

The Bible Museum Is Looking for Premises

IN NEED OF HOUSING: Only a few months remain until the opening of the museum, though Rune Arnhoff is still searching for an available space.

The first Bible museum in the Nordic countries is due to open in four months. However, the museum is still missing a roof over its head.

- We are hunting for an appropriate space in the center of Oslo, says founder of the museum Rune Arnhoff.

The Nordic Bible Museum is planning to exhibit the largest collection of Bibles in all of the Nordic countries. Rune Arnhoff grants the museum access to his assemblage of 2500 Bibles.

- The old Bibles are cultural treasures that tell many interesting stories. I want more people to experience these books, he says.

Last year, Arnhoff was in negotiation with the Ibsen Museum about using a space in the same building. However due to expansions, the deal was broken off, and the Bible museum had to continue its search.

- Even though there are still preparations to finish before everything is ready for opening, the most imperative thing is now to find an available space. So I hope we will find something soon, Arnhoff says.

First in the Nordic countries

The choice of naming the museum “Nordic”, and not “Norwegian” Bible Museum is due to many of the Bibles being Swedish and Danish, as well as there not yet being another Bible museum in the Nordic Region.

- Overall, there are few Bible museums in the world, Arnhoff says.

Many of the Bibles to be exhibited in the museums are cultural and historical treasures.

- Among the 2500 Bibles is the first Bible of the Nordic region, the Bible of Gustav Vasa, which was published in 1541. Inspired by Martin Luther, the Bible commission began working on the publication of the Bible in Swedish, which resulted in the first complete translation of the Bible to a Nordic language, Arnhoff explains.

The first Danish Bible, and therefore also the first Norwegian one, Christian III's Bible from 1550, will also be exhibited at the museum.

- Many of the old books are beautifully illustrated and are relevant as pieces of art in themselves. Some of the oldest Bible pages are written on leather or parchment, and can be dated back to the 13th century, he says.

Contact:

- Rune Arnhoff, Nordic Bible Museum, tel: 401 05 777.

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