

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS WITH OTHERS...

Dear Friends,



End of September 2017

This extremely interesting book has recently been published – well worth reading:

“From Austria into all the World” („Von Oesterreich in alle Welt”)

<https://www.bucer.de/ressource/details/bonner-querschnitte-272017-ausgabe-488.html>

“A History of Austrian Protestant World Mission”

Reviews and an interview with the author

Introduction

(Bonn 14.08.2017). As early as the time of the Reformation there were important efforts at mission by an Austrian who went to the Balkans as far as the Ottoman Empire.

Also some of the influential figures in the early Protestant missionary movement, such as Justian von Welz and the ancestors of Nikolaus Ludwig, Graf von Zinzendorf [‘Graf’ is a title equivalent to Count] originally came from Austria. In the 19th century some of the first Austrian Protestant missionaries went out to the mission field to Africa and Asia.

The ‘Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft’ (name of the publisher: ‘Publishing House for Culture & Science’) has now published a “History of Austrian Protestant World Mission” by Frank Hinkelmann.



In an attractive way the book portrays the varied history of Austrian Protestant World Mission right up to the end of the 20th century.

The appendix includes a good number of unknown and hard to locate documents, e.g. the biography of the first Burgenland missionary, Samuel Boehm, which is not available in Austria.

The book closes with a list of all Austrian Protestant missionaries up to 1999.

Interview with Frank Hinkelmann

What is your new book about?

The book offers an overview of the Austrian contribution to Protestant world mission from the time of the Reformation right up to the end of the 20th century.

There have only been a few publications to date, covering mainly the relationship between Austria and the Basel Mission, but up till now there has been no over-all account, reviewing in particular the evangelical revival in world missionary work since the 1970s.

In your book there are names which although known from German missionary history are not particularly thought to be connected with Austria.

Why is this?

Hans Ungnad, Freiherr von Sonnegg ['Freiherr' is a title equivalent to Baron], founder of the Bible Institute in Bad Urach (S. Germany) was until 1555 the head of government of the state of Styria before emigrating to Wuerttemberg (state in S. Germany) through reasons connected with his faith where he established the first Bible institute with the aim of printing among other things literature for missionary expeditions to the Balkans.

Justinian von Welz, who first put forward the idea of creating a missionary society, is also an Austrian by birth and came from an influential noble family in Carinthia.

When he was a small child his parents emigrated to Germany also for reasons connected with their faith.

Last but not least: Nikolaus Ludwig, Reichsgraf von Zinsendorf, had Austrian roots. His grandfather emigrated for reasons connected with his faith from Mostviertel in Lower Austria to Germany, and Nikolaus still held property in Wachau (region by the Danube to the west of Vienna).

What discoveries caught you by surprise during the research for your book?

I was surprised to find out that a number of leading figures in the missionary world in the second half of the 19th century and at the start of the 20th century stayed in Vienna: missionary to China, Karl Gützlaff, visited Vienna, also Hudson Taylor stayed there, as did John Mott.

Mott's lecture from 1913 is included in the appendix.

You mention the appendix – it takes up nearly half of the book – why is so much detail included?

It was important to me, and useful, to make a lot of unknown source material on Austrian missionary history available to a wider readership, e.g. the letters sent home by Burgenland missionary Samuel Böhm from the time he travelled out to Africa in 1857 to his death in 1859.

These appeared in a German language church newspaper which was published in Budapest at the time – but who knows about this today?

These letters give us a rare glimpse into the challenges of missionary life in the 19th century and to some people they are an inspiration in matters such as prayer and sending churches, which we can still learn from today.

The appendix also offers an account of all the Austrian Protestant missionaries who have been active on the mission field for longer than twelve months and who were sent out before 2000.

Thank you for talking to us!

About the author

Frank Hinkelmann studied evangelical theology in Gießen (Germany) and Apeldoorn (NL) and did a doctorate at the Free University in Amsterdam.

His focus of research was in the area of missionary history, the evangelical movement, pietism and Austrian 'Konfessionskunde' (the study of the basics of and differences between various Christian denominations – Catholic, Protestant, Free church).

His full-time job is as a leading member of an international and non-denominational missionary society.

He has been the chairman of the Austrian Evangelical Alliance for 12 years and he is also president of the European Evangelical Alliance as well as Secretary of the International Council of the Worldwide Evangelical Alliance.

He is an honorary vicar in the Lutheran Church and lives with his family in Lower Austria.

Reviews

“Those who are interested in missionary history will know the ‘big names’ such as William Carey, David Livingstone, Adoniram Judson and possibly Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg from Germany.

But who knows anything about missionaries from Austria?

‘From Austria into all the World’ will surprise you in regard to the part that Austria has played in Protestant world mission.

What is more, the ‘Letters from Africa’ give a rare and honest insight into the problems experienced by an Austrian pioneer missionary.

A list of all the Protestant missionaries from Austria right up to the turn of the century rounds off this history of Austrian Protestant world mission.”

Wolfgang Binder who has been the Director of Wycliffe Austria for many years



“This book fills a gap in a range of publications about missionary history. It is unique in its focus on the Austrian part of Protestant world mission – from Freiherr Hans-Ungnad von Sonnegg right up to the recent past. It can’t be valued or appreciated too highly

Johann Vogelnik, Representative of the Lutheran Mission in Austria

“As a missionary co-worker to whom mission ‘from Austria into all the world’ is a deeply held heart’s desire, I am fascinated by the carefully researched details on Austrian missionary history.

With his 164–page book Frank Hinkelmann closes a gap by the summing this up from the tentative missionary beginnings in the time of the Reformation (Primus Truber) right up to the evangelical revivals in world mission in the final decades of the 20th century.

With regard to all sending churches, associations of church fellowships and missionary societies Hinkelmann has succeeded in producing an interesting overview and a very readable and exciting insight into four centuries of Austrian missionary history.

I am a citizen of Burgenland by choice and I was particularly moved by the comprehensive biography and personal reports, published for the first time, of the Burgenland missionary to Africa, Samuel Böhm – a man from a lowly background. I wish this book a wide distribution and I rejoice from the bottom of my heart that missionary history is still being written in Austria.”

Hans-Georg Hoprich, Leader of the Foreign Missions Team (TAM) of the Association of Evangelical Churches in Austria (BEG)

Our next ‘TT’ (98) is coming soon.

This comes with all our love,



*Hans-Georg,
Margret & Annika
Hoprich*

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