

tively influence the one looking for healing. These guidelines can lead the persons concerned into isolation and can have a detrimental effect on marriage and family.

- The so-called “proofs” by a group of “medical-scientific experts” are misleading. They are nothing more than a collection of anecdotes on healing, but no real proof of an effective “healing flow.” The so-called “proofs” can cause a deceptive trust in the case of the credulous.

- There is a real danger that in case of a serious illness, a reputable treatment will be delayed for too long, and that as a consequence the afflicted might suffer serious harm.

#### Are Christians to join the “Circle of Friends”?

- The church does not recognise any “healers” and does not know of any mediators of any healing flow. The Christian healing ministry consists solely of intercessory prayer. Thereby it is up to God how he answers such prayer.

**The teaching and practise of the Bruno Gröning Circle of Friends demonstrates serious discrepancies to the Christian Faith.**

- According to Christian understanding, illness is not the result of a lack of faith or a distorted adjustment to the divine flow of healing. Within the Christian faith is also seen the importance of suffering and the cross. People are granted a share in Christ’s redemptive suffering and in the burden of his cross. Suffering for a

Christian is never simply seen as a negative.

- Neither bible, nor tradition of the church know anything about a healing perspective due to a divine “healing flow”.
- According to the Christian faith, the only mediator between man and God Father is Jesus Christ alone. This position cannot be taken by any man.

#### Sources (selection):

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H. Lerchmüller, Die Heilslehre des Bruno Gröning, Aktion Bildungsinformation (ABINFO) Stuttgart, 12/2002.

Bistum Trier, Näher betrachtet: Bruno Gröning-Freundeskreis – Kreis für geistige Lebenshilfe ev.

#### On the subject of New Age, there is an informative document issued by the Church:

“Jesus Christ, the bearer of the waters of life”. Considerations on New Age from a Christian viewpoint. Rome 2003. This document can be downloaded via the following internet address: [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/interelg/documents/rc\\_pc\\_interelg\\_doc\\_20030203\\_new-age\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_interelg_doc_20030203_new-age_en.html)

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#### Catchword

# Bruno Gröning

Again and again invitations for the film “the miracle apostle” are distributed everywhere - even in churches. This is how the “Bruno Gröning Circle of Friends” advertises its movement and allures new recruits. Bruno Gröning followers like to use church owned rooms for their gatherings, to thus give the appearance that they are a Christian movement. But in reality they are organised like a sect and are a spiritual healing movement, which is irreconcilable with the practice of the Christian faith.



## Who was Bruno Gröning?

Bruno Gröning was born in Danzig. After an aborted apprenticeship in carpentry, he tried out several professions. After being discharged from war captivity in the year 1946, he eked out a living



Bruno Gröning  
(1906 – 1959)

as a rag and bone man, a barterer, a sales representative and also tried to be a watch repair man. In 1948 he claimed, for the first time, to have “healed” somebody. Quickly the news about so-called divine powers spread. Selective sensational propaganda soon led to mass hysteria and large crowds of people gathered to be healed by Bruno Gröning. In 1948 Bruno Gröning was condemned due to a breach of the law applying to healing practitioners and was sentenced to a financial penalty as well as to a period of imprisonment on probation. Nevertheless Bruno Gröning saw himself as someone sent by God. He claimed to heal with divine power, while complying with God’s divine will. In 1954 he was forbidden to appear in any public performances throughout the whole of West Germany. After completing a course in becoming an “assistant to a healing practitioner”, which he did in order to carry on his work, he continued his activity. That is when he invented his tin foil balls, which were meant to concentrate his healing powers. In 1959 he died in Paris from cancer.

## Bruno Grönings Teachings

Gröning saw himself as a mediator of a “divine flow of healing” which is constantly surrounding man, as do radio waves. He said he would take into himself this healing flow and pass it on. According to Gröning, there are no incurable illnesses, as long as a person is not placing any barriers in the way of the divine healing flow. In order to better bundle this healing flow, Gröning gave out to his followers little tin foil balls, which - like antennas - were to receive the healing flow. His followers were to tune themselves into receiving this healing flow, as a radio is tuned into the correct radio relay reception.

## The cult surrounding Bruno Gröning.

- The veneration of Bruno Gröning continues within the “Bruno Gröning Circle of Friends”. This organisation continues to gather ever more numerous adherents and spreads the “teachings” of Bruno Gröning.
- In the opinion of the “Circle of Friends”, Bruno Gröning is a chosen mediator of the healing flow, which he – like a current transformer – receives from God in order to change the “infinitely high divine energies into human energies”.
- Within the meetings of the Circle of Friends, receiving this healing flow has nowadays been ritualised – similar to a liturgical act. Grönings words are read, petitions are directed at Gröning, he is called upon as a mediator of healing and thanked for his actions.

- The appearance of the “Circle of Friends” is seemingly very Christian, but Christ is only considered to be a “teacher”, not the redeemer. The real mediator between God and man is thought to be Bruno Gröning.

- While Gröning himself just appeared as an isolated “healer” and encountered the gullibility of many people, the “Bruno Gröning Circle of Friends” must be defined as a “spiritistic-esoteric group”, within which elements of a Gnostic Christianity have been integrated into the system as such.

## Dangers



Bruno Gröning is supposed to effect “miracle healings”. But the so-called “verification” of such healings by a group of “medical experts” consist of a collection of healing anecdotes only. They are aimed at deceiving the credulous.

- Since followers of the Bruno Gröning Circle of Friends claim, that a critical, doubting attitude will hinder the effectiveness of the healing flow, a prosaic, down to earth scrutiny of the cult is suppressed from the very start.

- Members are advised to keep away from critical friends, acquaintances or even family members, since doubts could nega-