

20 THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH COMES INTO BEING

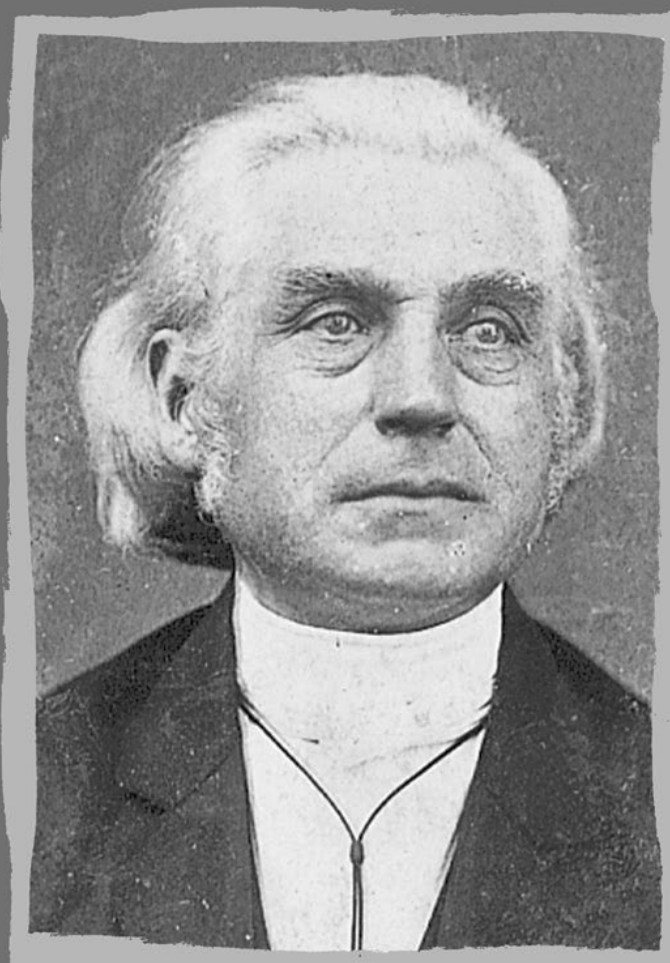
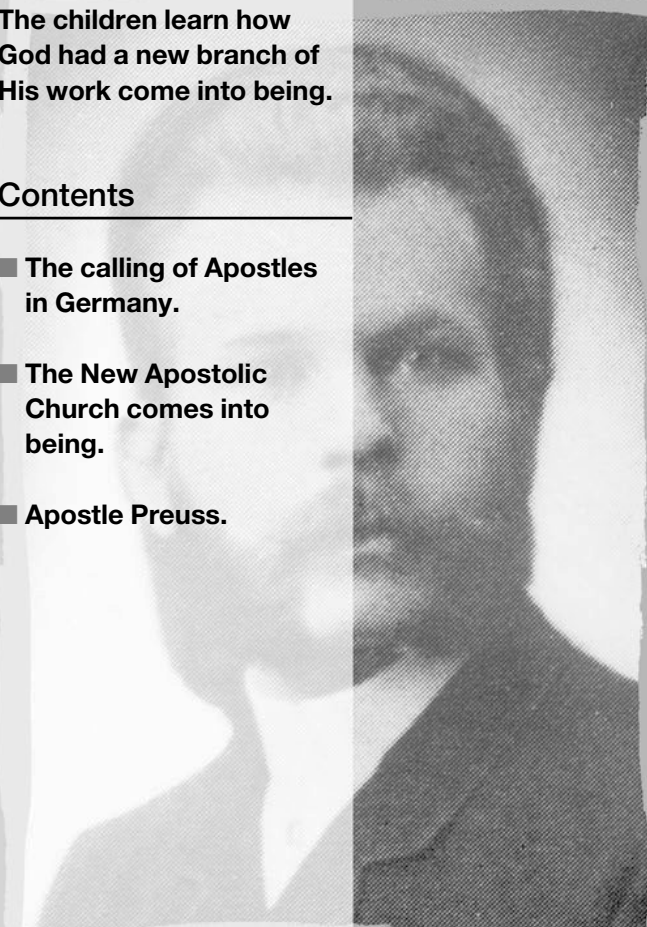
THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH COMES INTO BEING

Objective

The children learn how
God had a new branch of
His work come into being.

Contents

- The calling of Apostles
in Germany.
- The New Apostolic
Church comes into
being.
- Apostle Preuss.



Introductory Remarks

1 The May 1860 conference in Albury

As in the preceding years around Pentecost, the seven Apostles who were still alive came together with some prophets in Albury in 1860 (cf. Lesson 16). Heinrich Geyer, the Prophet from Berlin, once again also attended this meeting. During this gathering he prophesied, "Yearn for the Apostles who have left your ranks! The Lord gives you two Apostles for the empty seats as a pledge that he will also fill the remaining ones: Charles Böhm and William Caird as Apostles." Following internal deliberations, however, the seven Apostles rejected this as well as any further calling of Apostles.

His return journey led Heinrich Geyer through Hamburg. Here he stopped off to inform the Angel of the congregation there about the occurrences in Albury. Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz (11 April 1815–6 December 1895) was the Angel at the time. His name was frequently also spelled "Schwarz". Both spellings were common then. In New Apostolic literature today, only "Schwartz" is used.

2 The Catholic Apostolic congregation in Hamburg

Testimony of the re-established work of God had been carried from Berlin to Hamburg around 1850. Apostle Carlyle sealed the first believers in Hamburg in 1854. At the beginning of 1863 the Hamburg congregation had about 150 members.

3 The calling of Apostles in Germany

Initially Apostles Rosochacki (October 1862), Preuss (April 1863), and Schwartz (May 1863) were called in Germany. On 30 October 1864 the Prophet Geyer called an additional four Apostles.

These were the beginnings of the New Apostolic Church, which today has spread to almost all countries of the world.

4 The calling of Rudolf Rosochacki as an Apostle The New Apostolic Church comes into being

Rudolf Rosochacki was born in Königsberg, East Prussia (present-day Kaliningrad, Russia) in May 1818. He was a master bricklayer by trade and the owner of a construction business. In the Catholic Apostolic Church he was a Priest in the congregation in Königsberg.

On 10 October 1862 he was called as an Apostle by the Prophet Geyer, who reported about this event himself, as follows:

“The same evening, 10 October 1862—Apostle Woodhouse had gone to bed early—the spirit of the Lord laid so heavily on me that I was almost crushed physically. Suddenly during the evening prayer, which Rosochacki and I spoke together around midnight, the Spirit of God came over me and inspired me to call the servant Rosochacki to the ministry of an Apostle. During this calling he was also told, however, that he should not get involved in the previous Apostles’ affairs, but to quietly bide his time, since God would acknowledge him before a great gathering of many witnesses. Another series of twelve was to start with him.

“This calling took place quietly around midnight, and was also accepted completely and joyfully by the one who had been called. Although non-public callings of Apostles were forbidden, this nocturnal calling within the chamber was nevertheless justified for the time being, since in England many Apostles and many a ministry had also been called within private rooms during the 1830s.”

In December 1862 the Prophet Geyer informed the Angel of the congregation in Hamburg, Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz, that the Lord had called an additional Apostle in October, so that the apostolate would not come to an end before the Son of God had returned.

Based on this, Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz invited Apostle Rosochacki and the Prophet Geyer to Hamburg for Saturday, 3 January 1863. After the Sunday morning service Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz invited the congregation back for the afternoon. During this gathering, both the Prophet Geyer as well as Apostle Rosochacki reported what had happened on 10 October 1862. Thereafter, Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz asked both men in front of the assembled congregation if they would be able to profess before God’s judgment seat that this was done by God. Then they were to confirm this by saying yes. After both had done this, Angel Schwartz accepted Rudolf Rosochacki as an Apostle and subordinated himself to him. With the exception of five, the remaining members in the congregation accepted the new Apostle, without thereby wanting to separate themselves from Apostle Woodhouse.

The Angel in charge of Berlin, C. Rothe, was immediately informed about this event separately by each of those responsible.

Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Discussion

Question Prompt

Implementation

Workbook, Exercise 1

Discussion

Teacher's Presentation

This divine calling was also not recognized by the remaining English Apostles, however, but rather led to the Hamburg congregation's expulsion. – A new apostolic branch had come into being, which later received the name "New Apostolic Church".

Discuss with the children that the English Apostles initially thought no more than twelve Apostles may be active simultaneously. In the year 1860 they even took the view that only a total of twelve Apostles would be active in the end-time. At that time only seven Apostles were still alive.

How could things have continued?

- Christ could have returned as long as the English Apostles were active.
- God could have called additional Apostles.
- The Catholic Apostolic Church could have ceased to exist.

The children take turns reading the diary entries.

Afterwards discuss what was conspicuous about these events.

- The new callings of Apostles through the Prophet Geyer were not recognized.
- This decision by the English Apostles contradicted statements they had set down in the testimonies.
- Each time the Prophet Geyer informed the Angel of the Hamburg congregation, Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz, about the events.

As we understand it today, God's plan of salvation provided for a development different from what the English Apostles had in mind.

Apostle Woodhouse was not immediately informed about Priest Rosochaki's calling.

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	<p>A few weeks later the Prophet Geyer and the spiritual leader Rothe, the rector of the Berlin congregation, disagreed on a point in the book of Revelation. As a result, Geyer was suspended in December 1862 and temporarily excluded from partaking in Holy Communion.</p> <p>A definite break between Geyer and the English Apostles finally came about in January 1863 when the Prophet visited the congregation in Hamburg together with Apostle Rosochacki.</p>
Workbook, Exercise 2	The children take turns reading the text.
Discussion	Give them time to imagine how they themselves might well have reacted. The Prophet Geyer's statement conflicted with Apostle Woodhouse's orders. That surely was a difficult situation for all concerned.
Teacher's Presentation	<p>These events led to the expulsion of the Hamburg congregation from the Catholic Apostolic Church. Although this dissociation was not intended, it could not be prevented. Today, 4 January 1863 is considered the date the New Apostolic Church was established.</p> <p>A few days later Apostle Rosochacki came under the strong influence of some other Apostles, who were able to instill in him uncertainty as to the divine origin of his calling as an Apostle. Eventually he again subordinated himself to Apostle Woodhouse, and resigned from the Apostle ministry on 17 January 1863. In April 1863 Rudolf Rosochacki again received ministerial responsibilities in the Catholic Apostolic Church and continued to be active in the congregation in Königsberg.</p>
Question Prompt	<p>What did these events signify for the Hamburg congregation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ It was without an Apostle.■ No more believers could be sealed.■ No new ministers could be ordained.■ etc.
Teacher's Presentation	<p>On 12 April 1863 a Deacon uttered a prophecy calling Priest Carl Louis Preuss as an Apostle. A little later the Prophet Heinrich Geyer confirmed this calling.</p> <p>Shortly thereafter, on 25 May 1863, Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz was also called as an Apostle through many prophetically gifted members in the congregation, but also through the Prophet Geyer.</p>

On the basis of one prophecy, Apostle Schwartz moved his residence to Amsterdam at the end of September 1863. He built up God's work in the Netherlands and worked there until he passed away on 6 December 1895.

With Apostles Carl Louis Preuss and Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz, God had produced a new branch of His work from which the New Apostolic Church emerged.

Workbook, Exercise 3

The children read the text about the life of Apostle Preuss.

Teacher's Presentation

Explain to the children that at that time there was no religious freedom in the Kingdom of Hanover to which Schladen belonged. Apostle Preuss was not permitted to conduct a divine service there without the permission of the authorities. That is why the Apostle was arrested, locked up for three days, and had to pay a fine.

Conclusion

Apostle Preuss was not intimidated by this. Today Apostles have comparable experiences in their missionary work.

Workbook, Exercise 4

The children read the text about the missionary work today.

Notes