

**‘He paid for God’s work with his life,
and taught God’s Word
by his death’**

This epitaph is from a novel that Dietrich Bonhoeffer was writing in prison, and it applies very much to the author himself. It provides the setting



for this conference, which has been planned to offer fresh views on his inter-faith legacy and which is intentionally

timed as a remembrance of the 75th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*.

Bonhoeffer’s Bible, which he used for his daily meditations, became his diary for 7-8 November, 1938. In the margin of Ps 74: 7 he wrote, ‘They said to themselves, ‘Let us destroy them altogether.’ They burned down all the meeting places of God in the land.’ The following verse is underlined: ‘There are no signs for us to see; there is no prophet left; there is not one among us who knows how long.’

Bonhoeffer called the Jews of Germany ‘the weakest and most defenceless brothers.’ Holding fast by means of God’s Word, he spoke out early and publicly against Nazism and on behalf of the Jews, saying ‘the Church has an unconditional obligation to the victims of any ordering of society’.

The Church wouldn’t listen, but Bonhoeffer speaks to us still.



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The fourth annual Bonhoeffer Conference, held as a remembrance on the 75th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, brings together Jewish and Christian thinkers inspired by Bonhoeffer’s discipleship, and poses such questions as:

- * Why were German Churches, the Red Cross and other humanitarian groups silent in the wake of *Kristallnacht*?
- * What does Bonhoeffer mean to modern Jews, and why?
- * In what ways does Bonhoeffer show us that interfaith relations should be based on a return to Scripture?

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CAUTIOUS

EMBRACE’

*A Christian-Jewish conference reflecting
on the discipleship and legacy of
Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



**St Joseph’s Spirituality & Education
Centre
Kincumber, NSW**

28-29 November 2008

