

PEOPLE PLACES

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

VERSIONS

Arabic, English, German,
Spanish

RIGHTS

Worldwide, VOD, Mobile

RUNNING TIME

64 x 30 min.

ORDER NUMBER

56 4675 | 52-115



Faith Matters

Faith provides many people with a framework for life and a moral code. This series offers insights into matters of faith, with reports on contemporary Catholic and Protestant communities around 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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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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.

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.

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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.

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".

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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.

78 Touching Lives – The World of the Deaf-Blind

Deafblind people can make use of technical devices to help them accomplish everyday tasks. But often people with this disability say they are missing the all-round care they need. They receive this at the Oberlinhaus, a social welfare facility in the eastern German city of Potsdam. At the facility, which is named after a pastor and social reformer, they not only learn how to accept their disability, but also to live their lives to the full.

79 Faith at the Foot of the Andes

Klaus-Dieter John is a surgeon, his wife Martina a paediatrician. The couple chose not to pursue lucrative careers in Germany but to work in a developing country. They have set up a hospital in a small town in the highlands of Peru, providing treatment primarily to poor indigenous families. The hospital is one of the most modern in the country. Its name is Diospi Suyana, which means "we trust in God" in Quechua. The Johns draw their strength and motivation from their faith.

80 Rainer Maria Cardinal Woelki – A Portrait

The Catholic diocese of Berlin is one of the largest in Germany in terms of surface area. But in this region between Berlin and the Baltic Sea, just 10 percent of the population are members of the Catholic Church. Bishop Rainer Maria Woelki sees this not as a cause for resignation, but as an incentive to bring God closer to the people.

81 The Peace Train to Korea

Some Korean Christians who would like to see the peaceful reunification of their nation have found a spectacular way to express this wish. Travelling on a train they call the "peace train", they set off from Berlin in October 2013 headed for the South Korean city of Busan more than 11,000 kilometers away, on a journey scheduled to take a month. But will North Korea allow the "peace train" to travel through its territory?

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82 A Queen in Ghana – The Story of a German Nurse

Bettina Landgrafe, a nurse from Germany, celebrates her tenth anniversary on the throne! The people of Apewu, a village in Ghana, appointed her their “nana”, or queen, in honor of her contributions to development. This is a political office more senior than that of a minister. Bettina Landgrafe does not shy away from potential conflict with the authorities in the implementation of her ideas. She doesn’t see herself as the villagers’ boss, but as their mentor, who would like them to get involved in development projects and make their own decisions about what they need.

83 When the Past is Always Present – 20 Years After the Genocide in Rwanda

Paul Gashema survived the Rwandan genocide of 1994. His father, a pastor, was probably killed, like a million other people. Paul then fled to Germany. 20 years later, he returns to his homeland for the first time, with his eldest daughter Lisa. In the search for traces of her family, the 18-year-old gains insight into Rwanda’s brutal history. She sees how the catastrophes of the past have left indelible scars.

84 Welcoming Syrian Refugees – Asylum in Kurdistan

The Domiz refugee camp in Iraq is located in the autonomous region of Kurdistan, about 70 kilometers from the Syrian border. In the camp, which is home to about 70,000 refugees from Syria, Iraqi psychotherapist Salah Ahmad heads a rehabilitation center for people who have suffered terrible abuse, both physical and emotional. One doctor and two psychologists treat at least 400 people every month – men, women and children. Many are deeply traumatized, and can no longer eat, sleep or even talk.

85 To the Greater Glory – Jesuits in Germany

The Jesuits are regarded as the intellectual elite within the Catholic Church. They are active all over the world as missionaries and teachers, scientists and pastors. Unlike the members of some other religious orders, they do not confine themselves to monasteries and prefer to work among the people towards creating a just world. The founder of the order, Ignatius of Loyola, spoke of finding God in all things. That idea defines Jesuit spirituality to this day.

86 Jesus and Buddha

Buddhism has become increasingly popular in the Western world, a region traditionally associated with Christianity. This is hardly surprising, says Michael von Brück: As globalization reduces the distances between people, places and cultures, the boundaries between religions also begin to blur. Brück is a Protestant pastor and professor of theology in Munich who is also a teacher of Zen and yoga. He is a pioneer of Christian-Buddhist dialog.

87 Assisi – Home of a Man Who Inspired the Pope **HD**

Christians from around the world visit the Italian town of Assisi in large numbers to pay their respects to its most famous son, St Francis. He also enjoys great popularity among members of other religions. The current pope was the first to take the name Francis in his honor. Brother Thomas, a Franciscan monk, likes to show visitors the many sights of the ancient town.

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88 The Struggle for Peace – Colombia's Women Against Violence **HD**

Colombia has suffered more than half a century of armed conflict between left-wing guerillas, right-wing paramilitaries and government troops. The statistics are shocking: 220,000 people killed, 25,000 missing and more than four million displaced. We meet three courageous women who are fighting for peace in Colombia, each in her own way. One attacks injustice in her music, another has set up an organization to help victims of violence, while the third puts her faith in literature and education.

89 Asylum in the Church – A Berlin Pastor Paves the Way

More and more people are being forced to flee their home countries as a result of war, persecution or desperate need. Those who manage to reach Germany are often turned away and deported. Berlin pastor Jürgen Quandt and his association Asylum in the Church provide legal advice to refugees and sanctuary to those who need it. Quandt has been politically active since the 1980s, and has many success stories to tell. Without his help, hundreds of refugees would have been repatriated and their lives put at risk.

90 Rescuing the Forsaken **HD**

Sixty years ago, Father William Wasson, an American priest in Mexico, rescued a boy from a harsh prison sentence for stealing from a church poor box "because he was hungry". Wasson won custody of the boy and eight others in the cell with him. That marked the beginning of the child welfare organization Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, Our Little Brothers and Sisters. It now runs 11 children's villages in nine Latin American countries. The aim is to help orphaned, abandoned or disadvantaged children grow into caring and productive members of their communities.

91 Jerusalem – Three Religions, Three Families

In the Old City of Jerusalem, Jews, Christians and Muslims live together in an area covering less than one square kilometer. What is life like for them here, in one of the world's most troubled regions? We visited three families and clerics representing the three faiths to find out more.

92 A Commitment for Life

Regina Greefrath is in her early 30s and is about to become a nun. As Sister Regina she has been preparing for this since 2009. She asks herself some searching questions: What do I expect from life in the convent, and how will I manage the daily routines and demands of life in the service of God?

93 Father Saju Dances the Bible **HD**

Saju George Moolamthuruthi is a Jesuit Father and a dancer in the classical Indian style of Bharata Natyam. The dancing Jesuit priest, who sets a statue of the dancing incarnation of the Hindu god Shiva next to a figure of the Virgin Mary, has dedicated his life to worship through dance. He has made a name for himself internationally as a professional dancer, and has established a centre for art and culture in a poor district of Kolkata.

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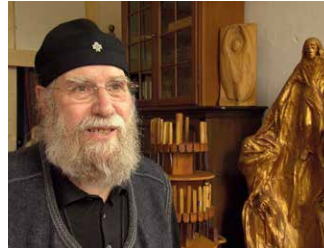
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94 Outcasts in Thailand – Brother Bernd and the AIDS Orphans **HD**

There are about seven thousand HIV-positive children in Thailand. Most were infected by their parents, and many are now orphans. Brother Bernd is a Catholic missionary and nurse from Germany who has made it his mission to help at least some of these children. He lives and works in a small town in northeastern Thailand at a centre for children with HIV/AIDS.

95 The Word as Image **HD**

The artist Moritz Götze is covering the entire interior of a 1,000-year-old church in the town of Bernburg with representations of Bible stories in enamel on sheet steel. Like many others in the former East Germany, the church had gone to rack and ruin. So the secular artist and the church's pastor, Sven Baier, began looking for sponsors to launch their ambitious project.

96 Protestant Nuns – The Sisters of Schwanberg **HD**

In the southern German town of Schwanberg, there is a Lutheran convent where the nuns still follow the Rule of St. Benedict. The unusual situation has a historical explanation: when the Nazis banned the Christian Girl Guide organization in 1942, some of the young women continued to meet in secret at the local Benedictine monastery, and eventually founded their own – Lutheran – order. Today, 30 nuns live and work together in the convent, which is housed in Schwanberg Castle. They offer visitors courses and seminars but also the opportunity to retreat and reflect.

97 Brazil Loves Jesus – Evangelicals on the March

Brazil is the world's largest Catholic nation: some 120 million of the country's population of more than 200 million are Catholics. But more and more people are embracing Protestant Christianity. Most join the Pentecostal movement and become Evangelicals. They believe in miracles and see them as the work of the Holy Spirit, they donate a tenth of their earnings to the Church and they espouse conservative ideas. They have already secured a firm foothold in society, politics and the media with the aim of bringing change to the nation.

98 Luther – The Pop Oratorio **HD**

The Protestant Reformation is one of the major turning points in the history of the western world, influencing the development of modern society to the present day. 2017 sees the 500th anniversary of an event that is widely seen as marking the start of the Reformation: On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther is said to have nailed his 95 theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. A pop oratorio on the life and work of the great Reformer was given its world premiere in Dortmund on Reformation Day 2015.

99 The Right to Education – Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon **HD**

Lebanon currently has the highest per capita concentration of refugees in the world. Refugees from Syria make up almost 30 per cent of the population. Life is particularly hard for the 400,000 children among them. More than half of them do not go to school. Many are believed to be at risk of being brainwashed by extremists. For the Jesuit Refugee Service, education is the key to finding a sustainable solution. The organization does not distinguish between Muslims and Christians. Nor is it concerned with missionary work. It just seeks to help people in need.

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100 Saving the Amazon – Brother Ludwig’s Fight for Forests **HD**

The Amazon River’s water level has dropped 12 meters. Brother Ludwig is relieved that the rains haven’t started yet and that he can still visit the fishing families on dry land. Although they have been living on a tributary of the Amazon for three decades, these families are going to be displaced by an enormous harbor project. The people here don’t officially own the land, so they are being evicted. Brother Ludwig and his colleagues are fighting on their behalf so that they might at least receive some compensation.

101 One Step at a Time – Prosthetics for the Poor in Albania **HD**

Albania is one of the poorest countries in Europe. What little medical care is available remains unaffordable for many people. German orthopedic technician Daniel Müller works for the Christian charity Emergency Care Albania. In Pogradec, close to the border with Macedonia, he is the only one who can provide patients with prosthetic replacements for limbs they have lost.

102 The Archbishop: A German Clergywoman in Sweden **HD**

October 31, 2016, saw a special event in the Swedish city of Malmö. The Protestant and Catholic churches jointly celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Pope Francis was in attendance, and his host was the head of the Church of Sweden, Archbishop Antje Jackelén.

103 Cologne Cathedral: A Work in Progress **HD**

Cologne Cathedral is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Germany – and one of the largest structures of its kind in the world. It took six centuries to build, but the cathedral has never really been completed. Restoration and reconstruction work is constantly underway – at a number of workshops nearby.

104 Germany’s Growing Coptic Church **HD**

Bishop Anba Damian may be the head of the Coptic Church in Germany, but he is remarkably down-to-earth. Despite the many challenges of his job, he still finds time for a game of football. His seat is in a former Cistercian monastery in the town of Höxter.

105 Brother Severin and the Lost Music of the Chiquitanos **HD**

When Severin Parzinger graduated from high school in 2010, he volunteered for a year of community service with the Divine Word Missionaries in Bolivia. An enthusiastic musician, Parzinger took an audio recorder with him and started notating the music of the native Chiquitanos. Now he has become a Divine Word missionary himself and has returned to Bolivia to continue his work.

106 500 Years After Luther – Reformation on the Road **HD**

Seventeen meters long and weighing 33 tons, a “storymobile” is travelling around Europe to mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Project leader Johannes Göring and his crew of 15 volunteers will work with local Protestant communities to revive the spirit of the Reformation – a major task at a time when church attendance is down across Europe.

107 Pilgrims’ Progress – Soldiers at Lourdes **HD**

Lourdes in southwest France is one of the most popular pilgrimage destinations in the world. In May each year, thousands of military personnel from almost 50 countries flock to this Marian shrine. The pilgrims in uniform pray and sing – but they also find time to relax and make friends.



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108 In the Spirit of Luther – The Francke Foundations **HD**

Some 300 years ago, the Lutheran pastor August Hermann Francke founded a charity school in Halle-on-the-Saale, about 200 kilometers southwest of Berlin. Today that foundation is an impressive complex of institutions – a veritable town within a town, providing accommodation and employment for more than 4,000 people.

109 Inter-confessional Churches in Germany – Divided and yet United **HD**

Today there are about 60 inter-confessional churches in Germany, i. e. churches shared by Catholics and Protestants. In most cases, the “marriage of convenience” has evolved into a genuine sense of community – places where the future of ecumenism is practiced.

110 Lutheran Archbishop in Russia – An Immense Challenge **HD**

Most Russian Lutherans are ethnic Germans. Although services are now conducted in Russian, the “Our Father” is still prayed in the language of Luther. The Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Russia has some 40,000 members and is headed by 34-year-old Dietrich Brauer, the youngest archbishop in the Lutheran World Federation.

111 Luther's Legacy in Namibia – Evangelization and Genocide **HD**

As the Lutheran World Federation celebrates 500 years of Protestantism, Namibians remember a grim chapter of their history. Missionaries set sail for the future German colony of South West Africa in 1840, fired with the ideals of the Reformation. But their message of humble service prepared the way for economic exploitation – and a conflict that ended in genocide.

112 No Heaven Without Hell **HD**

The internationally acclaimed Berlin Radio Choir has joined forces with American theater director and visual artist Robert Wilson for a production that marries Martin Luther's writings and translations with the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Wilson's theater of images evokes both anxiety and hope in a timeless statement that places Luther among the great thinkers of history.

113 Women in the Driving Seat – Revolution at the Vatican **HD**

When Pope Francis appointed Barbara Jatta director of the Vatican Museums in 2016, it caused a sensation. Some even described it as a mini-revolution. But Barbara Jatta is not the only woman to hold an influential position at the Vatican. Are we seeing the end of male domination in the Catholic Church?

114 A Dynamic School – “Bold – Protestant – Tolerant” **HD**

The Evangelische Schule Berlin Zentrum is renowned for its innovative approach to learning. Pupils take lessons in such unusual subjects as ‘responsibility’ and ‘challenge’. The aim is to help students become engaged and independent-minded citizens committed to shaping the society they live in. The school welcomes students from a wide range of backgrounds.

115 The Moravians of Suriname **HD**

The Moravian Church is one of the oldest Protestant denominations. Since the 18th century it has been sending missionaries to many parts of the world. The church is especially strong in the former Dutch colony of Suriname on the northern coast of South America. The Moravian community there has organized the 2018 World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women.