

PATHS TO FREEDOM



PATHS TO FREEDOM AN EXHIBITION ON THE HISTORY OF ANABAPTISM

For centuries, Trachselwald Castle was a symbol of Bernese rule in the Emmental. It was here that government took place – even against the resistance of the subjects, if necessary. The central expression of this resistance, apart from the Peasants' War of 1653, was Anabaptism.

In this exhibition in the old cell tract, you can immerse yourself in the history and present of Swiss Anabaptism. Take a look at the lives and beliefs of women and men who got into trouble because of their convictions. Get to know their hopes and fears. And be amazed at how topical some themes still are today.

WAYS TO FREEDOM?

The tour of this old prison will not seem like a “path to freedom” to you. At every turn, lack of freedom is palpable. But is real freedom only where no one restricts one’s life, where there is no adversity?

FORWARD LOOKING?

Anabaptists were and are not always on “paths to freedom”. Sometimes there were and are – as with their opponents! - wrong paths and dead ends. But today, some of their positions are considered forward-looking – for example, with regard to freedom of faith or the question of peace. Their testimony deserves not to be forgotten.

QUILTS ?

Quilt motifs run like a thread through this exhibition. The production of such quilts has long been cultivated in Anabaptist circles. As a symbol of community and unity in diversity, quilts will accompany you throughout the rooms.



EXHIBITION

DIRECTIONS

By car via Hasle-Rüegsau and Grünenmatt or via Sumiswald to the castle. A limited number of parking spaces are available. By public transport by bus to Trachselwald or by train to Sumiswald and then in 10 min. or 30 min. by foot to the castle.

OPENING HOURS

Open daily 8 am – 6 pm (April – October)
Free admission, voluntary contribution welcome!

CONTACT US

Further information and requests for guided tours on our website: www.wege-zur-freiheit.ch

PATRONAGE

Swiss Mennonite Conference (KMS)
Swiss Mennonite Association of Anabaptist History (SVTG)

FLYER

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THEME ROOMS

PAST AND PRESENT



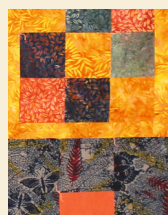
The Anabaptist movement began with the Reformation in Zurich and spread worldwide over time. For centuries, many Anabaptists lived in the district of Trachselwald.

FAITHFUL AND FREE



People discover the Bible. Reading it has a liberating effect. They develop their own understanding of baptism, church and faith. This gradually puts them at a distance from the reformers – and thus in trouble.

MALIGNED AND DISGRACED



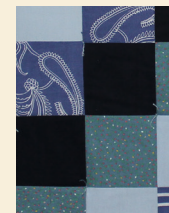
The church and the authorities fought against Anabaptism: men and women were imprisoned, tortured or even executed. Many of them suffered in the tower of Trachselwald.

LOVE AND PRAISE



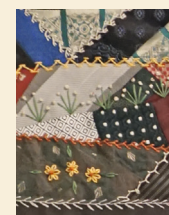
A persecuted community finds home and joy in worship, singing together and helping each other. To this day, these elements nourish and unite Anabaptists.

PERSECUTION AND EXILE



Many "Anabaptists" fled or emigrated, they were expelled or deported. Flight and asylum as elements of their own history have sensitized many Anabaptist congregations to refugee issues.

REMAINING AND SUFFERING



To go or to stay? – this question polarized people. Those who stayed often exposed themselves to great suffering. Nevertheless, some preferred to stay rather than live in a foreign country because they felt obliged to family and friends in their homeland.

CARING AND HEALING



War, hunger, misery – Anabaptists find answers to these in the Bible, for example in the "Beatitudes". In often surprising ways, they try to alleviate hardship and give courage.

FORGIVING AND RECONCILING



Forgiveness also means seeking reconciliation between churches. And working for peace and justice locally and globally can be a step on the "road to freedom".