Cellier visited the Mosque and took an interview to collect information and activities of the Mosque. This radio station is one of the popular radio stations of Berlin (104.6rtl). This radio station has a program in which they cover various places of importance in Berlin worthy to be visited under the title “One Place One Day”. On day 145 of the year the presenter highly recommended the listeners to visit the Mosque. On the following link you can see a brief coverage about the Mosque on the radio website:

[www.1046rtl.net/365/artikelseite/tag145/artikelseite.html](http://www.1046rtl.net/365/artikelseite/tag145/artikelseite.html)

At the bottom of this page it has given a very positive comment about the Mosque. Its English translation is as follows:

#### **“Lukas 26. from Ahrensfelde:**

The Mosque is a very impressive (Oriental Building) which has withstood ups and downs of time. Still when it needs some renovation work. I am impressed, how openly the Imam receives the guests and tries to remove misconceptions. It is anyway a good idea to make an appointment and go through a small introduction there.”

**On 9th April** students from the National Government School visited the Mosque. This time there was a group of 11 people. It is the highest number since we have started a special course for students to tell them about the history and work of the Mosque and Islam. One interesting thing for me was that one couple visited the Mosque 4th time in succession to attend the course. All the participants were impressed about the picture of Islam presented at the Mosque. The visitors expressed their satisfaction to visit a place which offers such a peaceful and harmonious views about Islam. Many of them were very keen to know, when will be the next chance for them to visit the Mosque to attend the course. A number of people left their email addresses to be

informed about any such activities taking place at the Mosque in future.

**On 18th April** a get-together was organised at the Mosque with the collaboration of Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz. The meeting took place from 11:30 to 14:30 pm. During the two-session programme I delivered two talks of 20-25 minutes about the history of the Mosque and introduction of our Movement. Mr. Guenther Paetz, local president of Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz who has been active partner in this joint venture to support the renovation work of the Mosque and renders voluntary service in different ways also spoke at the start telling his impression about the Mosque and why his organization is working with us and how he finds us.

Then Mr. Ballweski, a prominent person from another organization, who also co-operated in this programme about the Mosque and extended help to the Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz to organize the fund-raising meeting gave a lecture on the theme of Diaspora and its different aspects.

We also displayed at the entrance of the Mosque four pictures with a brief introduction of the holy places including our Mosque as Diaspora. Mr. Paetz together with his equally zealous colleague Miss Anika Probst held special programmes for children as they did last year, so that parents attending the meeting at the Mosque can listen to the talks attentively while the children were engaged in drawings and were provided information about the history of the Mosque and how much it was damaged during the World War II. During the intervals children were brought into the Mosque and were told about the common aspects among different religions with special reference to Islam. I also interacted with children explaining to them the significance of the name Allah and the Islamic Kalimah.

*See next page for photographs*



