

A wild flock of chickens or God's flock of sheep?

Today we have more Christian content available than ever before. Sermons, books, podcasts, videos, seminars, conferences, prayer groups, teaching materials, social media – some of it is valuable and helpful. But much of it is superfluous and even misleading. It is precisely because of this overwhelming abundance that we can lose sight of what really matters. We can even become so caught up in all this 'bustle' that we scarcely find time to listen to Jesus himself. That is why I believe that God's 'urgent call' to us at this time is quite simple and straightforward: 'Come back to my Word'.

ONE thing, however, is ESSENTIAL! Luke 10:42 (central, important, fundamental): to listen to his Word and to put it into practice!

Prayer is important – but our prayer must be guided by God's Word. A current example: the long drought. Many Christians react out of the flesh, out of the soul, and pray immediately and fervently for rain. Yet this merely treats the symptoms and does not tackle the root of the problem.

God sent the drought – or withheld the rain (Haggai 1:11) – to move us to repentance and to turn back to Him. What good is the rain to us if we then simply carry on as before?

Evangelism is important – but we do not proclaim our own thoughts, but the Gospel that has been entrusted to us. 'Come to Jesus and your life will be wonderful' also tends to reflect our desire to make it as easy and appealing as possible for the person we are speaking to. But did Jesus say that? Here, too, repentance and turning away from sin are part of the process!

Worship is important – but we worship the God whom we come to know through his Word. This is not primarily about pleasant feelings; rather, we worship God in the Holy Spirit and in truth.

The Word of God is not just one area amongst many. **IT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING.**



By proclaiming the whole Bible aloud, Jesus does not simply want to create yet another Christian initiative. He wants to help us hear God's voice for ourselves once again in Holy Scripture. That is also why we continue to organise Bible-reading campaigns and Bible marathons. And that is certainly the most important thing for this time! Not more information. Not more activities. Not yet more Christian initiatives. But to sit at Jesus' feet once more and listen to what He says. For: **'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'** John 1:1

W. W.

When God's Word is read aloud once more

Bible reading at the geographical centre of Germany

'God is calling us back to his Word.' Under this guiding principle, Christians are coming together in various places to read the entire Bible aloud – from the first page of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation.

What began in Switzerland in 2023 has since become a movement spreading across Europe and beyond. In more and more countries, Christians are meeting to read the Bible together – in churches, in public spaces, on mountains or at other special locations.

A simple idea with a powerful message: **God's Word must be heard once more.**

At the start of June, we were able to take part in one such Bible reading in **Niederdorf in Thuringia**, at the geographical centre of Germany. Christians from various parts of Germany had travelled there to read the Bible together for four days and nights. For us, this time was something very special. For me personally, it was very moving. I am German and have lived for many years

in Switzerland. That is why I was deeply delighted to be able to read God's Word aloud, together with Christians from various parts of Germany, right in the heart of my homeland. Regula's maternal ancestors also come from Germany.

The Word was proclaimed day and night. Time and again, the participants took turns so that the reading continued without interruption. Voice after voice, the Word of God became audible – sometimes calm and contemplative, sometimes with great joy and inner emotion, or with deep solemnity and holy awe.



Standing at the geographical centre of Germany and reading the Bible there held a special symbolic significance for me: **the Word of God does not belong on the margins. It belongs at the centre.**

At the centre of our personal lives. At the centre of our families.

At the centre of our congregations.

And also at the centre of our society.

In doing so, we also became newly aware of just how precious this book is. **It is alive. It speaks to our times, to our families, to our congregations and to our personal lives.**

Time and again, we see that such Bible readings bring people into fresh contact with God's Word. Some hear passages they had not heard before. Others discover familiar passages in a whole new light. And we ourselves are reminded that we should not live by our own wisdom, but by what God has said.

These four days and nights in Niederdorla have once again encouraged us to hold fast to this cause. Our desire is not simply to read the Bible aloud as often as possible in many countries. Our desire is for **people to develop a fresh hunger for God's Word** – for them to pick up the Bible themselves, read it, reflect on it and begin to live by it.

For we believe that when God calls us back to his Word, he is ultimately calling us **back to himself**.

That is why we wish to continue supporting this movement and to take part in it – in Switzerland, in Germany, in Europe and wherever Christians wish to read the Bible together.

From the first page to the last. Day and night. Together. Aloud. So that God's Word may be heard once more and fulfil the purpose for which it was sent.

From Tasmania to Copenhagen – when God's Word brings people together

A Bible marathon outside the Danish Parliament

Recently, at the invitation of our Danish brothers and sisters, we had the privilege of taking part in another Bible marathon in **Copenhagen**. Christians from all over Denmark had travelled there to read the Bible together for four days and nights – from Genesis to Revelation.

A special sign right in the heart of Copenhagen. During the day, the Bible was read at a location of special significance to the country: outside the Danish Parliament. And then came the highlight: as Revelation was being read, everyone gathered together outside the Danish Prime Minister's office. There, the final chapter of the Bible was read aloud – in Danish,

together, right up to the very last word. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister was not present. But the symbolic significance was nevertheless very powerful for us: **God's Word is proclaimed right at the heart of a country's political and social life.** Not as a political act, but as a spiritual sign. The venue for the proclamation was the junction between Parliament, the Royal Palace, chapel, the National Library and the Jewish Museum. Can you imagine how many tourists, readers, visitors to Parliament and students passed by there!?!? Simply brilliant!

From Tasmania to Copenhagen One encounter in particular moved us deeply. Among the participants was a sister from **Tasmania**, the island south of Australia. She wasn't in Denmark by chance and simply thought to herself: "Since I'm here anyway, I might as well take part in the Bible Marathon." No. She had **flown to Copenhagen specifically to take part in the Bible reading.** Her journey took around 25 hours. She arrived just in time for the Bible Marathon, took part – and as soon as the final word of Revelation, '**Amen**', had been read out together, she set off straight back to the airport. From Tasmania to Copenhagen and back – for the Word of God. This woman has become a powerful symbol for us: **God brings people together – across distances, countries and continents. Different – yet one**

As with the other Bible Marathons, Christians from a wide variety of church traditions came together in Copenhagen. Different congregations, different backgrounds and influences – but during those four days and nights, one thing became very clear: **the Word of God unites us.** We love Jesus Christ. And we love his Word. And Jesus himself is the **Word of God made flesh.** So differences suddenly become secondary. Not because they do not exist, but because something greater unites us: our shared love for Jesus and for his Word. As we read together, a unity emerges that can scarcely be organised. It simply grows out of people standing together before God's Word and listening. W.W.

During our stay, we also had the opportunity to meet a pastor who leads a congregation in **Christiania** – that extraordinary district of Copenhagen which emerged decades ago from the squatters' and hippie movements and remains completely autonomous to this day.

For many years, Christiania was also plagued by massive problems with drugs, violence and rival criminal gangs. There was a time when fear, drug dealing and even deadly violence dominated life there. For years, the police were unable to put a stop to it, despite spending a great deal of money and making a huge effort.

In a particular crisis facing the community, the believers decided to spend an entire night worshipping God and asking Him to intervene. Whilst the rest were 'celebrating' their rave... Time and again, they had to sing the same song. For hours, the same song – with the words: "**Thy kingdom come. YOU are changing the atmosphere!**" And then something happened which those involved still regard today as God's intervention: **the rival gangs withdrew. They vanished overnight and never returned! That is our God!!!!**

The situation changed fundamentally. Drug dealing and violence declined, and the neighbourhood was transformed. Today, there is a Christian congregation there. People gather for worship, pray and provide food for those in need. This pastor also took part in the Bible marathon. So we had the opportunity to get to know him and hear his story – and later even attend a service in Christiania. The following week, they proclaimed the entire New Testament!

For us, therefore, those days in Copenhagen were far more than just an event. They were a renewed encouragement to hold fast to what God laid on our hearts a few years ago: **God is calling us back to his Word.** From Switzerland to Denmark. From Europe to Tasmania. From churches and congregations to public spaces and right into the heart of cities and nations. People come together to read the Bible. Not because we are all the same. But because we **love the same Jesus.** And because we believe that his Word is just as alive and powerful today as it was back then. **From the first page to the last. Day and night. Together. Out loud. Right up to 'Amen'.** God made it very clear to us just how necessary this is through another encounter in the city centre, where a false king was pointed out.

Arabic music blares loudly across the huge square in the heart of Copenhagen's old town. Huge display boards have been set up. On them are depictions of how Allah created the universe, the eye, the stars... And behind them, this large sign

A friendly man with black hair came up to us to have a chat. He asked if we



“Tourists?” “No, we’ve come here to read the whole Bible out loud.” A brief silence, a touch of confusion – then he asked: “What does the Bible say?”

What a golden opportunity! Werner explained the whole Gospel to him. Then we prayed that he might recognise the truth about who the true God and King really is.

People, we must speak the truth once again! The Word of God must be heard again! We must proclaim it to the visible and invisible world! We must stand by it! It is high time! We do not know how much longer we will have this freedom...

Let’s do it – with faith, with enthusiasm, with mercy and love, yet in all truth and clarity!

R.W.

Dates:

- 20 September: Federal Day of Thanksgiving, Repentance and Prayer, 3.00 pm
We will pray together outside government buildings, town halls and local council buildings. For more information, visit: www.bettag.ch / jeune-federal.ch/ / digiuno-federale.ch
- **Saturday 26 September, 1.30 pm–5.00 pm**
Celebration of thanksgiving for 30 years of Abraham’s ministry FCG Rotkreuz; Lettenstr. 7; 6343 Rotkreuz
- 11–15 October: Bible reading in Armenia
- 31 October – 4 November Bible reading in Stein am Rhein and hopefully many other places
- 11–17 December 2026 Prayer mission to Spitsbergen
- 1–7 February 2027 Days of Fellowship in Aeschi Theme: ‘Living and Praying in the Spirit’
After the ‘milk’, this time there will be ‘solid food’



<https://www.youtube.com/@WernerWoiwode-Abi>

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