

## **A whole TV-Station just for one book?**

Facts about the first Christian TV station in Germany

### 1.) Founding Bible TV

One night after a long busy day a German business man was sitting alone in his hotel room. He was tired. Although being successful in his job and having a family, still he did not feel satisfied. Life had lost it's flavour ... absorbed in thought his hand reached into the drawer of the bedside cabinet and grabbed: a Bible! He started reading.

This evening was a turning point. He started to read the Bible again. The business man found his way back to God's word. He found inner peace and a positive outlook. It meant so much to him that he wanted everybody to have access to this life inspiring source. God put the idea on his heart: Bible TV!

Together with just a few other Christians from different churches who supported the project with work and prayer, Bible TV was started on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. The name of the business man is Norman Rentrop. He donated 12.5 million DM to found Bible TV, holds 51% ownership and is chairman of the organisation.

### 2.) Bible TV objectives

To broadcast God's word via television to as many people as possible!

The Bible gives plenty advice how to live a fulfilled and healthy life. It tells fascinating stories about people like you and me. We are convinced that the Bible offers help, advice, encouragement and a lot more to everybody who struggles in life. Therefore, our goal is to reach out and help people to understand and learn more about the gospel.

### 3.) Bible TV – behind the scenes

An interdenominational circle of associates stands behind Bible TV. Besides Protestants, Catholics and enterprises with no clerical affiliations, the circle also includes missionary institutions as well as organisations within the media branch.

The common ground among the associates is that all of them are Christians and that they want to broadcast Bible based programmes via television to the people.

The 15 associates do not only carry financial and contextual responsibility, they also support Bible TV in selecting the programme.

The programme advisory council helps the management in all questions concerning the broadcast content. The council pays special attention to the adhering of the charta. The council can consist of up to 7 members, who work on an honorary basis. They are elected by the associates for a period of four years.

#### 4.) Financing Bible TV

Bible TV is a non profit organisation. In contrast to public or pay-TV broadcasting stations Bible TV is mainly financed through donations (approximately 90%). Just a small part of the income is a result from advertisements.

Our fundraising department regularly sends four to five mailings a year to 35.000 - 130.000 people to ask for financial support.

#### 5.) How to receive Bible TV

Most people watch Bible TV via satellite. Usually, Bible TV will be already installed on the receiver. Another way is to switch from an original analogue cable access to a digital one. Furthermore, terrestrial digital video broadcasting (DVB-T) is now available in many city regions. In some of the regions Bible TV is already available in the DVB-T net. Our goal is to be on air in every DVB-T connected region. One can also watch Bible TV on the internet via [zattoo.com](http://zattoo.com) or through IPTV.

#### 6.) The Bible TV programme

Bible TV is broadcasting God's word through many different genres like:

- Movies
- Documentaries
- Talkshows
- Children's Programmes
- Counselling Programmes
- Bible Readings
- Bible Lessons
- Devotionals
- Christian Congresses and other Christian Events
- Lots of music (contemporary worship, gospel, country and more)

Due to the fact that Bible TV is too small to be listed in TV guides, we send out our own programme magazine. Every month, to more than 150.000 viewers for free. This is also a very effective way to gain new addresses of people who are interested in Bible TV and would like to support us through prayer, promotion or financially.