



Roots – History - Identity



He who doesn't know
where comes from
doesn't know where
he is going. (Darius Romanelli)

The IRCA is a network of people with a passion for rural communities, **based on the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

.Our vision is to be a voice for the rural community worldwide and to encourage sustainable rural communities and practices

Historical background

- The 70th of the last century – **Cold War**
- Economical **competition** Soviet Union – USA
- Food Crisis in SU – USA supplies the SU

- The 80th of the last century are faced with changes - 1982 Yuri Andropov gen,secr.
- 1984 Konstantin Tschernenko gen.secr. KPSU
- 1985 Michail Gorbatschov (from 1978 Secretary for Agriculture)

1985

- March 11 Gorbatschov (54) elected secretary general of the KPSU
- September 1985 Saudi Arabia is encreasing oilproduction
- The oilprice falls from 35\$ to 10\$ per barrel
- Russian budget is made on 35\$/barrel => budget under pressure
- 1985 Reagan - Gorbatschov meets in Geneva
- The goal is to reduce pressure

1986 - 1989

- Gorbatschow startet „glasnost“ (openness) and „perestroika“ (renovation)
- 1987 USA and WCC meet in Stuttgart trying to find a direkt contact to the rural christians
- Food supply was one of the most important problems of the time
- 1989 The communist bloc collapsed
- 1989 the Afghanistan war ended.

1990 Faith in the Countryside

- Effects of economic, environmental and social change in rural community
- Changing nature of the Church in the countryside
- Theological factors which bear upon mission and ministry
- Recommendation for consideration and action

1991 Hengrave Hall

- .70 Delegates from 13 European countries
- .This conference recognises the urgent need for a Churches European Rural Network in order:
- .To affirm and support the rural ministry and mission of the Churches for all the people in the different regions in Europe.
- .To listen to the experience of people on the grass route level.

Durham 1998

Rural culture and spirituality

- Across the world there appear to be some major questions about rural life and rural church.
- ... for many there is an apparently romanticised view of Celtic spirituality which portrayed as a rural spirituality
- ... international transactions are more than trade.
... they are flows of ideas which challenge and change societies, transforming traditional cultures

Chennai 2002

Voice of the voiceless



Brandon Canada 2007

Cry from the heart



Altenkirchen Germany 2010

Hunger a global challenge



Lilongwe Malawi 2014

Holding on to Hope



Lincoln NZ 2018

Growing together



Dubuque Iowa 2023

Flourishing Land People Community





Faith

.The IRCA is a network of people with a passion for rural communities, **based on the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

.The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, „I will give you all their authority and splendor; **it has been given to me and I can give it to anyone, I want to.** If you worship me it will all be yours.

.Jesus answered, „It is written: 'Worship the Lord, your God and serve him only' “. (Lk.4,6f)

Living by Jesus standards (1)

.Our Father in Heaven

.Hallowed be your name

.Your Kingdom comes

.Your will be done. as in heaven even so on earth

Living by Jesus standards (2)

.Give us today our daily bread

.And forgive us our guilt just as we also forgive
thus who are guilty upon us

.And lead us not in temptation

.But deliver us from the evil

Living by Jesus standards (3)

• 'Worship the Lord, your God and serve him only'
“ . (Lk.4,6f)

–Hallowed be your name (Password)

–Your Kingdom comes (Goal)

–Your will be done. as in heaven even so on earth (ga

Living by Jesus standards (3)

• 'Worship the Lord, your God and serve him only'
“ . (Lk.4,6f)

–Hallowed be your name (Password)

–Your Kingdom comes (Goal)

–Your will be done. as in heaven even so on earth (ga

Living by Jesus standards (4)

Traps

.If you are the Son of God, tell this stones to become bread. Jesus answered, „It is written: 'Man shall not live from bread allone'“.

.Hunger

.WW1 endet because of hunger in Germany and Austria

.Rural area lost the working hands

Hunger as game changer

Give us our daily bread

- Food supply from the USA saved the SU from collapse

- This was not for free

- USA – the big savior

- Materially

- Financially

- Security

- The price = debts

Living by Jesus standards (4)

- forgive us our guilt just as we also forgive thus who are guilty upon us

- „opheilemata“ meant in the jewish tradition financial guilt. Changed in the christian society to moral and spiritual commitment to God and our fellow human.

- This is the key. Jesus spoke to jewish people.

- We need to go back to the roots.

Roots – Dt. 15 / Lev.25

- At the end of every seven years, you must cancel debts! (Dt.15,)
- However there need - be no poor people among you. (focused on own people)
- You shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants (Lev.25,10)
- The roots are based on biblical experience

Faith

- .Christianity moved the understanding of guilt from a very secular to a spiritual level
- .There are two dangers, hunger and slavery
- .The Bible showed the way out of slavery and Christianity ended the concept of slavery changing the understanding of guilt.
- .325 on the concile of Nicaea christian churches agreed a pact with political power and resets the problem.

What is our goal?

.Worship and serve God?

.As christians we believe in God and Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

.Implement political decisions on the grassroot?

.We believe that Jesus is Lord of all, who calls us to live by his standard.

.Implement ecclesiastical decisions on the grassroot?

.All human beings exercise their stewardship for the rest of creation (statement 1993)