

Herrnhaag: 6 nations together with Bibliodrama around the stories about Jesus Report on the Bibliodrama Training in Herrnhaag 11.-19. August 2025

At the end of the nine days we had a little feast and celebrated the presentation of the certificates for the participation at the training for the processual Bibliodrama method from 11th to 19th August 2025 in Herrnhaag with the instructors Beata Chrudzimska from Poland and Katharina R uhe from Germany. Playfull we laughed, they congratulated each other and we danced. Our DJ's were two young South Africans, Benito and Leighlin. Our Kenyan translator taught us a dance from his homeland. He translated during the training for one of the Tanzanians, Lusia, from English to Swahili and back. All ten participants decided to continue learn Bibliodrama together with the two trainers, if possible next year and in between online.

As you know one of the organisers and leaders for Bibliodrama should have been Brother Trevor Engel from South Africa who lived in Germany and was nearly finished with his education as a trainer in Bibliodrama. But in March he suddenly died. He was burried in South Africa. We organised two memorials, one in English and another one in English and Swahili, to remember what he meant for us and let him go to his heavenly father. The participants of the preworkshops and some family members were together. This was very moving and sad. But it was necessary to go on with our project which would have been in his senses. The polish co-trainer who is a roman-catholic asked me not only to organize everything but to step into Brother Engels footsteps as a trainer because it would be important to have someone from the Moravian Church in his place. The double role was not easy at every time but I am glad that I had help from my congregation.



Shortly before the start the two czech participants had to withdraw because of illnesses in their families which needed their assistance. But I could get one of the South African volunteer workers at Herrnhag to join in. Later on the translator became a participants knowing that his main task was to translate. It was not easy for him but we, the two leaders, reminded him every now and than on his task. It was specially for him important also to take part in the process and for the group it was much easier to have an even number of participants.

I would like to show what happend with one of the seven bible texts we meet with. It is the „The healing of the blind Bartimaeus“ from Mark 10, 46-52. Because Bibliodrama needs a personal approach with the Bible text it is at the beginning necessary to listen to your own inner voice which is best to do while „hear“ to your body. Therefore we started to move our bodies, to do something good for the body where it is in somehow stuck. A second important element of Bibliodrama is to meet people. That is why we greeted each other without words while we were walking through the room. A third element was added: the bibel text. In the life of Bartimaeus it was an important step to call for help. The task for the group was to ask the persons you meet in the room for help and to experience how it is to call for help and to be called for help. Other exercises followed and were discussed in pairs.

Then we read the text in different variations and languages. It was an exciting experience to read the text with the whole group while walking in a circle and to say „stop“ if you had a question to the just read text. You were allowed to raise the question, it was not been answered but we did now know the sticking points of the text.

The participants were asked to choose one word that touched them the most. In groups of five they exchanged their thoughts about their words. At the end of their talk they were invited to build a sculpture with their bodies. They showed it to the other group and talked about what they see and what they wanted to express.



The day ended with the portraying of a life line in which they put in the times they thought God had saved them. This shows how important it is for Bibliodrama to draw the parallel to your own life. Therefore we also ended each step with the story of Bartimaeus with the so called „prayer of the heart“ where in silence and meditation we repeat inwardly one sentence again and again. It was the word of Bartimaeus: „Son of David, have mercy on me!“

Only after this long process of occupation with the elements of the story it was played. The roles were named and chosen. With the clothes that were provided the participants could transform into their roles. In an interview it was made very clear who is who and what are the concerns of the person in the role. Now everybody stepped into the scene and the „big play“ started.

The trainer ended the play and let everybody drop of the role. Now a very important part of Bibliodrama had to take place: the reflection on what the participants experienced with the role in the play and what insight they discovered for their life and faith. At the end this was captured in a picture. So that it would not get lost.

We did experience a lot within the group, we got to know each other also about our faith and doubts. The theory of processual Bibliodrama was been presented with each text after they had experienced it. At the end each country group prepared a short Bibliodrama and lead through it. I was amazed at how close the participants, aged between 21 and 69, became. English wasn't either of us's first language. The Kenyan and the South African spoke it best. We repeatedly had to search for the right words, which we did together, and it was no problem. The whispered translation helped the Tanzanian woman to actively participate.

We all had a prayer partner during our time in Herrnhag and agreed at the end that we would stay connected in this way and continue on the path of learning Bibliodrama and using it in our congregations.

I thank all our sponsors – the Zeister Zendingsgenootschap, the Moravian Church Foundation, the members of the European Continental Moravian Church who made a collection for this purpose, the Zinzendorf Foundation, the Herrnhuter Mission Switzerland, and the Herrnhuter Missionshilfe – not only for their financial support, but also for their enthusiasm for this project and their prayerful support.

We would like to go on next year with a training for two weeks. Because this was only a start. If it is possible for you to support us again we would be very glad.



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