

100 YEARS
THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
Worldwide Festival in Dortmund
Oct 7 – 11, 2022

CG
2022

**Let us leave
our mark**

**in an
uncertain
world**

How can leaving our mark be successful?
For this year 2020, we have set ourselves the task of discerning the main themes, possibly a leitmotif of our festival in 2022. Part of this is also finding a concise title. This is what the upcoming meetings will be about.

Dates 2020

Large planning team Saturdays 11 am – 6 pm

Register: info@cg-2022.org
June 20 Rudolf-Steiner-School
Dortmund
Oct 3 Witten Christian Community
Nov 21 Rudolf-Steiner-School
Dortmund

Young people's planning team

Register: youth@cg-2022.org
June 13–14, Köln-East Christian Community
Dec 27 - Jan 1, New Year's Meeting,
Maison Oberlin, Vosges, France

Württemberg meeting Saturdays 9 am – 4 pm

Register: m.gerhardts@posteo.de
July 4 Tübingen Christian Community
Dec 12 Location to be decided
March 6 Location to be decided

The secret of the encounter

This spring the whole world shut down. Teams and groups and communities were splintered apart, everyone outwardly isolated in their own space. It was a global gesture of Passiontide, of fallen humanity, where each person feels the pain of being alone and separated. Almost daily I could hear the Passiontide and Easter words from the end of John 16, about how there are forces causing us to be separated and alone, "but take courage, this is the world I have overcome."

The loss of something, be it our sight, the use of a hand, someone we love, awakens our consciousness for what we took for granted. Being in lock-down can awaken the question, "what happens between human beings when we meet?" So often we are in a deep sleep to the mystery of what happens when we are together in the same moment in time and space. Sometimes only after a meeting, in looking back, do we have a dim premonition of the spiritual reality of that moment. Maybe this is so because such perception needs sense organs that are still in their infant stage in us.

A conference is a huge experiment in gathering together, being together in one moment. Every time I have helped prepare a conference there is a moment when the logical part of my mind says: "Why on earth are we doing this? So much time and effort and resources and carbon are needed to make this happen. Years of planning and meeting and worrying for... three or four days? *Why?*" Couldn't we just type out the talks and workshops and send them out or make them available online? Certainly that would make the Greta in us much happier.

And of course it dawns on me what it means to be together in one moment and be present together with one content in our souls. It is possible to mimic this via live stream but in that sub-natural world it has the same reality as if we are hungry and trying to nourish the body through a virtual meal. When we meet in person something eternal, spiritual, touches the earthly world in a specific moment on the earth, in us and through us. Is that not the description of the word "Sacrament", where the eternal and the earthly touch each other?

One can sense from this that every human meeting has in it the seed of becoming a sacrament.

During these days I have been pondering what the corona saga means in relation to the 2022 gathering. Maybe it will allow our sensitivity to meet in the moment to be more awake, to understand how the spirit can be real in the earthly world through our united activity.

OLIVER STEINRUECK, priest in Berlin, member of the Circle of Seven and its delegate there for the 2022 festival

Witness to the light

"He was not the light, but a witness to the light." John the Baptist is thus characterized as a supremely humble, yet a great, free and sovereign human being. The modesty of not claiming for oneself what wants to come into the world as the highest – while at the same time seeing, recognizing, fully acknowledging and witnessing to this highest – shows the greatness of John. We are challenged to become witnesses for true humanity. Again and again, more and more intensively, true humanity is demeaned and reduced. Sometimes it is human intelligence that is described in such a demeaning way that it can of course be far surpassed by computers or artificial intelligence. Sometimes it is external appearance, the laws of nature, which leads to materialism. Sometimes it is spiritualism that neglects the outer side. Sometimes it is the purely biological view of health that suddenly becomes the sole standard. Sometimes such attacks come subtly, at other times they come aggressively. Often movements that initially had something good in mind are completely taken over by outside interests and gradually turn into the opposite. Large parts of humanity are always blanked out while we are distracted through fascination, fear or something in between.

There is no dictatorship of good. There is no dictatorship of humanity. There is no dictatorship of health. We are challenged to notice, acknowledge and bear witness to the highest – the human being himself. We can try to do this in a Christian-religious sense, in an ethical sense or in any other sense. The main thing is that we do it.

ULRICH GOEBEL, priest, Bonn

The unborn and the future of The Christian Community

At the last annual Christian Community meeting in Kassel there was a special moment. Michaela Glöckler did not look back on the first hundred years of The Christian Community, but rather looked ahead. The future is already here. It is in the unborn people looking down to the earth preparing their lives. In short: it is inspiring to look at the Christian Community in this way. This lecture is published and is available for € 5.00 (plus postage). For each sold issue 25% will go to the Christian Community's children and youth camps, as is appropriate for this topic!

Please send orders to: Johannes Roth, Pfeifferstraße 4, D 34121 Kassel, Germany, e-mail: roth.johannes@posteo.de
frank Hörtreiter, priest, Hanover

Sacraments and questions of life

If we inwardly actively participate in one of the renewed sacraments, it is a statement about a belief in the existence of a spiritual, divine world, and against certain forms of materialism. In the following I would like to examine how this fact might influence the decisions that we all have to make almost daily, more or less consciously, in relation to ethical questions, and how these are related to the seven sacraments and the "question fields" assigned to them. How do they help us to keep our world alive and full of spirit and joy? How do they help us to avoid a barren and empty, purely materialistic world? How do they help us to add something new, human, to the pure processes of nature?

In nature, processes of life and death always balance each other and are in equilibrium. Development is balanced by – what should we call it? – envelopment? regression? It is easier using words of Latin origin: *evolution* is balanced by *involution*. The potential, the possibility is balanced by involution, and vice versa. The plant seed has great potential and is physically insignificant, the matured plant is physically significant but cannot evolve further, instead it regresses into seed formation. In human life a similar natural process takes place between our spiritual and earthly existence: We come from the purely spiritual potential before birth into our earthly existence. Our physical development begins, and as we become ever more defined and fixed, the possibilities diminish. Some of our life processes have more to do with this outer development. At the end we die again into a spiritual existence, which in its development (when we have "processed" our life on earth) becomes again a pure potential. Other life processes have to help us on this path.

But since we are human beings, we have the possibility to take a step beyond the processes of nature. We can always – until the end of life – be open to surprises and new developments. To allow something completely new come into the world through our humanity, to bring matter in direct contact with spirit, this is a sacramental process.

MICHAEL BRUHN, priest, Zürich

What Michael Bruhn writes here follows the theme of a contribution by Volker Harlan in the Easter 2020 Newsletter on the question "What is a sacrament?"

This contribution is an extract from his longer article (in German) in *Beiträge zur religiösen Erneuerung*, (issue No. 17, March 2020), to be ordered from Johannes Roth, Pfeifferstraße 4, 34121 Kassel, e-mail: roth.johannes@posteo.de.

In search of the leitmotif...

That was the motto of the Easter Newsletter. In this St John's Tide Newsletter we are suggesting some stages of this path, which we would like to take together with all interested parties. Together we want to work on the question of what the main themes of the festival should be. Perhaps a leitmotif will also emerge. Similarly, the festival still needs a final title, which will eventually appear on posters and on the internet. In this respect, the heading of this newsletter and what is currently on our website, www.cg-2022.org is still provisional.

In a brainstorming session with the large planning team in February 2020, everyone was asked to express concisely what was important to them for the festival (photos of these terms were in the Easter Newsletter). At a meeting of the small planning team in May following terms were added:

Growing beyond yourself

Finding higher potential - finding humanity

Creating the future

Hallowing human beings - hallowing the earth

We would like to take up the process of reflection again at the coming meeting of the large planning team on Saturday, June 20 in Dortmund. While we will ensure that we observe the current Covid-19 regulations for meetings, we hope for a good participation even in these difficult times, because we have set ourselves the goal of finalizing the main theme and title by October 2020. At the large planning meeting on Nov 21, we want to start working on the content within that broad framework.

It would be helpful for our organisation if you could register for the large planning team at info@cg-2022.org. You will then receive detailed information about where the meetings will take place. If you are not able to attend personally, please feel free to send us your contributions and opinions by e-mail.

WOLFGANG JASCHINSKI, Public Relations for CG 2022

How we can move on in our world.

It is currently becoming clear how fragile our global social and economic way of life is. We have so far enjoyed the advantages of this system, but are now suffering under its disadvantages. For people in the Third World, the pandemic is much worse. For the first time in history, the whole of humanity is affected by the same crisis. Crises call for renewal.

For about 100 years, anthroposophy and The Christian Community have worked out of the ideals of spiritual science and religious renewal, which can also be effective in society in practical terms. We know, for example, of complementary medicine, biodynamic agriculture, Waldorf education, the threefold social order and community life. Parallel to this, in the last few decades movements have arisen to change social and economic life, striving for sustainability and limitation on growth, for a fairer global economy, for organic agriculture, for environmental protection and against climate change.

During this time there have been a number of calls for a change in lifestyles and economic structures. Surprisingly, these calls come from very different social currents. There might now be a chance to bring in our approaches and to come closer to the common goals in exchange with other movements.

Milestones on this path are, for example, three major conferences of anthroposophy and The Christian Community:

- Congress Festival "Social Future", June 17–20, 2021, Bochum, www.sozialezukunft.de
- Congress East-West "Heartbeat Europe", June 4–6, 2022, Vienna, www.ost-west.wien
- Festival "100 Years of The Christian Community" Oct 7–11, 2022, Dortmund, www.cg-2022.org

These three congresses (and perhaps others) could now take on a special significance by illustrating what anthroposophy can contribute to a renewal of social life and what spiritual impulses The Christian Community can bring.

A detailed version of this contribution can be found in our website at www.cg-2022.org/dialog

WOLFGANG JASCHINSKI, Herdecke Christian Community



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