

LOGOS

Consecrating Humanity

The Ukrainian Socrates,
Gregory (Hryhoriy) Skovoroda, wrote:

“The world has chased after me,
yet it could not catch me.
What is freedom?
What good is there in it?
Some say it is even made of gold.
It is by no means made of gold.
Take note!
Compared to freedom,
gold is but a heap of dirt.”

Donations for our congregations
in Ukraine:
Please send to The Christian
Community in your country,
marked “for Ukraine”

**MICHAELMAS CONFERENCE
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE
SECOND CENTURY OF THE
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

**OCTOBRE 7 - 11
DORTMUND 2022
GERMANY**

The Reappearance of Christ in our time

In the LOGOS newsletter of Advent 2021, Wolfgang Jaschinski and Thomas Stöckli 'started a team of interested people to work on the above topic.¹ Inica Loe and Stanley Swinkels have joined the team and these four have been working together in an open writing workshop: each participant wrote down their thoughts and together we developed this joint article. Feedback to this article is welcome.

Similarly, Michaël Merle² in South Africa called for small groups to work on this issue. He gave two presentations which were summarised by John-Peter Gernaat.³ They also produced a summary of Hans-Werner Schroeder's book on the reappearance of Christ in the etheric (*Von der Wiederkunft Christi heute*).

The following article is a short summary of longer manuscript that was written in mid-February, before the start of the war in Ukraine. Thus, the term "crisis" in this text does not specifically refer to this war. This topic would require a more detailed deepening

In 1910 Rudolf Steiner started speaking about this theme in the following way: "In 1899 the Kali Yuga expired, now we must settle into a new age. And what can then begin slowly prepares people for new capacities. ... People will learn to see the Christ by developing perception of the etheric, perceiving Christ who now no longer reaches into a physical body, but merely into an etheric body. It will be extremely important to grasp this event of the appearance of Christ. ... For otherwise humanity will have to wait a long time before it is be given such an opportunity again".³

On the occasion of the centenary of The Christian Community this theme is of vital importance. What did Rudolf Steiner mean when he said that the "reappearance of Christ in the etheric" is the "greatest mystery of our time", which we must on no account miss? It is not enough to quote Steiner, or to rely only on the religious traditions of The Christian Community.

In his book, Hans-Werner Schroeder⁴ explains how this phenomenon of our time was already initiated when, after the resurrection, Christ appeared to the disciples at Emmaus and to Paul in the Damascus experience. Schroeder goes on to summarize twentieth century

accounts of Christ appearing to people in extremely dangerous and hopeless situations, such as war. Raymond Moody made near-death experiences widely known: many people experienced a peaceful bright light at the time of death. These threshold experiences can be compared with those of Christ during Holy Week: the suffering on the cross, the feeling of being abandoned, – "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" – before the resurrection, before going to the Father. Christ's passion and resurrection seem to show how the paths could be for us too.

An awareness dawns that the hedonistic worldview of a permanently carefree life is an unrealistic illusion. Perhaps there is a reason, a purpose, why we are confronted with crises again and again in our own life, in communities, in social life, in The Christian Community, in nations, in humanity. Fundamentally we know crises are opportunities for transformation, possibilities for renewal. The radical consequence could be inferred from this is that distress, borderline situations and crises could lead to experiences of Christ, certainly not as a causal effect, but as a disposition, as a human opportunity.

Experiences of Christ, however, do not seem to be limited to extreme crises. Ulrich Goebel, for example, collected accounts of people who felt a helping power in difficult situations, including many that were not a matter of life and death.⁵ And Heinz Zimmermann⁶ emphasized: "I can actually only speak about what I can relate to in my own everyday life."

Today's life in relation to illness, death, social conflicts is marked worldwide by the Covid pandemic. Hundreds of millions are infected, most only become mildly ill though there can be long-lasting aftereffects, millions die. What do these deceased suffer on their last days, abandoned by loved ones, in poor countries without good medical care, in respiratory distress, suffocating. Humanity suffers: if not from disease, then from isolation, poor living conditions, social conflict, hunger, and war. Was Christ especially close to them? What do those who have died take with them into their coming lives? We must also not forget the hundreds of thousands of victims of cruel torture, human trafficking and modern slavery, (as well as those of the war in Ukraine). Is it not our way to Christ to empathize with their fate and to stand up for more humaneness?

If we look at our own lives and at our immediate environment, we find we are dependent on each other in vulnerable situations like sickness and crises. Everyone finds this in the course of their lives. There is a growing awareness of the interdependence of all people. The little things we do for others can be of great value to them. This caring for others like a good shepherd is at the core of what Christ stands for: true empathy. [These crises are moments in our lives where we can not only receive the mercy and love of Christ (breathing in), but conversely, we can strive to act like Christ himself by loving and caring for others and for nature (breathing out).

1 Thomas Stöckli edited the 3 volumes about the etheric Christ: *Das ätherische Christuswesen: Eine geisteswissenschaftliche Aufgabenstellung*. Verlag am Goetheanum. 1991

2 <http://www.christiancommunityjohannesburg.org.za/news-2021/the-true-nature-of-the-second-coming-of-the-christ-part-1>

3 Steiner, *The Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric* (first lecture), Steiner Books 2004.

4 Hans-Werner Schroeder, *Von der Wiederkunft Christi heute*. Verheißung und Erfüllung. Urachhaus, 1991.

5 Ulrich Goebel, Verlag Urachhaus, to be published 2022.

6 Heinz Zimmermann, *Das Goetheanum*, No. 20, 2010.

Within our team we have different experiences and views on what “etheric” means. These differences are not in opposition but are complementary.

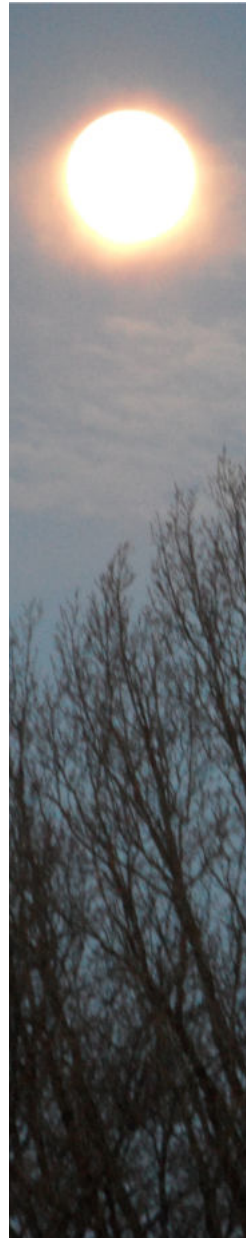
Some in the team emphasise their living approach to the etheric: they experience the growth of plants, the flow of water, the rhythms and flow of life; sensations or emotions are less important than the feeling of being healthy, of caring for things, people, animals, plants, food. Much of this we can practise in our daily lives, together with prayer, meditation and study. Every time we treat others, ourselves, animals and nature with reverence, we acknowledge the etheric, life-giving quality of everything we have been given. This path can complement our path to Christ through the Act of Consecration of Man.

Others in our team express uncertainty in understanding “etheric” and feel it is important to find the “right language” for today. We need to have the courage to speak a language that is accessible to (suffering) people who are looking for a “safe place” and for the heart at the centre, which is in Christ.

The outer world no longer gives us solid ground. People might trust governments, science, pharmaceuticals, social media, the opinion of their neighbours or their own internet research, but none of this can solve the existential anxiety caused by (measures against) the pandemic and other current and coming threats to humanity. We have to find the way to the etheric Christ as individuals with a healthy common sense, and ask the spiritual world and Christ to support us in this endeavour.

WOLFGANG JASCHINSKI (Hagen, Germany), Editor
INICA LOE (Zeist, Netherlands),
THOMAS STÖCKLI (Solothurn, Switzerland),
STANLEY SWINKELS (The Haag, Netherlands)

LOGOS: Organisational matters



In the late summer of last year, we in the preparatory team, together with the Circle of Seven, reaffirmed our decision to hold the big LOGOS conference: the conference will take place, we will make possible whatever is possible. After numerous contact restrictions, the actual, irreplaceable meaning and value of real encounters has been confirmed. Encounters between individuals, between people and nature and between human beings and God are a deeply justified longing in the hearts of countless people.

The war in Ukraine shows me once again – perhaps more clearly than ever before – that it is important for people to meet and in their time together, in their life together, find real meaning and real purpose. The Christian Community can contribute to this through worship, through the pursuit of knowledge, through appreciative conversation, but also through culture, celebration and humour. Meaning and purpose are not exhausted in the consideration of problems; they can also reveal themselves in opportunities that create beauty and joy: concerts, literature, dance and much more (sometimes this works even better).

The LOGOS conference in October will make a lot of things possible in this direction. The only condition is that we really want it and will make it happen.

You can now register for the conference, online or in writing. Early registration would be a great help to us. In view of possible travel restrictions (corona measures or the like), we will be accommodating in the event of cancellations, especially with regard to the refund of fees paid. It is much easier for us to cope with some cancellations than with a huge rush of last-minute bookings.

By Easter at the latest, we shall announce many individual events on the internet and, if possible, in other ways. We can already say that there will be ordinations of priests at the conference and there will be a rich programme with lectures, workshops, discussion groups, cultural events etc. – it will be worthwhile!

ULRICH GOEBEL (Priest, LOGOS-Planning team)



Angel over Kyiv
(Photo: *Ukraine Update*, No. 2, Yaroslawa and Ben Black)

Activities, dates

The LOGOS team usually meets on Fridays in Dortmund. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact us at info@logos-2022.org or by phone +49-2104-14 56 82.

In particular we welcome your suggestions to participate actively in the conference programme, for instance with lectures, workshops, seminars, music, art, culture etc.

Conference in Bonn June 3–5 2022

Pentecost Conference about the first Goetheanum with Armin and Frimut Husemann, The House of the Word Christian Community Bonn, Am Büchel 57, 53173 Bonn, Germany

Register before June 1, 2022. michael.rheinheimer@christengemeinschaft.org or phone: +49-228-3862 8109

LOGOS young people's planning team

Young people meet regularly to work on the theme of the conference as well as on an artistic interpretation of the LOGOS theme. Anyone is welcome.

For dates and details from Isabel and Nathanael Becker, youth@logos-2022.org, phone +49-157-3318 2810, @iyfestival (Instagram)

CG ON TOUR

May 24-30, 2022. Road trip through Germany for LOGOS-2022. Meeting with congregations and young people's groups around the theme of the big conference to start the second century of The Christian Community.

Preparatory meeting: April 29, 6 pm to May 1, 2 pm in Cologne, Weyertal 96, places are limited!

Registration and further information: Nathanael Becker youth@logos-2022.org, phone +49-157-3318 2810.

Conference office

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Impressum

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Young people's planning team

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Contributions welcome to newsletter@logos-2022.org
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Online options

**Listen to
"Where the Word becomes reality"**

Our LOGOS podcast is released on the 22nd of each month
<https://cg-2022.org/wp/index.php/logos-podcast/>

Suggestions for getting into the right mood

<https://logos-2022.org/wp/index.php/einstimmen/>

Go online to worldwide communities

<https://logos-2022.org/wp/index.php/gemeinden/> shows the internet pages of all churches and their references to "100 Years of The Christian community". We are happy if you provide us with the latest information.

Connect with the world

Links for different institutions, initiatives, newsletters from the worldwide Christian Community at <https://logos-2022.org/wp/index.php/links/>