...do you love Me more than these?

(John 21:15)

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Trust and jump

Dear friends of the word!

He had travelled from one of the Nordic countries to the go4peace-camp in Poland. Even in our phone conversations before the camp had started, I noticed his open and trusting character. Now he was, trying with all his attention to take in everything that was developing with these young people from 15 different countries.

He grew up in a small town in the north of Scandinavia. His mother's roots were there. His father came from a Muslim family from northern Africa. The young Scandinavian had experienced religion as an embellishment, not a source of life. But his soul was hungry for some real living. So he started searching and found this small Diaspora-parish. A polish priest lived and worked there, looking after a group of young people. These teenagers had come to the country as immigrants from various places in the world. What brought them together was their love for Jesus, whom they had learned to know and love.

So Simon – the young Scandinavian – had begun to exchange thoughts with his peers about the life and person that was Jesus. In this way a friendship with Jesus had developed that grew ever deeper. Suddenly Jesus turned from a historical figure into someone "that can be loved as you love a person" (Madeleine Debrel). That was his overwhelming experience: Jesus lives! Jesus is reality, living reality. Jesus is someone! Jesus is a you!

And just as Jesus had asked Simon Peter: "do you love me"? and then, in the presence of Jesus' friends "do you love me more than these?" Simon heard the same question in his heart. "Do you love me?" He knew that he could only answer it with his life and asked to be christened. He prepared himself and got christened. He dared the jump of his life: **Trust and jump!**

for the OnWordTeam   Meinolf Wacker