

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

BONHOEFFER

Director: Martin Doblmeier

I was first introduced to Dietrich Bonhoeffer as a high school student when our class began studies in the Holocaust period. I will never forget how moved all of us were by what seemed to be Dietrich Bonhoeffer's extraordinary courage in the face of overpowering evil.

Now, nearly 30 years later, as I approached making the film of his life, I see Dietrich Bonhoeffer somewhat differently. My focus was less on the decision he made but on the deep inner struggles that brought him from Christian pacifist priest to an active member in the plots to kill Adolf Hitler. It was a struggle that eventually allowed him to "take over the guilt" of his actions, knowing full well the consequences.

I also wanted to focus on the isolation Bonhoeffer felt as he stepped further and further away from his fellow pastors who were falling over themselves in support of Hitler. Early in his career Bonhoeffer wrote extensively about the church's great potential for changing the world for the better in the name of God. Later that enthusiasm would turn to deep disappointment. Bonhoeffer would discover that for many of his fellow pastors following the will of God meant standing in full support of the nation's agenda - God and country united. For Bonhoeffer, the will of God was calling him to do something very different.

CREDIT LIST

Producer:	Martin Doblmeier/ Journey Films
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Narrator:	Martin Doblmeier
Music:	John Keltonic
Sound:	Matthew B. Kelly
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