

## Conrad C. Binkele

Our story concerns Brother Conrad C. Binkele. Born 1867, Mansfield, Ohio. Finished a faithful course in Christ, 1942 in Los Angeles, California.

Brother Binkele possessed a deep reverence for the Lord with a high standard of Christian character. Raised a Lutheran, and in time, became the Bishop of the Apostolic Lutheran Churches of America. He had the ability to speak, write and read in seven languages.

### How He Came into The Truth:

In Mansfield was a Lutheran Church whose resident minister was Carl Lorenz, grandfather of Brother Edward Lorenz. The town blacksmith was a young brother in the Truth named George Jahrous, who was a frequent visitor in the Lorenz home. On one of these visits he met Brother Binkele, who was on a speaking tour for his Church; and at the time was ill and tired. Brother George heard the remark of his illness and need of rest, so he told him that he had a sister in Santa Monica, California, who was a hostess for a wealthy man's retreat in the mountains. Then he told Brother Binkele that there were usually empty cabins, and that he would write his Sister to expect Brother Binkele. George's sister was in the Truth. Soon, Brother Binkele was being served in his cabin and found rest.

One evening in his cabin, our brother wanted something to read. Placed on his night stand was a book: The Divine Plan of The Ages. He picked up the book, and, after the third attempt, read it through during the night. The morning sun was just coming up when he finished. He got out of bed, and upon his knees, he prayed to the Lord with the words: "all my life I have served you in ignorance, what will you have me to do?"

### An Immediate Decision:

He immediately left his Church and his position; and, with George's sister, went to the meetings of the Brethren in Los Angeles. There he met Brother Russell. He told the Pastor of his background and of his ability with languages; and asked if he might serve him in some manner. Brother Russell suggested that he continue his study of the Truth through the Volumes; and, if he ever needed him, he would write. Time passed: and a letter came from Brother Russell asking that both he and sister Binkele come to the Bible House.

### **Brother and Sister Binkele Sent to Europe:**

The Binkele's arrived at Bethel. One evening Brother Russell asked Brother Binkele to come to his study. In the study Brother Russell had spread upon the carpet a large map of Europe. The Pastor seated himself upon the carpet and Brother Binkele joined him. Then the Pastor began to point out on the map where the various classes were in Europe, and stating some of the problems that were in the classes. Then he asked the question, "If you were sent to Europe, Brother Binkele, what would you do about these class problems?" The reply, "I would do nothing, but would let the Lord do it." The Pastor's immediate reply, "Brother Binkele prepare to go to Europe tomorrow." There was no delay. The steamship tickets had already been purchased. This reveals the positive mind of the Pastor.

### **European Office Site Overruled:**

The office and home for the work in Europe was over looking the beautiful Lake of Lucerne in Switzerland. Later, it was learned that the location was overruled by the Lord. During World War I, Switzerland remained neutral among the countries, so there was no interruption in the progress of the Truth in Europe. Translations, printing, pilgrim service all progressed and large classes were developing. Brother Binkele had the full time service of a very capable sister, known to many as Sister Emmy Poe. She worked during those difficult years; and, especially, for a short time after the death of Brother Russell.

### **Errors Emerge Soon After the Pastor's Death:**

For a while, Brother Binkele, receiving the Watch Towers for translating, blamed the errors appearing in the Towers as merely typographical mistakes and would correct them. Soon the errors were determined to be the Editor's changes in the Truth with a planned departure from the Truth. After many painful experiences among the brethren, the office was closed and with Sister Binkele he returned to Los Angeles.

This story reveals how the Lord works to accomplish His work for His brethren. Brother Binkele continued to serve the Truth to his death.

### **Additional History:**

In June 1916, only a few months before his death in October, Pastor Russell appointed Brother Binkele general overseer of the Harvest Work in Germany, Holland and Switzerland. He was given full authority to act on behalf of the Society by letters of power of attorney – giving him complete and sole charge of all the Society's assets: including books, magazines, merchandise, property, accounts, cash in bank, cash on hand, records of account, etcetera.

This action was necessitated by problems amongst the Brethren in the three lands. Pastor Russell called the previous two years (1914 and 1915): "troubled waters."

Such action shows the high regard in which the Pastor held Brother Binkele.

## Some Lessons to Note:

1. The devastating effects of doctrinal error upon the spirit of the Truth: and, how small beginning errors swiftly mushroomed into greater errors, making recovery difficult, or impossible.
2. How the Lord drew Brother Binkele out of the nominal church into a knowledge of the Truth, by contact with consecrated brethren, and the First Volume; and, how quickly he then made a full consecration, when its true meaning was revealed to him.
3. Brother Binkele's lesson nicely illustrates the subject of how a professed believer must take several steps to arrive at a level where one can make a full consecration acceptable to the Heavenly Father, even though such a one might be zealously dedicated to service at high levels in a nominal church. This bears on current subjects of interest among Bible Students: such as, types of justification, consecration and the "outstanding difference between the nominal church and the true church of Christ."

Brother Binkele shared some of his perspective and lessons from the doctrinal and organizational changes after Brother Russell's death in his discourse on FEAR. His experience in the midst of the transitions moved him to share this bit of wisdom:

"If we compare the sound and peaceful state of things in the springtime of the movement of the Truth people, with what **happened soon after the death of our dear Pastor**, we can easily trace to the source of cause and reasons. We can trace a slipping from wisdom and good understanding, because there was a **falling away from the reverence of God**: hence from humility, hence from appreciation and love of God, the Truth, and of the Brethren. It had its **beginning at** so-called "**high places**," let me plainly say, **at headquarters**; and, like a contagious epidemic, it **gradually affected conditions everywhere**."

Following this are images of the documents regarding his assignment to the Europe offices. Following this is a collection of photos from the European branch location, brethren and images of materials from his times, including some examples his own painting talent.

The documents following the discourse notes illustrate some of the international issues and WATCH TOWER organizational changes occupying Pastor Russell's mind and attention in his final months.

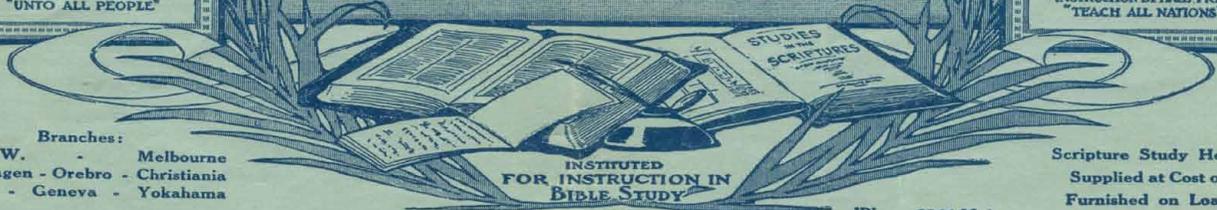


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June 12, 1916.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY, a corporation of the State of Pennsylvania, United States of America, and at present having one of its Offices at #76 Unterdoerner Street, Barmen, Germany, does hereby constitute and appoint Mr. Conrad C. Binkle to be its true and lawful Representative in Germany, in its name and in its stead to transact its business in its name and by its authority, with the same power and effect as though the said business were transacted by the Executive Officers of the Society.

The said business for which this appointment is made is represented in the publishing of books, tracts, pamphlets, religious papers, etc., and in the mailing of the same and receiving subscriptions for the same, and in receiving and accounting for all the monies and interests of the Society in Germany.

In witness of this Power of Attorney the seal of the said Society has been hereto affixed and is attested by the President of the said WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY.

*Chas J. Russell* President.

*Known to before me  
This 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1916  
Conrad C. Binkle  
Notary Public  
Kearney Co. Mo.*

N.B.—Make no allowance for our remembering previous orders and explanations. Make each letter complete in itself. When changing your address give the old as well as the new one. Remit by Draft, Money Order or Registered letter. Give your full address at the beginning of each letter.

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APPOINTMENT OF CONRAD C. BINKELE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY AND THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION --OVER ALL AND SUNDRY OTHER AFFAIRS IN GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND HOLLAND.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Brother Conrad C. Binkele is this day appointed by the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY and the INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION to be their sole agent and representative and to have full charge of their work in Germany, Switzerland and Holland. At as an early a date as he can possibly arrange, Brother Binkele is requested to take full charge of the Society's property, books and accounts, cash in bank, etc., in the countries named; and especially in the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY'S office at 76 Unterdoernerstr., Barmen, Germany, including all the books, merchandise and property of every kind, bank balance, cash in drawer, etc. He will also take over and audit all bills claimed to be owing by the Society with the view to paying them off as rapidly as possible.

If necessary and called upon by the said Brother Conrad C. Binkele, civil and legal authorities are requested to assist in carrying out the letter and spirit of this transfer and order as from any and every person now in any sense of the word claimed to represent this Society and Association.

Witness our Society's seal attested by its President, this tenth day of June, nineteen hundred and sixteen (1916), at Brooklyn, New York, United States of America.

*Chas. J. Russell*



*Sworn to before me  
 This 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1916  
 Conrad Binkele  
 Notary Public  
 Kings Co NY*

N. B.—Make no allowance for our remembering previous orders and explanations. Make each letter complete in itself. When changing your address give the old as well as the new one. Remit by Draft, Money Order or Registered letter. Give your full address at the beginning of each letter.

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eigener Bittelholzer L.P.  
RIPST- dng Liskraf- Gesellschaft  
Bismarck-Platz von Konrad C. Binkele

Für denjenigen, den es angeht:

Wir bekunden hierdurch, daß die Wachturm- Bibel- und Traktat- Gesellschaft, eine Körperschaft im Staate Pennsylvania, Vereinigte Staaten von Nordamerika, von der ein Zweig in Barmen, Unterdörnerstr. 76, Deutschland, eine Geschäftsstelle hat, den Herrn Konrad C. Binkele zu ihrem wirklichen und gesetzlichen Stellvertreter in Deutschland ausersehen und ernannt hat, damit dieser Herr Konrad C. Binkele in ihrem Namen und als ihr Stellvertreter ihre Geschäfte als der von ihr Bevollmächtigte vollziehen soll, und zwar in gleicher Macht und mit derselben Wirkung, als ob die besagten Geschäfte durch die vollziehenden Beamten der Gesellschaft vollzogen worden wären.

Die besagten Geschäfte, wegen denen diese Einrichtung getroffen wurde, bestehen in der Veröffentlichung von Büchern, Traktaten, Flugblättern, religiösen Blättern usw., in deren Beförderung zur Post und in der Annahme von Abonnements für dieselben; ferner in der Empfangnahme aller für die Gesellschaft eingehenden Gelder und der Abrechnung über sie, sowie in der Wahrung aller Interessen der Gesellschaft in Deutschland.

Als Beweis für die Richtigkeit dieser Vollmacht für unseren Vertreter, wurde das Siegel der genannten Gesellschaft hier beigefügt und wurde diese Urkunde von dem Präsidenten der Wachturm- Bibel- und Traktatgesellschaft durch eigenhändige Namensunterschrift bestätigt.

(Siegel der Gesellschaft.)

(gez.) C. T. Russell, Präsident.

(Siegel des Notars.) Diese Vollmacht wurde mir am 12ten Juni des Jahres 1916 vorgelegt.

United States Consulate )  
Barmen, Germany. ) ss.

Hierdurch wird bestätigt, dass angeheftete deutsche Schriftstücke genaue Uebersetzungen des an Herrn Conrad C. Binkele von der Wachturm-Bibel- und Traktat-Gesellschaft und der Internationalen Vereinigung ernster Bibelforscher, gerichteten Briefe und erteilten Vollmacht sind und ferner beglaubige ich hiermit, dass die beiden englischen original Dokumente mit dem Siegel des Amerikanischen Notars, Edward Stewensen, versehen sind.

Barmen, den 14. October 1916.

*Frederick J. ...*  
American Vice Consul in charge.



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ctr.

Address — Indirizzo

Contr. No. 5589

Lco Conrad Binkele universitatstrasse 121 zurich

= pastor dies tuesday funeral: last sunday burial. pittsburgh: monday Love: watchtower: =

unbeanstandet Zurich, Telegr.-Kontr.-Kommission

Über telegraphiert an — Réexpédié à — Ritrasmeso a den — le — il um — à — alle Uhr — heures — ore min. Der Telegraphist: — Le télégraphiste: Il telegrafista:

Telegram to Conrad Binkele in Zurich announcing death of Pastor Russell

Zurich - Helvetia Square building with auditorium and meeting rooms for Bible Students





Bible House family, Barmen Germany 1914

Sister Hanna Binkele, Dresden Germany

