

## The challenge of the coronavirus pandemic Meeting Zoom Friends of TfE 14.11.2020

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The coronavirus pandemic poses enormous challenges to Communities and spiritual Movements, just as it does to the Church and society. How did we, as charismatic Communities in Germany respond to these challenges?

### 1. Shock

For the last years we have had the prophetic intuition that shocks will come about. In Germany, besides *TfE*, we invite a wider participation for a Christian Meeting. In the invitation for 2017, among other things, we wrote:

**We have the impression that we are nearing a time of ‘shocks and shakes’. A time of trial, of judgement, and this will give rise to completely new beginnings. We believe that God is calling us together now, so that we can remain together with one mind and so be prepared for when these events will take place.**

We are living the pandemic as one of these shocks.

In Hebrews 12, 26, we read: “Once more I will shake...”

God shakes **so that the unshakeable may emerge**. Our faith is **purified** in that we do not put our trust in **false certainties**, but in what is eternal, indestructible. “Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken” (Heb 12, 28).

My question is: **how much needs to be shaken so that the impulse of the Holy Spirit, whom He placed in the spiritual communities, may manifest itself?** What parts of the **image of the Church** need to be shaken so that the **eternal Gospel is placed at the centre, thus making the Church adequate for the future?**

### 2. Prayer and turning to God

**With the pandemic God took away from us the practicability.** I have noticed that many spiritual Movements became aware that **they need to stop and pray. Many prayer initiatives came about.**

Many in Germany felt that the Churches failed to give a direction. Then, all of a sudden, the Movements had an intuition: why don't we pray together? **“Germany prays together”** was the response.

TfE has had a network for years; then, in just 10 days, together with other networks, a wide **network between Churches and Movements** was in place, and this network was used to invite as many persons as possible to pray together in preparation for Easter. Besides the contribution of these networks, the input of the charismatic Johannes Hartl, whom we have met last year during the Friends' Meeting, was essential for the realization of such a prayer throughout Germany. We think that a million persons took part, thus providing an unequivocal sign of faith in our Country. Prior to Pentecost, Switzerland and Austria joined in, as we could pray the Holy Spirit in various spiritual ways. Indeed, a unity in the Spirit came about, something unthinkable only a few years ago.

**God permits that we are shaken. He takes away from us the practicability, in order to awaken us, our Communities, our Churches and our society. He wants to 'straighten us' and to 'orient us' toward Him. Prayer led us toward God, and we gave Him the first place; at the same time we had the opportunity to bear public witness.**

**From Christians, persons expected a word that indicates a transcendence that goes beyond the social dimension. The call to pray provided this transcendental dimension.**