

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 4106 804806 • Fax: +49 4106 804807  
Email: [info@bonn-profiles.net](mailto:info@bonn-profiles.net) • <https://bonn-profiles.net/>

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## BQ 856 – No. 36/2025

### “Make the Bible Great Again!”

#### Franklin Graham receives the world’s smallest Bible ever printed

(Bonn, 02.06.2025) From 27 to 30 May, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) organized the European Congress on Evangelism in Berlin. Archbishop Thomas Paul Schirmacher welcomed the American evangelist Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham, on the opening evening with the words: “Welcome to my homeland and the capital of atheism, both of which need the Gospel more urgently than ever before.”

During the congress, the rector of the Bonn Biblical Seminary, Prof. Heinrich Derksen, presented the smallest Bible ever printed in the world. This so-called Thumbnail Bible was printed in Glasgow in 1911 and measures 43 x 30 mm. This means that there are 23 lines per centimeter on the Bible pages, which can be easily read with the help of a magnifying glass contained in the Bible box. Prof. Derksen thanked the American evangelist for coming and handed over the mini-Bible with the smiling invitation to “Make the Bible Great Again”. Franklin Graham thanked him for the special gift and remarked: “You need more than a magnifying glass!” This smallest printed Bible is a treasure that he will cherish.

The special Bible exhibit comes from the collection of the founder and director of the “Qumran and Bible Exhibition Syll”, Alexander Schick. The internationally sought-after science journalist and author has acquired a wealth of specialist knowledge through years of close contact with leading archaeologists, museum directors and antiquities

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#### Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)  
Vorderer Kamp 52a, 25479 Ellerau  
Tel.: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06  
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07  
E-Mail: [info@bonn-profiles.net](mailto:info@bonn-profiles.net)



Franklin Graham presents the “Thumbnail Bible” to the audience © BGEA/ Heinrich Derksen



A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Bonn Abrahamic Center for Global Justice, Peace and Sustainability

Business Coalition of the World Evangelical Alliance (Bonn, Hamburg) [business.worlddea.org](https://business.worlddea.org)

Evangelical Missiology, Journal of missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance) [missiotop.org](https://missiotop.org)

Evangelical Review of Theology (New York, Bonn) [theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology](https://theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology)

Giving Hands – International Charity (Bonn) [gebende-haende.de](https://gebende-haende.de)

Institut für Islamfragen der Deutschen, Schweizer und Österreichischen Allianz (IfI) [islaminstitut.de](https://islaminstitut.de)

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIIS) (Bonn) [islam institute.net](https://islam institute.net)

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) (Bonn, Vancouver, San José – Costa Rica) [iirf.global](https://iirf.global)

International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (Bonn/Toronto) [ijrf.org](https://ijrf.org)

International Secretariat of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) [ishr.org](https://ishr.org)

Islam and Christianity [journal.islam institute.net](https://journal.islam institute.net)

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul, Delhi) [bucer.org](https://bucer.org)

SOS World (Brussels) [sosworld.be/page-daccueil](https://sosworld.be/page-daccueil)

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance [europeanea.org](https://europeanea.org)

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft (VKW) (Culture and Science Publ.) [vkwonline.com](https://vkwonline.com)

WEA book series: Global Issues Series / World of Theology Series [theology.worlddea.org/global-issues](https://theology.worlddea.org/global-issues)  
[theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology](https://theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology)

WEA Sustainability Center [wea-sc.org](https://wea-sc.org)

Yearbook on Religious Freedom of the Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance [iirf.global/jahrbuch](https://iirf.global/jahrbuch)

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authorities and has been touring Germany with his traveling “Qumran and Bible Exhibition” for 30 years. Schick writes about the background to the Thumbnail Bible: “Technical developments from the 1870s onwards led to the production of increasingly thin paper. Photolithography was also developed. This process made it possible to print photographic originals in miniature formats. Thus, for the first time, not just



The “Thumbnail Bible” © Alexander Schick

excerpts but the entire text of the Bible could be printed. The first edition in 1896 consisted of 25.000 copies! The Bible presented to Franklin Graham is from 1911 and was printed for the coronation of George V (grandfather of the late Queen Elizabeth II). Such miniature Bibles were primarily distributed to soldiers throughout the British Empire. The mini-Bible could also be purchased with a tiny metal box. A magnifying glass is built into the lid.”

Alexander Schick is also Senior Advisor on Biblical Archaeology and History of the Bible to Archbishop Thomas Paul Schirrmacher, most recently Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance and currently President of the International Institute for Religious Freedom and Ambassador of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches to the Vatican.

### Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Heinrich Derksen presents Franklin Graham with the “Thumbnail Bible” © BGEA/ Heinrich Derksen
- **Photo 2:** Franklin Graham presents the “Thumbnail Bible” to the audience © BGEA/ Heinrich Derksen
- **Photo 3:** The “Thumbnail Bible” © Alexander Schick
- Information on the European Congress on Evangelism:  
<https://pages.billygraham.org/european-congress/>
- Information on the “Thumbnail Bible”:  
[https://www.bibelausstellung.de/home/navi1090\\_1691\\_die-kleinste-gedruckte-bibel-der-welt-1911](https://www.bibelausstellung.de/home/navi1090_1691_die-kleinste-gedruckte-bibel-der-welt-1911)
- Website of the Bible exhibition by Alexander Schick:  
<https://www.bibelausstellung.de>

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