



## Worship Journeys Jerusalem – Auschwitz: the vision

### From the very beginning

the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel, our God, longs to live amongst His human creatures and to be in loving communion with them as their Father. All His deeds are based on this. The final damage of separation by sin shall be healed and all creation renewed. All creation runs towards this goal:

*"Behold, the tent of God with men! And he will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God himself will be with them, their God."* (Rev 21:3)

On this path of salvation, He chose the Jewish people from the nations of the world to reveal His mercy and faithfulness; He brought them to the land of Israel that was promised to them, with its city of Jerusalem. In this nation and land, He raised His Son, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and brought salvation and new life to all people through his death on the cross and resurrection.

The first followers of the Son of God were Jews. Through their testimony and proclamation the Gospel came to all the nations. We did not thank them for this but pushed them out of the family of God, the body of Jesus. In the worst way, our history of Christianity is also a history of recurring injustice, expulsion and murder of Jewish people. Specifically, with the guilt of our German history against the Jewish people in the Shoah.

### But God is a God of mercy,

of second chances and of restoration. We feel that especially at this time He is calling for the new man (see Ephesians 2), the body of Jesus, the family of God, consisting of Jews and all the nations to come together in reconciliation. He seeks our common worship. He wants to live in our midst. Return to His city of Jerusalem as king.

The prerequisite for entering this new chapter with the Lord is for us to practice a lifestyle of humility, mercy and a willingness of repentance.

The destruction of the temple and Jerusalem by Titus in 70 AD marked the beginning of the diaspora of the Jewish people with the murder of over a million Jews. Auschwitz with 1.1 million Jewish victims in 1945 marked the end of this diaspora, the birth of the modern state of Israel and the beginning of the fulfilment of God's prophetic word in Ezekiel 37.

Both places, we feel, are connected in the invisible reality by an archway, with the foundations placed in these points. This gate leads to the Father's heart and for Him to the hearts of His people Israel and His beloved city of Jerusalem.

### We believe

that worship in truth and spirit in these two places helps to touch the Father's heart and to open this gate. We have received the following call to this from God:

*"And they shall make me a sanctuary so that I may dwell in their midst."* (2 Mo 25:8)

We want to pass on this call.

**That is why we invite Christians to separate themselves for a specific period to a priestly ministry, to travel together with us to Jerusalem and Auschwitz respectively, to worship in these two places the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who is also our God!**