



maranatha-banner.de

Monika Hümps-Schröder

# BANNERS & FLAGS

Manual - Biblical Background

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### **Bible Quotations**

The Bible quotations are taken from the New International Version (Great Britain)  
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### **Sources**

Excerpts from the following publications appear in the text (translated into English):

Cordelia Loew  
Praise and Worship with Flags and Banners

Holger Petri  
Worship and Praise – The Basics (Study Manual)

Jackie Howard  
Banners and Flags

Rory Noland  
The Heart of the Artist (originally in English)



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GloryFight Dance

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## PREFACE

Dear readers

In this booklet I have put together what is important to me personally on the subject of "Banners and Flags".

For the past seven years, the "Banners and Flags Training Manual" (in German) has provided an introduction to the understanding of this form of worship to many people. When I pause and think back, I can only say thankfully: Thank you, Jesus, for your guidance and direction.

At this time I am creating many new banners, flags and custom orders, a number of which can be seen on [www.maranatha-banner.de](http://www.maranatha-banner.de).

A group of flag dancers from different churches has developed into a strong team that is raising flags for the Lord with great faith and commitment. We lift the name of Jesus high in many places, including in Jesus Marches and during street evangelism. In church services we make HIS praise glorious and worship HIM as our Saviour and King.

The prophetic word that God gave to me a few years ago: "You will make me known with banners and flags" has been already amazingly fulfilled and led me to Bolivia, Italy and other countries. In the near future we will conduct seminars in a large church in Brazil. The "Banners and Flags Training Manual" will soon appear also in Portuguese, Swedish and Spanish. I am confident that this promise of God for me will be fulfilled even further in the future. I really enjoy my work and there is nothing more satisfying for my soul than to live by the will of God for me personally.

I trust that this booklet will serve to increase understanding for our spiritual and artistic ministry.

I will gladly answer any questions on the subject of "Banners and Flags". We shall also be pleased to receive any requests for seminars or for participation in any events.

Monika Hümbs-Schröder  
Dusseldorf | March 2016



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## I. INTRODUCTION

### Definition of terms

#### Flag

A “flag” is a piece of fabric with specific coloured symbols and designs, often flown from a pole or mast. The flag can be attached to the pole or mast with a sleeve to allow the flag to rotate and can be raised and lowered by a cord and pulley. This enables the free movement of various types and designs of flag and prevents the fabric from winding itself around the pole or mast.



*Note:* In the German language the word “Fahne” denotes a “one of a kind” flag such as the flag of a regiment, trade guild or private organisation that is generally not to be reproduced, and is normally fixed to the pole. The word “Flagge” is the more general term for a flag that is generally mass produced in various sizes, such as national, state, town or city flags, the flags of larger organisations like the European Union or United Nations, or the flags of local sports and leisure clubs.

#### Banner

The word “banner” originates from the French “bannière” which was a pennant or small flag attached to a spear under which

soldiers loyal to the cause would assemble for war. It also showed which way the wind was blowing and therefore the direction in which to shoot the arrows.



(Jesus says: I AM the TRUTH, the WAY, the LIFE)

Today a banner is generally a rectangular piece of fabric with a symbolic or textual design that is attached to a horizontal support, held high or carried in an upright position.

#### Standard

A “standard” is a somewhat smaller, valuable banner or flag that carries the official emblems of a head of state, ambassador or military leader. Depending on the occasion, a standard can be fixed to a vertical or horizontal support, or to both. For example, the German chancellor has a Standard and the Queen of the United Kingdom has a Royal Standard, and it is flown to indicate their presence, in a car, ship, airplane, public building, residence or palace.

#### Examples of the use and meaning of banners and flags

Flags, banners and standards are generally used to symbolically identify organisations, associations and other groups. They carry the official emblems for countries, states and cities, and symbols to recognise civil and military units, nationalities, royal families and dynasties.



With banners and flags we visibly show where our identities and loyalties lie and that we subject ourselves to certain authorities and agree with their basic principles.

As they can be seen from a distance, flags also serve as a means to deliver messages. Examples include international maritime signal flags (letter flags), air traffic ground control flags, football linesman flags, start and finish flags in motor racing. Colours and symbols draw out our emotions, basic convictions and attitudes (as often seen in the sports arena). Flags mark special occasions: celebrations and demonstrations – acts of remembrance (flags at half-mast) – victory and triumph (as in sports) – conquest (climbing mountain peaks) – claiming possession (moon landing).



Unfortunately flags are sometimes used to express hatred as in the burning of American or Israeli flags by PLO terrorist groups.

*Note:* The damaging or defamation of publically displayed national and official emblems (including Coats of Arms, official seals, boundary markers, as well as flags) is a criminal offence in Germany. Our entire lives are surrounded by banners (advertising banners!), that seek to divert our attention to specific messages.

## II. BIBLICAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

### Key to Hebraic words

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(The Creation)

**nec** (pronounced: *nace*)  
flag, standard, banner, ensign, rallying point, pole (for flag/standard), signal, sign  
*Exodus 17 v. 15 – Psalm 60 v. 4*  
The origin of **nec** is **nacac** (*naw-sas'*) which gives further insight to the meaning:  
shine or gleam from afar  
flutter like a flag in the wind  
raise up as a sign or banner  
a beacon, lighthouse  
emit a signal to attract attention

**dagal** (pronounced: *daw-gal'*)  
to carry, set up or wave a banner or standard  
conspicuous  
outstanding  
clearly visible  
take pride in itself  
display the highest and most important

*Numbers 2 v.2 – Numbers 10 v. 14*



In our Bibles these Hebrew words are often interpreted as any one of these terms - flag, banner, standard, ensign, signal - or another similar word depending on the translation.

It is worth reading through Isaiah and the Psalms in old and modern Bible versions to see how different words are used. The different terms also creep into translations between languages as shown in the song:

*We want to see Jesus lifted high  
A banner that flies across this land  
where "banner" is translated "Sign of Victory" in one of the German language versions.*

### **Banners and flags perform a "leadership" role**

A banner goes on in advance. It is prominent and shows the way. In battle the commander of an army had his standard bearer beside him who carried the flag or standard of the army division. In the turmoil of battle all the troops could see the flag flying high and this clearly showed the commander's position - normally at the front where the combat was most intense. The primary aim of the fighters was to capture the flag of the enemy and the standard bearer was duty bound to defend the flag with his life. If the flag fell into enemy hands, this brought shame and disgrace onto the entire army division. Furthermore, the troops lost their reference point, which was extremely discouraging and often the battle was then as good as lost.

In the spiritual realm Jesus is the banner, standard or ensign of God!

*Isaiah 11 v.10 "In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious."*

The Bible describes Jesus as a "banner". He is outstanding, a leader, he shines from afar! God himself has raised a banner! The difference from the worldly flag, standard or banner is that Jesus can never be lost. HE cannot be captured by the enemy! HE cannot be defeated! HIS victory is for ever and ever!

Jesus goes on ahead of us!



(Yeshuah Mashiach = Jesus Messiah)

### **God himself is our banner**

The Lord is my Banner (Jehovah-Nissi)  
*Exodus 17 v.15 "Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner".*

God revealed himself at this location with the name Jehovah ("I am who I am") -Nissi ("I am the banner").

The place in the text where we find this is interesting. The chosen people of God were scarcely out of Egypt, they had just had their first victorious encounter with Amalek, and God revealed himself with this name. The Hebrew people knew the Egyptian images on poles which adorned their gods. But the chosen people of God must not succumb to the danger of seeking help and protection from any such



cult signs or symbols. God, the Lord himself, is the Banner over his people. Alongside these mostly military aspects of banners and flags, there is also a gentler, almost tender, application:

*Song of Songs 2 v.4 "... and his banner over me is love."*

Both of these aspects can be well expressed in dancing with flags and carrying banners.

### The value of banners and flags

There is a still certain reluctance in Germany to use the term "Banners and Flags" even in Christian circles. Germans are rather shy when it comes to expressing emotion. They are reserved and often rigidly formal, keep their distance and appear unapproachable.



(JESUS Way, Truth Life)

But what happens when believers suddenly see flags being waved with great joy and power? What is the first reaction? They are deeply moved and hearts are touched. Maybe a flag carries a symbol or some words that make a certain spiritual truth real to us and our faith is revived such that we can say "Yes, Lord!" and "Amen!"

Banners and flags bring much joy through their strong colours and glittering designs and can move us in our hearts to let go and join in with the celebration!

### The eight main purposes for banners

#### (1) A banner makes an announcement

*Jeremiah 50 v.2 "Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, 'Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.'"*

Babylon always stands as a symbol for the ungodly world. In the Revelation of John he speaks of Babylon as the seat of the coming world power of the Anti-Christ. Marduk was the most high god of the Babylonians.

When we raise a cross or banner in our sanctuary with the words "King Jesus", then we announce and proclaim that Jesus is Lord and King of our church, city, land,...



(The crown of Yeshua (King Jesus))

*"A proclamation is a public, bold declaration. For all those who believe in Jesus Christ, this applies specifically to the public, bold preaching of God's truth." (Derek Prince)*

I personally feel that our banners should never take first place in making a proclamation or an announcement. First place always belongs to the preaching of



God's Word for which there can be no substitute.

*1 Corinthians 2 v.2 "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."*

*John 1 v.1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

*Matthew 28 v.19,20*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

With banners we can also proclaim promises and prophetic verses that were spoken to the church. When we hold on to God's promises, we are honouring HIM.

*Romans 4 v.20 "Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ..."*

What is said here about Abraham also applies to us. We give honour to God by holding on to his promises. Banners help us to hold on because they can act as visible reminders to us of his promises. We are even expressly called upon by God to make his truths known to the nations in visible and audible form:

*Isaiah 18 v.3 "All you people of the world, you who live on the earth, when a banner is raised on the mountains, you will see it, and when a trumpet sounds, you will hear it."*

Banners and flags announce Biblical and spiritual truths and act as calling and signalling devices. Banners and flags are spiritual truths that everyone can see!!

## **(2) A banner is raised to heal and to save from death**

*Numbers 21 v.8 "The LORD said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.'"*

The snake of bronze had no magic in itself. The people just had to have faith to take a step of obedience and to look at the snake. *Isaiah 11 v.10 "In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious."*

Also here the power of God's banner, Jesus, is only effective when he is received by faith.



## **(3) A banner rallies the troops and provides a reference point**

*Numbers 1 v.52 "The Israelites are to set up their tents by divisions, each man in his own camp under his own standard."*  
*Numbers 2 v.3, 10, 18, 25*

*"On the east, toward the sunrise, the divisions of the camp of Judah are to encamp under their standard... On the south will be the divisions of the camp of Reuben under their standard... On the west will be the divisions of the camp of Ephraim under their standard... On the north will be the divisions of the camp of Dan, under their standard."*



Banners serve as reference points for people and armies in large camps. The people of God had to camp around the central area, around the tabernacle, that at all times was the sign of the presence of God among his people. (Jehovah-Nissi = I am your banner).

Banners show the central point around which we camp or rally. It is then clear that we stand under the lordship of the God who is three in one!

**(4) A banner is raised  
wherever there is a spiritual battle**

*Jeremiah 51 v.12 "Lift up a banner against the walls of Babylon! Reinforce the guard, station the watchmen, prepare an ambush! The LORD will carry out his purpose, his decree against the people of Babylon."*



(Proclaim Pray Praise)

In the Bible, "Babylon" represents ungodly powers and world systems. As soon as we change our "front line" to the blood of Jesus, we stand against "Babylon". By our confession of Jesus as Lord, we raise a banner against Babylon. Babylon will fall – just as the Lord has determined it!

*Isaiah 13 v.2, 3 "Raise a banner on a bare hilltop, shout to them; beckon to them to*

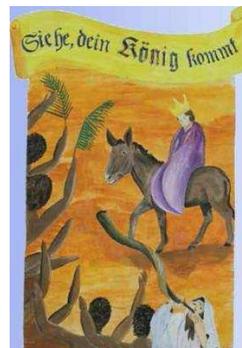
*enter the gates of the nobles. I have commanded my holy ones; I have summoned my warriors to carry out my wrath - those who rejoice in my triumph."*

Here the aspect of "being summoned" to a banner is important. We are often called by God to serve and he is looking for those who will be obedient to his call and rejoice in the coming victory. You serve in a dance team, worship team or flag team because you have been called for a special mission, and not because you want to do someone a favour or promote yourself.

**(5) A banner is a symbol of hope & victory**

*Psalm 20 v.5 "We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God."*

*John 12 v.13 "They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!'"*



(See, your King is coming)

Jesus has defeated Satan, the old snake, and taken away his power for ever. As children of God we are no longer under



the power of sin. For this we express our joy with banners and flags and eagerly expect the glorious return of our King.

**(6) A banner is a sign post**

*Isaiah 7 v.14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

*Isaiah 62 v.10,11 "Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. ... Say to Daughter Zion, "See, your Saviour comes!""*

**(7) A banner offers protection and security**

*Psalms 60 v.6 "But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner to be unfurled against the bow."*

God has given a signal in Jesus to all those who fear the Lord. Those who fear the Lord will recognise the signal, banner or victory sign and can flee from the arrows of the enemy. We just have to make the signal audible (preaching, praise, worship, ...) and visible (theatre, banners, flags, dancing ...).



(Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!)

*Song of Songs 2 v.4 "... his banner over me is love."*

God has raised a banner for himself in

Jesus. Jesus is the sign of victory! He is our protection, our security, our fortress. In the field army, the high commander already had his appointed standard bearer by him. The entire army therefore knew where the commander was and what was happening. One of the most important objectives of the enemy was to capture the commander and to pull the standard bearer from his horse, as the rest of the army would then lose their point of reference and be easily defeated.

When we look at God's banner we have a focal point, leadership and a direction in our lives. The banner of God can never be captured. Jesus has "... disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them ..." (*Colossians 2 v.15*).



(JAHWE = Jehovah)

**(8) A banner makes the enemy flee**

*Isaiah 59 v.19 "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him ..."* (Amplified Bible)

*Isaiah 31 v.9 "... even his [the enemy's] officers shall desert the standard in fear and panic, ..."* (Amplified Bible)

The enemy also has his banners and symbols:



I think of the swastikas and pentagrams (five-pointed star on a spearhead depicting a goat's head as a symbol of Satan). The object on which the symbol is mounted is often not the relevant factor – it is the statement behind the symbol that is important!

*Psalm 74 v.4, 9 "Your foes roared in the place where you met with us; they set up their standards as signs ... We are given no miraculous signs; ..."*

*Matthew 24 v. 15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation', spoken of through the prophet Daniel ..."*

The enemy has absolutely no inhibitions about raising his signs at particular places when they will incite a reaction in the onlookers.

*Jeremiah 4 v. 19-21 "Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry. Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment. How long must I see the battle standard and hear the sound of the trumpet?"*

Here Jeremiah is announcing a judgement from God over his people. God himself brought an enemy from the north against his people and Jeremiah almost fainted with grief as he received these words! How the enemy of God must also tremble and faint when he hears and sees the signs of Jehovah-Nissi!

"Sound of the trumpet" – blow the shofar!

"Battle cry" – praise and worship!

"Battle standard" – banners and flags!

Banners present a clear message, a clear statement, and are raised to be clearly seen. Whenever we read "raise" in the Bible, or that something has been "raised", then this is a sign of God's power.

*Exodus 14 v.16 and 17 v.11* (Moses

"raised" his staff and "raised" his hands.) For me personally spiritual warfare is a very important aspect of the battle! Raising the banner of JESUS makes all the difference in the seen and unseen worlds! But of course this must be done with all wisdom and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The eight main purposes for banners in the Old Testament hold true also for Jesus:

- Announcement of events (forgiveness of sins, redemption, God's plan of salvation).
- In Jesus is healing and salvation from death.
- Rallying the troops – the cross is at the centre of the church.
- A spiritual battle – the cross is the place of battle between light and darkness.
- The cross is a sign of victory – for Satan a sign of his defeat
- Sign post – the way of the cross = we must die to ourselves.
- Protection and security – in the shed blood of Jesus.
- The enemy is made to flee – from the blood of Jesus.

### III. THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF COLOURS

To make banners and flags as meaningful and relevant as possible, we must understand the meaning of colours from a Biblical perspective. It is not only symbols and pictures that point to God's truths but also each colour. Since God is the creator of all colours (he created light and therefore colour) we are free to use all possible shades of colour.



#### Gold

*The Presence of God, Glory, Majesty*  
In the Holy of Holies everything was made of pure gold. The cover of the Ark of the Covenant with the cherubims was formed out of a block of gold. The lampstand was also made from a single block of gold and weighed many kilograms. (Who can still do this today?)

*Ezekiel 1 v.4 and 8 v.2: Visions of the glory of God: "looked like glowing metal".*

*1 Kings 6 and 2 Chronicles 3: King Solomon overlaid the whole temple with gold according to God's commission to him.*

In its purest form gold is very soft and can be rolled out extremely thin – even to 0.0001mm. This means that 100,000 such leaves laid over one other would only be 1cm thick.

Solomon used the very best and ornate work in the construction of the temple. The Lord works just as carefully to build his church. He adorns his church with his glory

– the glory that is hidden in Christ Jesus.

*Psalm 45 v.9 "...at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir."*

*Psalm 45 v.13 "All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold."*

These verses refer to the bride of Jesus who waits for the Bridegroom, fully adorned in gold and without blemish.



#### Silver

*Redemption, Purification, Deliverance*  
Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. In the Old Testament, silver also had the meaning of atonement money. Everyone had to pay the same price, independent of financial status.

*Exodus 30 v.11-12 "Then the Lord said to Moses, "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the Lord a ransom [to atone] for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them.""*

As well as purification, (*Psalm 12 v.6*), silver also has the meaning of deliverance or redemption.

*Numbers 3 v.39-51 "...So Moses collected the redemption money from those who exceeded the number redeemed by the Levites. From the firstborn of the Israelites he collected silver weighing 1,365 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel. Moses*



*gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, as he was commanded by the word of the Lord."*

The foundation of our faith is redemption through Jesus! The foundations (bases) for the tabernacle frames were made of silver. (*Exodus 36 v.20-30*).

The hooks and bands on the posts for the curtains that separated the camp from the tabernacle were also made of silver. (*Exodus 38 v.9-20*).

Silver banners, silver bells, bowls and trumpets remind us: the price has been paid! With these we proclaim our redemption loud and clear. We agree with the word of God: *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."* Jesus has paid the price! Silver reminds us of the perfect redemption and the full price that Jesus has paid.



## Bronze

*Humility before God, Repentance*

All the utensils for the sacrifices and the entire altar of burnt offering were made of bronze. Read in *1 Kings 7 v.13-47* about everything that Hiram made for Solomon's temple out of bronze. Very impressive! The quantity of bronze could not be weighed, he used so much. Perhaps this is an indication that we sin again and again and need so much repentance and humility? Between the tent of the meeting and the

altar there was a bronze basin for purification (repentance). (*Exodus 30 v.17-21*).

Bronze is my favourite colour for banners and flags. I still use bronze flags for training. I want to see with my eyes that I am actually bowing down before my God. It is a continual reminder that I must not elevate myself over the will of God or over other people.



## Purple

*God's Kingdom Rule, Priesthood, Intercession*

Purple is the classic colour of kings because it was so difficult and costly to produce. It was extracted from shells of the murex family of sea snails. Depending on the species of snail and the dyeing method, the colour varied from maroon to violet.

In *Exodus 39 v.1-21* God gives precise instructions for the priestly garments. The priest wore the ephod, which symbolised all the people of Israel, on his breast next to his heart. He also carried the names of the twelve tribes on his shoulder. Dressed in this way he entered the Holy of Holies before the Lord to offer prayers and supplication for the people. Accordingly, we see that the main task of the priest was intercession! Read also *1 Peter 2 v.9*, (the royal priesthood of believers).

In the New Testament Jesus is our great high priest: *Hebrews 4 v.14* and *Hebrews 6 v.20*. The soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus, wrapped a purple robe around him and mocked him (*John 19 v.2*).



### Red Gold

*God's Mercy, New Beginnings, New Creation*

*Isaiah 58 v.8 "Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear ..."*

*Hosea 6 v.3 "As surely as the sun rises, he will appear ..."*

Therefore it is good to wait on the Lord.

Morning sunrise: there are a few moments when everything is bathed in a golden red! *Song of Songs 6 v.10 "Who is this that looks forth like the dawn, ... terrible as a bannered host?"* This is a picture for the bride in the end times.



### Blue

*Water of Life, River of God, Jesus Christ who will return to earth from heaven, Heavenly Light/Clear Skies*

There are so many shades of blue. The colour of royal blue stands for Jesus our King! Streams of living water flow out of Jesus.

Blue can also mean the Holy Spirit, but then it normally flows into a turquoise blue!

*Exodus 24 v.10 "... and (Moses and the*

*elders) saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself."* Sapphire gets its colour from traces of iron and titan and therefore also stands for stability and strength.



### Turquoise

*Holy Spirit. Symbols of the Holy Spirit: Dove, Water, Fire, Anointing Oil, Signet Ring, Wind*

*Ezekiel 1 v.16-20 "... the spirit ... was in the wheels."*

*Ezekiel 47 v.1-12 The River of Life.*



### Green

*Growth, New Life, Grace, Fruitfulness*  
*Mark 6 v.39 "... Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass."*

*Jeremiah 17 v.8 "They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*



### Green Gold

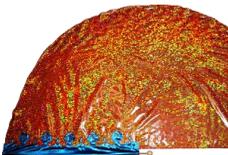
#### Anointing

Anointing olive oil has a little of this colour  
*2 Samuel 2 v.4 "Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king ..."*

*Psalms 23 v.5 "You anoint my head with oil"*

*Luke 7 v.38 "... she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them."*

*Hebrews 1 v.9 "...therefore God, your God, has set you (the Son) above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy"*



### Orange Gold

*Holy Spirit, Power of God, Fire, Refining*  
*Daniel 7 v.9 "His throne was flaming with fire"*

*Hebrews 12 v.29 "... for our 'God is a consuming fire'."*

*1 Peter 1 v.7 "...your faith—of greater worth than gold, ... refined by fire ..."*

*Acts 2 v.3 "... tongues of fire..." (Holy Spirit)*

*Malachi 3 v.2 "...For he (the Lord) will be like a refiner's fire..."*

*Ezekiel 1 v.27 "...he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire..." (Vision of God)*

*1 Kings 18 v.24 "The god who answers by fire—he is God."*



### Red

*Blood of Jesus, Sacrificial Lamb, Love, Spiritual Warfare, Righteousness through the shed blood of Jesus*

Red is the classic colour for love which finds its highest meaning in the sacrificial death of Jesus. (How the devil perverted the meaning of this colour on Hitler's flag!)

Red also stands for protection. The blood of the lamb on the door posts before leaving Egypt and the scarlet cord for Rahab in Jericho (Joshua 2 v. 1-21) were signs of protection.

Red is a very powerful, authoritative colour!

It also stands symbolically for war:

*Revelation 6 v.4 "Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other."*



### White

*Purity, Holiness of God, Sinless, Bride, Light, Overcomer*

White is the symbol for holiness and purity. Angels normally wear a white robe, Jesus will come again on a white horse and the great army will follow him on white horses



will be dressed in white linen (Revelation 19 v.14). Further Bible verses: Revelation 6 v.2 (white horse), 7 v.9 (multitude from every nation in white robes) – 3 v.4,5 (he who overcomes will be dressed in white) – 19 v.8 (bride of Jesus)...

*Matthew 17 v.2 "There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light."*

*Isaiah 1 v.18 "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; ..."*

*1 John 1 v.5 "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."*



## Black

*Strength, steadfastness - also death, mourning*

In my experience this is the most controversial colour among Christians. I have for a long time not been able to come to terms with this colour and have never designed a black flag. God has however widened my vision and corrected my view:

*Isaiah 54 v.11 "Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires." (Revised Standard Version)*

Antimony naturally occurs as a black sulphide (stibnite) and was used as a cosmetic (for eye shadow for example). Black also stands for strength and firmness.

## Colours and clothing for flag bearers

As a flag team, we often dress in black with a coloured sash. The colours in the

flags then stand out against the black. Other neutral colours such as white can also be worn for flag dancing. The dancers themselves should not detract from the optical impression of the dance routines and the flags or the banners.

Flag dancers must have a good understanding of the Biblical meaning of colours and should continuously increase their knowledge. There should be teaching for dance teams in the churches from time to time. The team members will be thankful for explanations about colours and be better prepared to follow the dance routines.

Here is another quick note about "dress code". It goes without saying that the clothing we wear is evidence of the respect we have for God. It should not be scruffy or gaudy. Of course there are cultural differences in taste and liking (South Americans like bright colours - Germans are more reserved) but, to my mind, shorts, miniskirts, tops with bare midriff and similar types of clothing are generally inappropriate.

Loose sleeves can often interfere with the free movement of flags when dancing. The colour of clothing should also not compete with the colour in the flags.

We should always be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in these matters, who will reveal many different ways to portray all the beauty and precious treasures of God.





#### IV. SYMBOLS

To enhance the power of the message in a flag, we can use particular symbols or text. A symbol can make a strong statement or can be used to a limited effect. A symbol is a sign that is designed to heighten our perception and understanding. The attention of children is immediately drawn to adverts for sweets and ice cream as they recognise a symbol that they have seen before.

What we see stays in the memory more than what we have only heard. Symbols should carry a clear statement and be recognised from a distance. (Flags move.) Constantly study God's Word – what is God saying to you – what do you see in your mind's eye? Does your impression agree with all the main passages in the Bible concerning the subject?

As an example from my personal experience, I remember a speaker at a conference teaching on the Holy Spirit and she was explaining how the picture of a dove can convey various images. She mentioned how the nine wing feather tips of a dove symbolise the nine gifts of the Spirit. As I had just sewed a flying dove onto a Holy Spirit flag, I was curious to see how many feathers I had made for the dove. The dove actually had nine feathers on each wing!



Symbols can be much more detailed on a

banner, as a banner is normally carried and not waved, giving more time to study them. Note that every flag can be used as a banner, but not every banner can be used as a flag.

#### V. WHERE CAN BANNERS AND FLAGS BE USED?

##### Praise and worship

*Psalm 66 v.2 "Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious."*

Music, dance, tambourines, flags and dance streamers are important instruments to make HIS praise glorious and spirit-filled creativity for this praise has no limits! It is important to know the meaning of the different colours and symbols in the Bible because you will then be so much more confident when you use flags during worship.

Note: If you do not know why you are raising a certain flag, it will not have much effect! In praise and worship we honour God for who he is and what he does.



(Seek the peace of the city and pray to the Lord for it)

*1 Peter 2 v.9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's*



*special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*  
*Psalm 145 v.11,12 “They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.”*

In Germany Christians are economical in the expression of emotions. The enemy still wants to suppress the triumphs of our God. Stand up and proclaim his victories!

### Team work and ministry

When a team are fully synchronised as they dance and wave their flags, it is a powerful expression of unity. It should not be seen as a “stage show” but a presentation that leads the assembly in praise and worship. Meet regularly as a team and have fellowship with one another. In prayer, with your flags, have fun with one another. Develop a vision for your ministry as a team. We as a team have made our vision as follows:

- Promote unity in the body of Christ and make it visible
- Worship and glorify Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Make HIS name known

You do not need to know everything before forming a team and you do not need to have flags with all the colours. The main thing is a desire that comes from the heart. It is not about a perfect performance. Encourage one another to grow spiritually and to use and develop your talents. When your heart is in the right place, training is also worship. Take account of the different abilities within the team. Not everyone can do everything, but

each one has strength and can do well in certain areas. For example:

- Proclamation using large banners/flags
- Dancing as a team
- Swift movement with small flags
- and in many other areas

Give each other enough room to find a place in the team. Then we can come together in the holy place before God: *Psalm 22 v.3 “But You are holy, O You who dwell in [the holy place where] the praises of Israel [are offered].” (Amp. Bible)*

### Evangelistic outreach

When preaching the word, creative expression can help to get the attention of passers-by and present spiritual truths through visual images.

During the summer months our team joins an interdenominational evangelism team on the streets. We are always coming into contact with people who approach us because of our flags. Some appreciate “only” the lovely presentation, some ask why we are doing it, and some just get annoyed. The choice of music is very important. Simple words that make people think and lively songs of praise are best. Worship songs with a deep and passionate meaning are not suitable for street evangelism.



(GOD of gods)



## Processions and marches

The word procession comes from Latin and means “move forward”. Here are examples of processions and marches in the Bible:

- The journey through the desert included a procession with banners. (Numbers 2)
- When God gave the victory, Miriam the prophetess took a tambourine and all the women followed her. (Exodus 15)
- The people had to march seven times around Jericho. (Joshua 6)
- The bringing up of the ark to Jerusalem was accompanied by joyful shouts, songs and dancing. (1 Chronicles 15)
- In Psalm 68 we read of a procession into the sanctuary with all the tribes of Israel.
- At the dedication of the rebuilt walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah assigned two choirs to proceed along the walls and give praise. (Nehemiah 12)
- Jehoshaphat celebrated his victory with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem with harps, lutes and trumpets (2 Chronicles 20).
- As Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowd rejoiced, singing “hosanna!” as they waved palm branches (John 12).

*Psalm 68 v.24 “Your procession, O God, has come into view, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.”*

In Germany the classical processions come mainly from Catholic Church traditions that celebrate certain church feasts. There are now more worldly associations, which

organise their own local processions, such as riding clubs, volunteer fire forces, carnival associations, and others. It is very common to see them carrying a banner or a standard. The Pentecostal/free churches often organise a “Jesus March” which is very colourful and make great use of banners and flags.

## Street festivals

As an example, our flag team supported the Evangelical Alliance in Bonn for a street festival.

## Weddings, anniversary celebrations, ...

There are many opportunities for the use of flags. It is important to hear God’s voice and then be ready to go where he sends you. Sometimes it is helpful to read a Bible passage or give a word of explanation beforehand.

## Prayer conferences

Banners can be used to focus attention on certain prayer topics. They can also be an inspiration for prayer. A friend of mine always takes her small red flags to prayer meetings. She is never on stage, not in the dance team, but this is her calling and she is faithful to it.

In this way the entire prayer group receives a blessing from God at each meeting.





### Private worship – quiet times

In my view this is the most important place to use banners and flags. The source of all inspiration lies in your time of intimacy with God! On the public stage you are only what you are when alone with God! As a rule, service begins in the hidden place, not in the open!

In quiet times and times alone we can achieve much through regular and disciplined training. It is important to train the body, maintain its condition and to continuously improve our coordination of movement and action.

What makes the difference between a simple dance presentation and a team or an individual with a living relationship with Jesus? God alone makes the difference! It is our task to make ourselves totally available:

- with pure hands and hearts (holy lives)
- with a humble heart
- willing to obey Jesus
- living according to God's ways
- loving Jesus with all our heart, soul and strength
- regularly training – body, soul and spirit

God then sends his grace and the Holy Spirit touches people's hearts when they see our movements with banners and flags. It is not through our merit or performance that things happen, but by God's mercy that endures forever and changes hearts. Maybe you do not yet have an opportunity to use your flags openly. In this case bring it to the Lord in prayer and wait on him. He

will guide you and show you a way. Raise your flags for HIM and worship HIM. God is not so concerned about what we do for him as our attitude of heart in what we do.

*Psalm 139 v.24,25 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; ... and lead me in the way everlasting."*

If you have a humble and willing heart before God, then you will experience a deep awareness and revelation of God's word and being. You, yourself, will no longer be the centre of your flag dance, but the love, grace, mercy and holiness of God will be sensed and made evident. Always examine your motives. If you discover any wrong intention, bring it to the cross and ask for forgiveness.

*Psalm 18 v.34 "He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze."*

Let God train you in your quiet times, use your flags at this time, and wait to see what happens.

### Prophetic acts

In the Old Testament prophets often performed prophetic acts according to God's instruction, and sometimes this affected their whole lives.





God required Hosea to marry a whore as a symbolic picture to the people of their unfaithfulness to God (Hosea 1 v.2). Jeremiah walked with a yoke strapped to his neck in Jerusalem (Jeremiah 27 v.2). Isaiah went around for three years stripped and barefoot (Isaiah 20 v.3).

To perform a prophetic act with flags and other similar items, we must really be inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is important to be close to HIM, to hear exactly what we should use. We must be careful not to attribute to God what does not come from him. The sons of Aaron died because they offered something to him contrary to his command.

*Leviticus 10 v. 1,2 "Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorised fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord."*

When we hear God's voice, then our flag dance will be anointed with much blessing, power and the presence of God.

It follows that there are no hard and fast rules for prophetic acts with any objects. Banners, flags and similar items have no hidden power! There is no magic or anything like it in them!

*" ... at this point the question arises, what here is 'holy' and what is 'occult'? One thing is clear: Just because we wave a red flag, for instance, over the head of someone lying under the power of God, it does not mean that this person can begin to understand this form of spiritual activity or will appreciate this kind of ministry. In no way does the waving of flags in itself*

*bring healing or deliverance – as if a piece of cloth had magic powers! No, the banner or flag is an extension to our prayers that releases the power. It is never from the cloth in itself, but from the Holy Spirit. We do not want to manipulate the situation but flow with the Spirit. It does not happen in our own strength and this is an important point for everyone in this ministry that must be well understood." (From "Banners and Flags" by Jackie Howard)*

Flags are a means to proclaim the truth. Just as musical instruments can be a means to express our feelings with faith.

### Examples of prophetic acts

Cordelia Loew includes the following anecdote in her book "Praise and Worship with Banners and Flags" (only in German): *"Somebody once told me that God had said to her that she should stand at the door of her church with a large red flag and by waving the flag, cover the worshippers with the blood of Jesus. This may bring a smile to many faces, but what if God really said this? Just imagine that Isaiah was living today and came into church stripped and barefoot! Would we really take him seriously and believe that God had called him to do this?"*

In a prayer conference, completely wrap someone in a gold cloth to represent being entirely covered by the glory of God. Throw flags onto the ground: Satan is under our feet.

We should listen carefully to the Holy Spirit so that we do not mix up God's purposes with our own ideas. Otherwise we will end up with a meaningless show that does not touch and deeply change people's hearts.



## VI. CARRYING BANNERS AND FLAGS

### Worship and dance with heart, soul and body

*Psalm 15 v. 1,2 "Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart."*



In all areas of our lives we should be concerned with integrity and righteousness. Truth must reign in our hearts; lies and deceit should have no place. We are called to worship and glorify our creator. This applies especially to all in public ministry such as preachers, musicians, dancers, those who carry banners, flag dancers, etc. Stay close to God's heart and allow him to correct you whenever necessary. Bring your intentions to the cross and ask for forgiveness when you feel that your motives are not pure. We must not flaunt ourselves. We are the children of God and we take pleasure in HIS presence. When self dominates in a flag dance, there can be no true worship in the assembly and the character and goodness of God will not shine through us.

(Here I would like to recommend the book "The Heart of the Artist" by Rory Noland. This book has helped me and my team members to be aware of the decisive issues for character building. Among other things the book deals with: "servant-hood versus stardom", "excellence versus perfectionism", "handling criticism" and "jealousy and envy", "how do I react when someone has more talent than I have?" or "how do I react when someone else is dancing in the first row and I am standing in the second row?" and more. The author leaves out none of the pitfalls on the road of character building.)

Do not however fall into the trap of false humility as a flag dancer. We may and should worship our Father God with our whole being. When we remember that God is not looking at our performance (not even in worship), but for our love and trust in HIM to grow, so will our worship be much more open and free.

Dancing is a good way to open our hearts to God, because it leads us into an active step of commitment. It is an opening up of oneself to what is really inside. Dancing claims our whole beings and enables us to reach a level of worship where everything in us is captured and engaged while we dance. Just as praise is first and foremost for God, so is our dancing only for God. But precisely because God so jealously expects to be at the centre of our worship, here we find our greatest fulfilment and satisfaction. There is nothing better or more satisfying than his presence. Nothing on earth or in heaven can replace his presence, for where HE is, there is complete beauty and perfect love.

*Psalm 103 v. 1 "Praise the Lord, O my soul;*



*all my inmost being, praise his holy name.”  
Dancing is an expression of the soul and  
body:*

*1 Corinthians 6 v.20 “Therefore honour  
God with your body.”*

*Romans 6 v.13 “Do not offer the parts of  
your body to sin, as instruments of  
wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to  
God, as those who have been brought  
from death to life; and offer the parts of  
your body to him as instruments of  
righteousness.”*

*2 Corinthians 5 v.10 “For we must all  
appear before the judgment seat of Christ,  
that each one may receive what is due to  
him for the things done while in the body,  
whether good or bad.”*



Our body is an instrument for the building of God’s kingdom and to give HIM the glory. Our body has not been given to us that we can live for drugs, fornication and sins of all kinds.

Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God. You are very valuable and precious, because the Father has paid a high price for you. You do not belong to yourself!

Your body expresses what is in your heart. Be careful about what you allow to enter, fight to stay pure in your thinking and in

what you listen to and look at. Stop complaining about yourself, be sincerely thankful how you are wonderfully made by God and give him praise every day. The word “bless” means “speak good things”. So be humble and speak only good things about yourself. Carry the banner with the peace of God in your heart. Raise your flags with the peace of God in your heart. Watch out that nothing comes between you and HIM, approach his throne daily, worship and live for him.

We should not dilute or lower God’s standard for holiness. (A standard not only means a banner but also a defined measure or level of performance – a benchmark.) On the contrary, we proclaim his glory, his magnificence and might. How precious he is, how awesome his being and his holiness! We must not allow God’s standard to be reduced to our human level. When we raise a standard (banner) for God, we should align ourselves with HIS standard (excellence)!

### **Respect your leaders!**

Churches have very different forms of worship. Some freely welcome dancing, others are more reserved or even do not want to see any dancing in a worship service. When you belong to such a church, then respect their decision. Pray for your leaders, bless them and raise your flags at home. The Father sees everything and HE will not forget you. Wait on God and hear from him how he is leading you.

Even when a church is very open to all kinds of flag dancing, be sensitive and submit your own desires to the leadership. *Daniel 10 v.12 “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind*

*to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard ...”*

Always be ready to respect the church leadership even when you do not feel like it.



(Streams of Living Water)

## VII. MAKING BANNERS AND FLAGS

From my past experience, the sewing of banners and flags is somewhat different from sewing clothes and other everyday items. The reason for this comes from God himself. In Exodus 31 v.1-11 God gives very specific instructions for the building of the tabernacle including for the materials. God called Bezalel by name and filled him with skill, ability and knowledge to enable him to not only to design artistically but to actually make things from gold, silver and

precious stones and to instruct others. The calling of Hiram the bronze craftsman in 1 Kings 7 v.13,14 was similar. He made the pillars and all the bronze items for the temple of Solomon. We can only make banners in the right way when we regard this skill as a calling from God.

The calling comes from God and not from ourselves. Allow yourself to be guided only by God when making banners. There are now so many different techniques and materials that the choice is not so easy. Choose materials that you can effectively work with and at the same time will achieve the desired result that you first pictured in your spirit. Do not shy away from the cost or the time it will take to learn and develop new techniques. When you show patience and perseverance here in the making of your banner or flag, making use of your spiritual insights and knowledge of God’s word, you will be truly amazed at the result.

### **A word of advice:**

#### **Time should not be a factor**

Do not work under time pressure, but take it slowly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. With some banners I will be interrupted by the Holy Spirit and I can only start again after some time – with some changes. The result then even pleases me much more! Listen carefully to what God is saying – to obey is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15 v.22). Let us never make a banner or flag in haste or half-heartedly. Take care in the choice of materials that you would like to use. Do the colours produce the effect that you saw in the spirit? If you do not have the colour that you need, then perhaps wait a while until you find something suitable.



It is not always easy to find bright and shiny cloth material with the right powerful colours. Wait for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Do not make false savings: good materials have their price. Ask yourself the question: what is it really worth?

I always ask myself when purchasing material:

Whom should it honour?  
What impression will it make?  
Whom do we serve?  
To whom do we belong?

We honour and serve the Almighty, the Creator of all! Even if we are never able here on earth to adequately describe his real beauty, his precious worth and everything else about him, we can make our work to his honour and glory as splendid and magnificent as we possibly can!



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geschlossene Türen



geöffnete Türen



Detailansicht: Ein Fisch



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Monika Huembs-Schroeder

Born 1961 | married | three adult children

Monika Huembs-Schroeder has been a Christian since 1989 and is a member of a free evangelical church in Germany along with her husband. She was for many years engaged in children's and youth work leadership.



Through working with children, God taught and trained her in many different ways – to listen to HIS voice, to serve as part of a team, in creativity, to lead a team, in intercession, ... Her current involvement in the meaning of banners and flags has also been a continuing development and maturing process. Banners and flags are for Monika Huembs-Schroeder a pleasing and attractive way to express her praise, worship and reverence for HIM.

All the banners and flags as well as many other artistic items are made by the author herself. "I was no seamstress at the beginning, but God gave me the skill, patience and creativity that I needed. In designing and making the creative works, I became connected in worship and prayer to my Father in heaven. Then I felt that my calling to make God known through banners and flags was definitely confirmed. My motivation is only to honour the name of Jesus to his glory."

In addition to custom banner and flag making, she is now sharing her experiences in ministry with her flag dance team in international seminars.



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