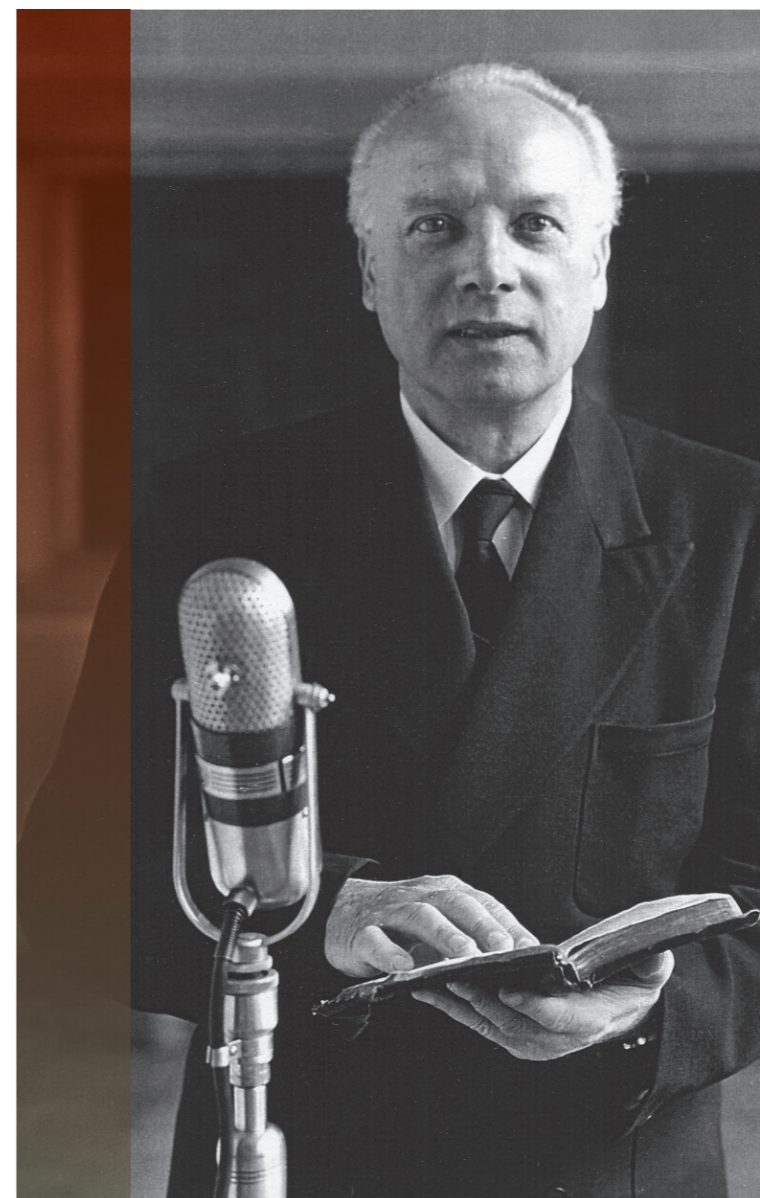


of "Spiritual Revolution in the Heart of Europe" (Geistliche Revolution im Herzen Europas).

- 1970** Rotapfel-Verlag Publishing House, Zurich und Stuttgart issued a publication by Přemysl Pitter "Unter dem Rad der Geschichte". • In January, a formal constituent meeting of the Jan Hus Congregation of Czechs and Slovaks was held in Zurich. Pitter devoted a major part of his efforts in the seventies to the Jan Hus Congregations. His work in the Masaryk Foundation at the Federation of Czechoslovak Associations in Switzerland was an important part of his activities as well, he was the President of the Swiss branch of the Society for Science and Arts, he worked in the Zurich association of Czech exiles "Svatopluk Čech". In early seventies, he initiated establishment of the Czechoslovak complementary school in Zurich (in the late seventies interest of parents in this school faded).
- 1973** Awarded by the Grand Cross 1st Class of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by the President of Germany Gustav Heinemann.
- 1974** The Czech edition of "Spiritual Revolution in the Heart of Europe" was published in the exile publishing house Konfrontation Verlag, Zurich. For this work and his memoirs "Unter dem Rad der Geschichte" he was awarded by a prize of the Zurich Canton Government.
- 1975** Received an honorary doctorate of theology (June 21) from the University of

Zurich, Switzerland. The idea of honorary doctoring, which arose from Swiss Zurich circles, was justified at the request of the University of Zurich by prof. Dr. Jan Milíč Lochman from the University of Basel. • Přemysl Pitter professed ideas of the Bohemian Brethren and opted for this Church as well.

- 1976** The last address (January 4) of Přemysl Pitter in Jan Hus Congregation in Zurich. • February 15, after a month-long hospitalization he died in Zurich hospital. As he wished, ashes were scattered without religious ceremonies. • On behalf of Přemysl Pitter, Olga Fierzová took over a medal in memoriam from the Johannes Mathesius Gesellschaft. • Till 1990, Olga Fierzová continued in publishing of the exile magazine *Talks with Writers*. She was a continuator of Přemysl Pitter's work and a guardian of his legacy.
- 1991** Archives of P. Pitter and O. Fierzová dislocated to the Pedagogical Museum of J. A. Comenius in Prague. • President Václav Havel awarded Přemysl Pitter by the Order of T. G. Masaryk, in memoriam, class III.
- 1994** The P. Pitter and O. Fierzová Foundation was established (it was transformed into the P. Pitter and O. Fierzová Endowment Fund in 2000).
- 1995** The UNESCO's general conference declared the 100th birth anniversary of Přemysl Pitter to be a world cultural anniversary of the year.



Přemysl Pitter

1895–1976

Basic information

- 1895** Born (June 21) in Prague – Smíchov.
- 1909–1912** He finished his compulsory education; after unsuccessful studies at Realschule, he started typographic school in Prague and after completion of his studies, he graduated from Business College in Prague II.
- 1911** His mother, Žofie Pittrová died (February 28); he attended book printing school in Leipzig by mid-1912.
- 1912** He completed his practice training as a typesetter in Berlin and started to work as a chief in his father's printing company.
- 1913** His father, Karel Pitter died (April 30); father's printing house passed in the possession of Přemysl Pitter.
- 1914–1918** A soldier of the Austro-Hungarian army; participated in battles in Galicia, Italy, and Balkans. Terrible battlefield experiences influenced his attitudes and opinions for life.
- 1919** He worked shortly in the social department of the Ministry of National Defence. • For the first time he addressed audience under the open sky at the Republic Square in Prague (September 28). His lecture topic was "What is the real Christianity".
- 1920–1921** He studied at Jan Hus Faculty of Theology in Prague, extramural student; left school after two semesters, started practical educational activities.



Medal of P. Pitter awarded by the P. Pitter and O. Fierzová Foundation.
Author: Michal Tomšej, MFA, avers and reverse, 1995.

- 1920–1928** Public preacher and lecture activities both in Prague and out of Prague.
- 1920** He established a movement for spiritual and social revival *New Jerusalem*.
- 1922** Founded building and housing association *Milíčův dům* (The Milíč's House).
- 1923** Made a successful five-week lecture tour around Moravia and Silesia. • Participated in an international conference of IFOR in Nyberg, Denmark (July 19–26). There he met with British Quakers for the first time. He established long-standing contact with them.
- 1924–1938** Member of the League for Human Rights and Chair of the Peace Committee, member of the Academic YMCA.
- 1924–1941** Publisher (together with Pavla Moudrá, a writer) and redactor of *Sbratření* (Fraternisation), a magazine for revival of spirit and society.
- 1926** He participated in an international conference of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in Oberammergau; there he met with Olga Fierzová who became his closest associate.
- 1927** Secretary of the Movement for Christian Communism in Czechoslovakia. The movement was established in February 20, 1927; its activities were abolished in 1928.
- 1929** As a member of the International Board of the Internationale of opponents of war services, he participated in Board sessions in London and Zurich. • He made numerous lectures both in his homeland and abroad.
- 1931** The Highest Court in Brno confirmed the sentence passed on Přemysl Pitter in the matter of draft resolution against introduction of pre-military education of youth.
- 1933** The Milíč's House in the Prague district of Žižkov was opened (December 24). Till 1951, he worked as a director there.
- 1934–1935** He visited Germany twice, the objective of his stays there was familiarization with domestic political situation.
- 1938** Visited Austria where he became aware of roughness of the Nazi ideology. • For

children from the Milíč's House, a sanatorium *Domov* (Home) was opened in Mýto u Rokycan. • He visited Czech boarder area to get acknowledged with current situation and opinions of people living there. • In the magazine *Sbratření* (Fraternisation) spoke out against anti-semitism.

- 1939** Shortly before the Nazi occupation he returned from his lecture tour made in the Great Britain. • He dealt with Jaroslav Šimsa about his involvement into national resistance movement. • In the magazine *Sbratření* (Fraternisation) he published numerous articles in defence of Jews. • In the Milíč's House and in Mýto u Rokycan, joint education of Jewish and non-Jewish children continued.



- 1941** Issuing of the magazine *Sbratření* (Fraternisation) ceased officially. • Deportation of Jews to Terezín affected Pitter's colleagues as well, and as a consequence pedagogical activities at the Milíč's House were also disturbed.
- 1943** Přemysl Pitter was barred from giving any public speeches.
- 1944** Přemysl Pitter initiated setting up of the illegal Committee for Christian Aid to Jewish Children.
- 1945** An operation *Zámky* (The Castles) started (May 15) to rescue children from German concentration and Czech internment camps. Sanatoria for children were

established in castles Štiřín, Olešovice, Kamenice, Lojovice and in a boarding house Ládví in the Central Bohemia. • In his lecture to the public (May 27) he denounced post-war violence against defenceless German inhabitants.

- 1946** Visited London, where he dealt on behalf of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Welfare about possibilities of post-war resettlement of Germans from Czechoslovakia to the British occupation zone in Germany.
- 1947** *The Castles* operation terminated. 810 children went through *the Castles* rescue operation. • Přemysl Pitter passed school leaving examination (June 11) at two-year higher-level school for education of social-health workers (external student). • Publisher Joža Jícha in Brno issued Pitter's book *The Word of God to Children for Family and Sunday School*.
- 1948** He protested against totalitarian regime in many of his biblical lectures. • The Milíč's House was taken over by the Central National Committee in Prague, educational activities were limited substantially.
- 1950** Olga Fierzová left for her sister's funeral to Switzerland (February 17). Her return to Czechoslovakia was denied by the totalitarian authorities. • Přemysl Pitter was barred from giving any public speeches.
- 1951** In the spring, he was deprived of his office of Director of the Milíč's House. • He was summoned by the police for questioning, threatened by forced labour in uranium mines. • He emigrated (August 26) over the Lusatian Mountains to the German Democratic Republic and then through the Western Berlin to the Federal Republic of Germany. While escaping from the Republic, he had a code name *Paul*. He met with Olga Fierzová in Munich (October 23).
- 1952** He started to cooperate with BBC, Radio Free Europe, later with Roman radio as well. His speeches were published in print soon (To homeland and exile, 1956; Fire on the Earth, 1957; On the ridge of

ages, 1959). • He was appointed by the World Council of Churches to provide pastoral and social services in the *Valka* refugee camp near Nuremberg.

- 1955** In exile, publishing in various Czech and other magazines (e.g. Czech Word, The People of Jan Hus in Chicago etc.).
- 1962** Pitter's mission in the Valka camp finished; Olga Fierzová worked there as well. • Together with Olga Fierzová he left for Switzerland, where they settled in Affoltern am Albis, near Zurich. • He started to issue (in December) the exile magazine *Talks with Writers*.



- 1964** Together with Olga Fierzová he was invited by former "children of the Castles" to Israel. He was appraised by the honorific of the State of Israel Yad Vashem for rescuing Jews in the War (1966) and his name was immortalized on Jerusalem's "Mountain of Memory".
- 1965** His "Schuld und Suhne" was published in Munich. • On the occasion of the 550th anniversary of the death of M. Jan Hus and 50th anniversary of commencement of Masaryk's abroad resistance, he made a speech at the Jan Hus Memorial in Constance. • Launched cooperation with Prague Archbishop Josef Beran and with Dr. Alexandr Heidler.
- 1968** Influenced by developments in Czechoslovakia, he prepared the German edition