Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Theology in Today’s World - A Way between Fundamentalism and Secularism?

July, 22-27, 2008 Prague

Location of the Congress:
Vysoká škola zemědělská (Czech University of Agriculture)
Kamýcká 129, 165 21 Prague 6 - Suchdol

Presented by: The International Bonhoeffer Society, in cooperation with the English Language, German, Polish, and Dutch Sections, hosted by the Hussite Theological Faculty, Prague and with the support in Prague of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren and the International Baptist Seminary

Chairman: Dr. Keith Clements
Acting President in Prague: Rev. John Matthews

Planning Committee:
Rev. Dr. Keith Clements (Bristol, UK)
Rev. John Matthews (Apple Valley, MN, USA)
Prof. ThDr. Jan B. Lasek (Prague, CZ)
ThDr. Mgr. Noemi Bravena (Prague, CZ)
Dr. Joel Burnell (Breslau, PL)
Sup. i.R. Martin Hüneke (Bad Iburg, D)
Prof. Dr. Jan Ligus, Ph.D. (Prague, CZ)
Prof. Dr. Kirsten Busch Nielsen (Copenhagen, DK)
Rev. Doc. Dr. Parush R. Parushev (Prague, CZ)
Prof. Dr. Christiane Tietz (Mainz, D)
Mgr. Katerina Vodickova (Congress Office) (Prague, CZ)

Congress Languages: English, German. Simultaneous translation provided during the plenary sessions.

Internet: www.bonhoeffercongress2008.cuni.cz
Congress Office: +420 737 188 771
Dear Friend,

Welcome to the 10th International Bonhoeffer Congress! If this is your first experience of such an event you are especially welcome, and we hope that you will quickly feel at home with the many other participants who are gathering from all continents to share, study and celebrate the legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. If you are among those who have attended previous Congresses – perhaps even going back to the first in Kaiserswerth 1971 – we hope that this one will be no less stimulating and fruitful for you as you meet old friends again and make new friendships.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Theology in Today’s World: A Way between Fundamentalism and Secularism?** The theme of this Congress is itself a testimony to the continuing challenge and contemporary relevance of Bonhoeffer in the first decade of the third millennium. The title has a question-mark. Let us not expect any easy answers but perhaps, in keeping with Bonhoeffer’s style, even more provocative questions.

But it is also in keeping with Bonhoeffer that a Congress honouring his name should touch us at several levels in our *gemeinsames Leben*, our life together. There will be serious scholarly presentations and discussions, informal personal encounters, times of relaxation and cultural experiences, prayer and worship. We hope therefore you will feel that the program devised by the Planning Committee and our hosts in the Hussite Theological Faculty in Prague in some measure reflects what Bonhoeffer called the *polyphony* of life.

Finally, welcome also to the city of Prague! Here we meet in one of Europe’s most historic and beautiful cities. It is a city whose history carries many memories of darkness and light, oppression and conflict, resistance and martyrdom, courage and creativity, from centuries past and in living memory. But it is also a city that encapsulates so much of the contemporary hopes of Europe and the wider world today. Let us both enjoy all that it offers us, and use its context to ask again what for Dietrich Bonhoeffer was the question of the responsible person, ‘How will the coming generation live?’

Yours in peace and friendship,

Keith Clements - Chairman
John Matthews - Acting President in Prague
**Program**

**Tuesday, July 22**

Arrival and registration

7.00 pm Opening of the Congress
Moderator: John Matthews

Welcome from representatives of the academic, diplomatic and church community in Prague:

Prof. RNDr. Václav Hampl, Dr.Sc, Rector of the Charles University
Prof. ThDr. Jan B. Lasek, Dean of the Hussite Theological Faculty
Helmut Elfenkämper, German Ambassador in Prague
Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus, Ecumenical Secretary of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB)

8.00 pm Opening Lecture
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Jürgen Moltmann DD (Tübingen, D)
Theology with Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The Letters from Prison

9.30-11.00 pm Welcome Drink

**Wednesday, July 23**

7.00-8.00 Breakfast

**Subject of the day: Fundamentalism and Secularism**

8.00-8.30 Morning prayer: Alice Bond (USA)

9.00-12.30 Plenary Session
Moderator: Nancy Lukens

9.00
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Martin Marty (Chicago, USA)
Bonhoeffer's Project: Fundamental, Not Fundamentalist; Secular, Not Secularist

10.00
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Miklós Tomka (Budapest, HU)
Secularising or Desecularization? The Transformation of Religion amidst Modern Diversity

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Plenary Discussion

12.30-2.00 Lunch

2.00-2.30 Coffee
**Seminars on the subject of the day**

**Group 1: Perspectives on Europe, the United States and South Africa**

**Moderator:** John de Gruchy  
**Seminar Language:** English

2.30-3.30  
Frits de Lange (Univ. of Kampen, NL)  
In the name of Christ: farewell to supernaturalism. Bonhoeffer and the future of Christianity in secularised Europe

3.45-4.45  
Stephen Haynes (Rhodes College, USA)  
What about the Prison Writings? American Evangelicals and Bonhoeffer’s Tegel Theology

5.00-6.00  
Robert Vosloo (Univ. of Stellenbosch, RSA)  
Bonhoeffer, beleaguered identity and the call for new authority. A South African theological perspective

**Group 2: What is the human being?**

**Moderator:** Janusz Witt  
**Seminar Language:** German

2.30-3.30  
Marie-Theres Igrec (Univ. of Vienna, AU)  
Ek-klesia, Herausgerufene – in die Welt hinein. Die Theologie Bonhoeffers zwischen Säkularismus und Fundamentalismus

Group 3: Fundamentalism and Christian Response

**Moderator:** LeRoy Walters  
**Seminar Language:** English

2.30-3.30  
Tom Greggs (Univ. of Chester, UK)  
Religionless Christianity and Theo-politics: What Bonhoeffer’s Theology yields to a World of Fundamentalisms

3.45-4.45  
Jeffrey Pugh (Elon Univ., USA)  
Religionless Christianity? Reading Bonhoeffer in Troubled Times

5.00-6.00  
Jenny McBride (Univ. of Virginia, USA)  
Living Beyond the Knowledge of Good and Evil: Bonhoeffer’s Challenge for North American Christians

3.45-4.45  
Bernd Vogel (Hann. Münden, D)  
Der Mensch schlechthin – Humanität nach Dietrich Bonhoeffer jenseits von Fundamentalismus und Säkularismus

5.00-6.00  
Susanne Hennecke (Univ. of Utrecht, NL)  
„Manche Dinge muss man eben alleine tun ...“: Eine gender-theoretische Auslegung von Bonhoeffers Schöpfung und Fall
Group 4: **Embracing the world**  
**Moderator:** Christiane Tietz  
**Seminar Language:** English

2.30-3.30  
Glen Stassen (Fuller Theological Seminary, USA)  
Why Did These Pass the Test in the Laboratory of History?

3.45-4.45  
Jens Zimmermann (Trinity Western Univ., CA)  
Bonhoeffer’s Incarnational Humanism

5.00-6.00  
Peter Frick (Univ. of Waterloo, CA)  
Nietzsche’s Uebermensch and Bonhoeffer’s mündiger Mensch.  
Are they of any Use for a Postmodern Christian Anthropology?

---

Group 5: **Pluralism, Secularism and Notions of Future**  
**Moderator:** Henry Mottu  
**Seminar Language:** English

2.30-3.30  
Gaylon Barker (Molloy College, USA)  
Without God, We Live with God: Listening to Bonhoeffer’s Witness in Today’s Public Square

3.45-4.45  
Philip G. Ziegler (Univ. of Aberdeen, UK)  
Eschatology and Secularity in Bonhoeffer’s Late Writings

5.00-6.00  
Andrzej Malachowski (Pontifical Univ. Wroclaw, P)  
“Evangelical radicalism” in the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

6.30-8.00 pm Dinner

---

8.00 pm Panel Discussion  
“The Place of Religion in the Public Sphere Today”  
**Moderator:** Jens Zimmermann

**Participants:**  
Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm (Bamberg, D)  
Prof. Dr. Joseph George (Bangalore, IND)  
Sister Maria Teresa Montes-Lara (MEX)  
Dr. Frank Rees (Victoria, AUS)  
Rev. Jan Mamula (Strašnice, CZ)

---

**Thursday, July 24**  
7.00-8.00 Breakfast

8.00-8.30 **Morning prayer:** Joel Burnell (PL)

Excursion Day in Prague
**Friday, July 25**

7.00-8.00 Breakfast

**Subject of the day: The Church - “in the middle of the village”? (Letter 30. 4. 1944)**

8.00-8.30 *Morning prayer: The Czech Women’s Ecumencial Forum*

**9.00-12.30 Plenary Session**
Moderator: Ernst Feil

9.00
Prof. Dr. Barry Harvey (Baylor University, USA)
Life in Exile, Life in the Middle of the Village. Dietrich Bonhoeffer on a Post-Christendom Ecclesiology

10.00
Prof. Dr. Reinhold Mokrosch (Univ. Osnabrück, D)
“God is beyond in the midst of our life”: In light of youth’s images and experiences of God, is this principle of Bonhoeffer's teaching still relevant today?

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Plenary Discussion

12.30-2.00 Lunch

2.00-2.30 Coffee

**Seminars on the subject of the day**

**Group 1: Engaged Existence**
Moderator: Stephen Plant
Seminar Language: English

2.30-3.30
Charles Marsh (Univ. of Virginia, USA)
Bonhoeffer in America: New Historical Perspectives and Theological Perspectives

3.45-4.45
Marianne Hale (Korowa Angl. Girl’s School, Melbourne, AUS)
Young Australians Living Theology & Speaking the Truth to Power: Engaging a collaborative spirit of advocacy, ecumenism and service in schools as a ‘concrete manifestation’ of 'the church which exists for others.'

**Group 2: Questions of Spirituality and Ecology**
Moderator: Geffrey Kelly
Seminar Language: English

2.30-3.30
Craig Gardiner (South Wales Baptist College, UK)
Worship in the Middle of the Village

3.45-4.45
Karin Heller (Withworth Univ., USA)
Bonhoeffer’s Prison Theology: A Resource for a Renewal of Ecumenical Spirituality
5.00-6.00
Robert Steiner (Cape Town, RSA)
Antaeus is feeling the heat: Bonhoeffer's 'yes' to the earth in the light of the church's struggle to respond to the earth's distress

Group 3: Moral Responsibility/Approaching the Youth
Moderator: Kirsten Busch Nielsen
Seminar Language: English/German

2.30-3.30
Illana Huckell (Calgary Univ. of CA, USA)
Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45) and Simone Weil (1909-43): Perspectives on Suffering

3.45-4.45
Nancy Lukens (Univ. of New Hampshire, USA)
Dietrich Bonhoeffer the Novelist and 'The View from Below' – A Reflection on Approaches to Teaching Bonhoeffer’s Prison Theology

5.00-6.00
Noemi Bravena (Charles Univ. of Prague, CZ)
Jugendliche und Kirche

Group 4: Ecclesiology and Judaism
Moderator: Ursula O'Donovan
Seminar Language: English/German

2.30-3.30
Markus Höfner (Univ. of Bochum, D)
'Mitten im Dorf'. Kritische Ueberlegungen zum weltlichen Ort der Kirche nach Dietrich Bonhoeffer

3.45-4.45
Andreas Pangritz (Univ. of Bonn, D)
Die sog. „Judenfrage“ in der Diskussion zwischen Wilhelm Vischer, Karl Barth und Dietrich Bonhoeffer im Jahr 1933

5.00-6.00
Henry Mottu (Univ. of Geneva, CH)
Bonhoeffer and Jewish Thought: Is there a Relationship between Bonhoeffer and Martin Buber?

Group 5: Social Justice
Moderator: Peter Frick
Seminar Language: English/German

2.30-3.30
Christine Schließer (Univ. of Tübingen, D)
Verantwortung nach Bonhoeffer: Armut als Fallbeispiel
3.45-4.45
Vince Pastro (Kent, USA)
Costly Grace. The Church as Sanctorum Communio from the
Perspective of the Latin American Poor

5.00-6.00
Craig Hemphill (Houston, USA)
The Tension of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Prison Theology Regarding
Social Reflections Concerning Race and Poverty: Provoking
Action Toward Social Justice Beyond Secular and Religious Jargon

6.30-8.00 Dinner

Saturday, July 26
7.00-8.00 Breakfast

Subject of the day: The Church - in the “open air of intellectual
discussion” (Letter 3. 8. 1944)

8.00-9.00 Morning prayer: Gottfried Brezger (D)

9.00-12.30 Plenary Session
Moderator: Joel Burnell

9.00
Prof. Dr. Clifford Green (Boston, USA)
Beyond Fundamentalism, Nationalism, Religion, and Secularism.
Bonhoeffer's Quest for Authentic Christianity.

10.00
Prof. Dr. Kirsten Busch Nielsen (Copenhagen, DK)
Critique of Church and Critique of Religion in Bonhoeffer's Late
Writings

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Plenary Discussion

12.30-2.00 Lunch

2.00-2.30 Coffee
Seminars on the subject of the day

Group 1: Between Fundamentalism and Relativism / Art Works inspired by Bonhoeffer
Moderator: Stephen Haynes
Seminar Language: English/German

2.30-3.30
Geoffrey Kelly (La Salle Univ., USA)
Bonhoeffer’s Christ-Centered, Religionless Christianity and his Critique of Religio-Political Fundamentalism

3.45-4.45
Joel Burnell (Wroclaw, PL)
The Promise of Bonhoeffer’s Prison Theology for the Polish Church Today

5.00-6.00
Jaroslav Uhel (Banska Bystrica, SK)
Quellen der Metaphern (Beziehung eines Bildes zu dem Wort)

Group 2: Democracy and Ecumenics in Eastern Europe
Moderator: Frits de Lange
Seminar Language: English/German

2.30-3.30
András Csepregi (Ev. Luth. Univ. Budapest, HU)
Democracy: from Below or from Above? The Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Democratic Process in Hungary

3.45-4.45
Janusz Witt (University of Economics, Wroclaw, PL)
Gedanken zur Oekumene in Polen und zur Krise im deutsch-polnischen Dialog - Oder: Ueber die Bedeutung der Beschäftigung mit dem deutschen Widerstand

Group 3: General Questions of Bonhoeffer’s Ethics / Interreligious Dialogue
Moderator: Martin Rumscheidt
Seminar Language: English/German

2.30-3.30
Michael de Jonge (Emory University, USA)
A Lutheran Concept of Revelation as the Ground for Concrete Ethics: Act and Being in Bonhoeffer’s Later Thought

3.45-4.45
Hans Pfeifer (Düsseldorf, D)
Dietrich Bonhoeffers ’Interims’-Ethik.

5.00-6.00
Gottfried Brezger (Bonhoeffer House Berlin, D)
Wie kann Christus der Herr auch der Religionslosen werden? – Inklusiv gewendete Christologie bei Dietrich Bonhoeffer
**Group 4: Questions of Ecology, Peace, and Sexual Ethics**  
**Moderator:** H. Gaylon Barker  
**Seminar Language:** English

2.30-3.30  
Mark Alterman/Tabitha Alterman (Manhattan Christian College/New York, USA)  
Bonhoeffer and Ecology: Spirituality, Ethics, Theology

3.45-4.45  
Max Champion (Mt Waveerley, AUS)  
Nihilism and Nature: How Bonhoeffer’s ‘Theology of the Body’ illuminates the Contemporary Debate over Homosexuality

5.00-6.00  
Petr Macek (Charles Univ. of Prague, CZ)  
Divine Worldliness versus Human Godlikeness and the Dilemma of Bonhoeffer’s Christian Peacemaking

**Group 5: Christology and Fundamentalism**  
**Moderator:** Parush Parushev  
**Seminar Language:** English

2.30-3.30  
Angela Bierly (Luther Seminary St. Paul, USA)  
Bonhoeffer’s Christology and its ethical implications in dialogue with Letters and Papers from Prison

3.45-4.45  
Annette Mosher (VU Amsterdam, NL)  
Bonhoeffer and Evil: An Answer to Religious Fundamentalism?

5.00-6.00  
Carlos R. Caldas (Presb. Univ., Sao Paulo, BR)  
Bonhoeffer in Brazil. An Analysis of Brazilian Neopentecostalism from a Bonhoefferian Perspective

6.30-8.00 Dinner

8.00 pm **Closing Lecture**  
**Moderator:** Christiane Tietz  
Prof. Dr. John W. de Gruchy (Cape Town, South Africa)  
Beyond Letters and Papers from Prison

**Sunday, July 27**

10.00 Service in the Hussite Church  
Leader: Patriarch of the Czech Hussite Church ThDr. Tomáš Butta, Th.D. (Prague)  
Sermon: Rev. John Matthews (Apple Valley, Minnesota, USA)  
Freiberg Choir: Night Voices in Tegel (by Hartmut Schmidt)

**End of the Congress**


**Conversation Sessions**

Time and Place to be announced during the Congress

Davidson Juma Akhonya (Redemption Center Church/Theol. Association of Kenya)

The Challenge of Ecumenism in Africa

Robert G. Bates (Oxford Brookes University)

The Confessing Church Seminaries 1935-45

Carlos Filho Caldas (Mackenzie Presbyterian University)

Latin-American Theology - an Overview

Max Lloyd Champion (Uniting Church in Australia)

Confessing Movements Today

Tryn Clark (Bryn Athyn College Theological School, PA)

The Christology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and of Emanuel Swedenborg: A Comparison and Contrast: with Discussion of their Writing about Who Came and Why?

Joseph George (United Theological College)

Fundamentalism in India Today

Jimoh Kuku; Musibau Olawale (WELL Nigeria Limited)

Ecology and Globalisation

Martin Lind (University of Lund)

We live for God, with God and without God - Reflection from a Swedish Perspective

Timothy Sanders Mallard (University of Wales)

The Ecclesiology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Potentialities for Shaping a Public Theology in America

John Hamilton McCabe (Connector Global, Surrey)

Bonhoeffer the unknown Pastor for Pastors; Bonhoeffer’s Final Journey

Michael James Pietsch (Lutheran Church of Australia)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Christology as a Framework for University Chaplaincy

Matthew Puffer (Princeton Theological Seminary)

Bonhoeffer’s Doctrine of Election in his Theological Ethics

Rosé van der Kaap-Busscher (Bonhoeffer College Enschede/Utrecht)

Bonhoeffer's "Schöpfung und Fall"

LeRoy B. Walters (Georgetown University)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer and National Socialist "Euthanasia"
Travel in Prague

This page provides information about travelling in Prague, the Czech Capital. Prague is not a very large city, but this does not mean that one cannot get lost. Below you will find information on several specific ways to get to the Agricultural University. You may find maps and timetables on the Congress website.

At each underground, bus or tram station you will find yellow ticket machines where you may purchase tickets. For each trip you will need a ticket for 26 CZK (Czech crowns) per person. The ticket allows you to change lines without limits and is valid for 75 minutes on working days. You must validate the ticket prior to use by inserting it in the smaller yellow machines situated near the station entrance or inside the bus or tram. Do not forget to validate your ticket at your first entry into the public transportation!

Be careful and look after your luggage and wallets! Beware of pickpockets!

Prague’s airport Ruzyně is situated on the north-western corner of Prague. Unfortunately the underground doesn’t go right to the airport, so you will have to take one of the available buses. There is a special bus line AE, and normal city lines 119 and 254. All of them will take you to the Dejvická station. Get off the bus at Dejvická and take the stairs (down) to reach the vestibule. Follow the signs that point towards Suchdol, go up the stairs, and board bus 107 (Suchdol) or 147 (Výhledy). Your destination is Zemědělská univerzita (Agricultural University).

The easiest way to get to the Congress site from the airport is by taxi. Some taxi stands in the city give guaranteed prices. Unfortunately, this is not the case at the airport. The best taxi company is AAA Taxi. A trip from the airport should cost around 440 Czech crowns (CZK), from the train stations it will cost more. Ask the driver to take you to Zemědělská univerzita (KAMÝCKÁ 129 Prague 6 - SUCHDOL), and to drop you off at the Congress registration office (follow signs once you reach the Campus).

For those coming by car, you can get precise directions to the Agricultural University online at www.mapy.cz or at Google-maps, by entering the following address as your destination: Either the name of the Ag. University: Zemědělská univerzita, Prague (Praha) or the street address: KAMÝCKÁ 129, Praha, Czech Republic.

The Central station (Hlavní nádraží) is situated in the city centre. To get to the Congress site from here, take underground line C (red line). Entrances are inside the Station hall. Please, be careful when choosing the direction of travel!!! You need to go in the direction of the stations Museum and Ládví. At the Museum station you must change to line A (green line), which can be reached by taking the escalators. Be sure you are travelling in the direction of Dejvická station. Disembark at Dejvická, and use the stairs to reach the vestibule. From there follow the signs pointing towards the Suchdol bus stop, and take bus 107 (Suchdol) or 147 (Výhledy). Your destination is Zemědělská univerzita (Agricultural University).
The station **Masarykovo nádraží** is situated in the city centre near the Central station (**Hlavní nádraží**). From **Masarykovo nádraží** take underground line **B** (yellow line). The entrance is outside the Station Hall on the right. Board line **B** in the direction of **Zličín**, and get off at **Můstek** station. Take the stairs to the upper level, where you will change to line **A** (green line). Be sure you are travelling in the direction of **Dejvická** station. Disembark at **Dejvická**, and use the stairs to reach the vestibule. From there follow the signs pointing towards the **Suchdol** bus stop, and take bus **107** (Suchdol) or **147** (Výhledy). Your station is **Zemědělská univerzita** (**Agricultural University**).

Another possibility is to take **tram nr. 26**, which goes directly to **Dejvická** station. Get off at **Dejvická**, cross the street and walk back towards the big **roundabout**. On your left you will see a bus station. From there take bus **107** (Suchdol) or **147** (Výhledy) to the station **Zemědělská univerzita** (**Agricultural University**).

**Book Exhibition**

During the conference, a book exhibition will be established. A number of main publishing houses will present recent publications and offer books for sale.

In order to facilitate scholarship and communication among the participants we invite the congress presenters and participants to bring copies of their own publications and to present them in the book exhibit. For practical reasons, it will not be possible to sell and buy those books by presenters and participants. But please, do bring those of your own publications which the other congress participants should know about.

**We are very grateful to the following sponsors of the Congress**

- Baptist Union of Great Britain Tithe Fund, UK
- Gary und Lee Blount, USA
- Dr. med. Horst Brunöhler, Bielefeld, D
- The Dorthy Porteous Charitable Trust, Bristol, UK
- Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren
- Fondation pour L’Aide au Protestantisme réformé, Geneva, CH
- OStDir Heinrich Gölle, Buchbrunn, D
- Internationale Bonhoeffer-Gesellschaft,
  Sektion Bundesrepublik Deutschland
- International Bonhoeffer Society,
  English Language Section
- Kirchenkreis Burgdorfer Land, D
- The Mallinckrodt Foundation, London, GB
- Prof. Dr. Rainer Mayer, Stuttgart, D
- Prof. Dr.-ing. Helmut Reihlen, Berlin, D
- Dan und Christine Rice, USA
- Pfr. Eckart Schaade, Hamburg, D
- Tyndale Baptist Church, Bristol, UK