

# As a global network ...

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## ... OIKOSNET

seeks to express ecumenical solidarity through programme collaboration and staff exchanges which give special emphasis to lay training, leadership formation and ecumenical learning, thereby empowering God's people to embrace the ecumenical future. Linked to the World Council of Churches, OIKOSNET is engaged in education and ecumenical formation.

### News from the Education Networks

# LIVING IN THE NET —

## OIKOSNET Calendar of Events – 1999 Update

- Aug 1-6 CEPACASA Gathering and Capacity Building Symposium, Kingston, Jamaica
- Aug 23-29 MEATRC Assembly and Regional Annual Conference Theme: “The Christian presence in the Middle East, the reality, effectiveness, scope and interaction in pluralistic context”, Ayia Napa Centre, Cyprus
- Aug 30-Sept 6 NARDA Consultation “Living into Global Community”, Stony Point Centre, Stony Point, NY, USA (incorporating the NARDA Annual Meeting as well as OIKOSNET partners)
- Sept 13-19 OIKOSNET Meeting, Stony Point Centre, NY, USA
- 2000**
- Jan 17-26 NARDA Regional Course for Lay Leadership Training (CLLT): “Healthy Leaders for Healthy Institutions”, Spirit in the Desert Centre, Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- Feb 15-20 ACLCA Pre-Assembly: Youth and Women’s Network Consultation, Ramseyer Training Centre, Abetifi, Ghana
- Feb 20-27 ACLCA 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Theme: “Being the Light of the World: Challenges and Hopes for the New Millennium”, Abokobi, Ghana
- Mar 14-April 12 Global Course for Lay Leadership Training (CLLT) Theme: “To be Instruments for Peace”
- Mar 14-19 4 Team Visits: Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine
- Mar 20-April 12 Residential Course, Ayia Napa Conference Centre, Cyprus. 30 participants: 4 from Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe plus 4 resource people. **For information contact:** Evelyn Appiah, Education and Ecumenical Formation, World Council of Churches, PO Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Fax: (41-22)7102312 E-mail: [app@wcc-coe.org](mailto:app@wcc-coe.org)
- July-August ACLCA and ACISCA Interregional Interfaith Consultation on Islam/Buddhism/Christianity. For information contact: Rev. Jonah Katoneene, ACLCA, PO Box H122, Hatfield, Harare, Zimbabwe, Fax: (2634)573279 E-mail: [aclca@zimsurf.co.zw](mailto:aclca@zimsurf.co.zw) or Rev. Felix Sugirtharaj, ACISCA, Association for the Rural Poor, 59 East Mada Church Rd., Royapuram, Chennai 600 013, India, Fax: 0091-44 595 00 52 E-mail: [arpmads@md3.vsnl.net.in](mailto:arpmads@md3.vsnl.net.in)
- Sept 8-14 EAALCE Forum 2000, “Mini Montreat”, Loccum, Germany, Quota: Africa (15), Asia (15), Caribbean (5), CONOSUR (8), North America (12), Middle East (7), Pacific (2) For information contact: Wolfgang Lenz, EAALCE, Gruenewalder Str. 29-31, PO Box 10 11 85, D-42657 Solingen, Germany Tel: 0049-212-2494-250 Fax: 0049-212-2494-254 E-mail: [office@eaalce.de](mailto:office@eaalce.de)

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### EUROPE

**New address** for the Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe (EAALCE): Mr Wolfgang Lenz, General Secretary, EAALCE, Gruenewalder Str. 29-31, PO Box 10 11 85, D-42657 Tel: 0049-212-2494-250 Fax: 0049-212-2494-254 E-mail: [office@eaalce.de](mailto:office@eaalce.de) Internet: <http://www.eaalce.de>

From 1 May 1999, Wolfgang will work only for the European Association. Dr Franz Grubauer has been appointed the new General Secretary for the German Association of Lay Centres, from 1 July 1999, at present still in Bad Boll, Germany.

Renate Keim, Administrative Assistant who has worked with Wolfgang Lenz (and earlier with Fritz Erich Anhelm), retired earlier this year. Our grateful thanks to her for the many years of dedicated service and best wishes for the future.

### CASA CARES, ITALY

As follow up to the Global Course for Leadership in Lay Training (CLLT) 1998, held in Sommières, France, Paul Krieg from Casa Cares sent a questionnaire to lay centres in Europe regarding integrity of creation, in order to stimulate contacts with those who are working in this area. Replies were received from:

Czech Republic/Orthodox Academy Vilimov, Vilimov

Emphasis on theological-philosophical reflection, awareness building in the churches, solar collectors, cooperation with local environmentalists, wind power plant.

Finland/Turku Kristillinen Opisto, Turku. E-mail: [tarja.lehtinen@tk-opisto.fi](mailto:tarja.lehtinen@tk-opisto.fi)

Human responsibility to nature for now and the future, compost, concern with Baltic.

Finland/Valamo Lay Academy. E-mail: [santtone@ort.fi](mailto:santtone@ort.fi)

Contemporary lifestyle issues, emphasis on practical skills and handicrafts; monastic community promoting silence, contemplation and simple living.

France/Val de l'Hort, Anduze

Efforts with youth: water cycle, local vegetation, waste separation.

Germany/Arnoldshain, Arnoldshain

Sent brochures of numerous, elaborate programmes offered.

Germany/Evangel. Akademie Nordelbien, Bad Segeberg. E-mail: [evakadnord@aol.com](mailto:evakadnord@aol.com)

Environmental issues cross over to all themes; emphasis on sustainability, concern with mobility, programmes on "nature", rural development, consumption patterns, energy.

Germany/Evangelical Akademie Berlin-Brandenburg, Berlin

Biologist/theologian staff position at risk, sustainable regional development, staff meetings on centre's daily life with environmental sensitivity, suggests more inter-centre collaboration.

Germany/Evangelische Akademie Iserlohn, Iserlohn.

Email:

[g.ebbrecht@kircheundgesellschaft.de](mailto:g.ebbrecht@kircheundgesellschaft.de)

[r.sareikaq@kircheundgesellschaft.de](mailto:r.sareikaq@kircheundgesellschaft.de)

"Agenda 21 and Sustainable Europe", use regionally produced food.

Germany/Evangelische Akademie Loccum,

Loccum E-mail: [andreasdally@evlka.de](mailto:andreasdally@evlka.de)

Discuss "ecological/ethical" conflicts, energy policies, environmental law and mediation; in centre: energy conservation and environmentally sound food preparation.

Germany/Niels Stensen Haus, Lilienthal E-mail: [stensenhl@aol.com](mailto:stensenhl@aol.com)

Notes decreasing interest and investment; "eco-food" promoted, rainwater for toilets; work on regional water quality.

UK/Carberry, Musselburgh, Scotland E-mail: [carberry@dial.pipex.com](mailto:carberry@dial.pipex.com)

Challenge of caring for large park grounds, courses for schools developed with trees and retreat as themes, recycling very expensive due to lack of public support

UK/Corrymeela Community, Belfast, Northern Ireland E-mail: [belfast@corrymeela.org.uk](mailto:belfast@corrymeela.org.uk)

"Right relationships" emphasis in a centre dedicated to reconciliation, "plant a tree for 2000", experiment in permaculture.

UK/Holland House, Crophthorne, Pershore, England E-mail: [hohse@aol.com](mailto:hohse@aol.com)

Relevant periodicals available to guests, suggests possible network newsletter.

UK/Iona Community, Glasgow & Iona, Scotland E-mail: [ionacomm@gla.iona.org.uk](mailto:ionacomm@gla.iona.org.uk)

Statement on justice & peace issues

resident life; programmes: saved landscapes, building a green paradise; heaven and earth are full of God's glory; predominantly vegetarian diet.

Greece/Orthodox Academy of Crete, Kolympari-Chania E-mail: [oac@otenet.gr](mailto:oac@otenet.gr)  
"Development and Environment", establishment of an Institute of Theology and Ecologys

Italy/AGAPE, Prali, TO  
E-mail: [agape@perosa.alpcom.it](mailto:agape@perosa.alpcom.it)  
Refuse pig; a previous director noted when hearing of N. Europe efforts, "We already live pretty simply; we have no choice!!"

Italy/Casa Cares, Reggello, FI  
E-mail: [cares@centroin.it](mailto:cares@centroin.it)  
Rural setting, importance of people renewing ties to the land; library for guests; suggested book: Larry Rasmussen, Earth Community, Earth Ethics, 1996, WCC Publications, Geneva; feels challenge of being an environment-friendly business.

Netherlands/Kerk en Wereld, Driebergen E-mail: [jvdsar@kerkenwereld.nl](mailto:jvdsar@kerkenwereld.nl)  
Sustainability as a main theme while noting that social justice and psychological satisfaction are essential for applications, technology and spirituality, combine meetings to minimize travel.

Sweden/Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola, Jönköping E-mail: [svf@svf.fhsk.se](mailto:svf@svf.fhsk.se)  
Group of employees and students organized to heighten awareness.

Sweden/Stiftsgården Rättvik  
E-mail: [sb.fast@rattvik.mail.telia.com](mailto:sb.fast@rattvik.mail.telia.com)  
Clear focus on God the Creator, creation theology, relevant staff training in garden, kitchen, cleaning and maintenance, documentation of centre's effort.

Sweden/Ansgarssliden, Sigtuna  
E-mail: [bror.nyback@svkyrkan.se](mailto:bror.nyback@svkyrkan.se)  
Programmes possible only if centre is committed in its daily life, Swedish certification for having a kitchen with "ecological buying" and handling of waste.

Switzerland/Evangelisches Tagungs- und Studienzentrum, Boldern Staff person working with ecology/economy; documentation of centre's environmental care record, consider rainwater for toilets, earth ethics studies.

Switzerland/Le Louverain, Les Geneveys-sur-Coffrane E-mail: [secretariat@louverain.ch](mailto:secretariat@louverain.ch)  
Member of ecumenical environment association; year devoted to "coming generations"; "Humanity-Nature-Work: a New Contract"; occasional fair trade meals;

contact with and encouragement from other centres desired.

We hope that OIKOSNET member centres in the other regions will correspond with them.

**For more information contact:** Paul Krieg, Casa Cares, Via Pietrapiana 56, I-50066 Reggello (FI), Italy Tel/Fax: 055-865 2001 E-mail: [cares@centroin.it](mailto:cares@centroin.it)

### INTRODUCING MIRFIELD CENTRE, UK

The Mirfield Centre was set up in 1997 in consultation with others in West Yorkshire by the Community of the Resurrection. The vision was of a centre where men and women from all the Churches and beyond can come for encouragement, education and formation in order to be the people of God in the new millennium, building upon the foundations of the life, worship and resources of the Community of the Resurrection. The centre includes much of the Community's present and past work but also provides an additional new resource for the Church in West Yorkshire. Underlying the vision is a commitment to build up the people of God – clergy and laity, together, ecumenically and in community. The centre consists of three parts – the College of the Resurrection, the eastern part of the Northern Ordination Course, and the new Faith in Community Project.

**Further information from the Director, Bridget Rees, The Mirfield Centre, Stocks Bank Rd., Mirfield WF14 0BW, UK Tel: 0044-1924-48 19 11 Fax: 0044-1924-48 19 21 E-mail: [brees@mirfield.org.uk](mailto:brees@mirfield.org.uk)**

### CENTRO PRO UNIONE - ITALY

"Introduction to the Ecumenical and Interreligious Movements from a Roman Catholic Perspective" was the theme of their annual summer course, held 28 June to 16 July 1999, in Rome. The course offered an historical and theological overview of the issues that divide Christians as well as the bonds that unite them. The programme explored relations with other religious traditions. The course, in English, was for men and women who are in preparation for ministry or religious life, who are in the mission field, who are ecumenical officers or members of ecumenical commissions, or who are looking for a sabbatical experience led by qualified professors and ecumenists.

**For more information on the outcome of the course and on Centro Pro Unione, contact:** Dr Joan Back, Centro Pro Unione, Via Santa Maria dell'Anima 30, SI-00186 Rome, Italy Tel: 0039-06-687-9552 Fax: 0039-06-683-3631 E-mail: [pro@mvpro.urbe.it](mailto:pro@mvpro.urbe.it)

### ASIA

Mr Sudhakar S. Ramteke, Chairperson, Association of Christian Institutes for Social Concern in Asia (ACISCA) now has an e-mail address: [edcio@nagpur.dot.net.in](mailto:edcio@nagpur.dot.net.in)

**Report of Women's Consultation Workshop**, held at the Ecumenical Centre for Study and Dialogue in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15-20 March 1999. Theme: "Affirming Our Identity: Women for Empowerment".

There were 24 participants representing nine countries in Asia. The objective of the programme was to foster, among ACISCA lay centres, awareness and analysis of issues relating to women in promoting their participation and involvement in all aspects of church and societal life.



#### Conference Statement:

We, women participants representing the member centres of the Association of Christian Institutes for Social Concern in Asia (ACISCA) came together for a regional consultation at the Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 15-20 March 1999 to reflect on the theme: "Affirming Our Identity: Women for Empowerment".

The consultation was organised with the aim to identify issues confronting women in Asia and devise strategies for addressing them.

Through worship, Bible studies, sharing of country reports, personal stories and experiences, theological reflections and a day's exposure to

Sri Lankan reality and culture through listening and discussion, the participants identified the following concerns of women which need continued attention and action.

Violence, sexual discrimination and harassment, inadequacy and non-implementation of laws; problems of migrant, refugee and indigenous women; the effects of globalization; health including reproductive health, social, cultural and economic exploitation of women; illiteracy and environmental issues; women's participation in the church, both clergy and lay; child abuse, street children, prostitution, homelessness, care for the elderly, insufficient participation of women in politics and the rise of religious fundamentalism.

We strongly felt the need to affirm our identity as individuals and work in solidarity despite our diversities in order to effectively address the above issues.

We call upon all centres and churches to support and promote programmes to address all these issues.

#### Participants:

Mrs Priscilla R. Atuel, Philippines  
Ms S. Ammu, India  
Ms Hemsli Thranga Amaraweera, Sri Lanka  
Ms Rohini Hensman Banaji, India  
Ms Sheela Shashi Chakranarayan, India  
Mrs Henie Camba, Philippines  
Ms Antonieta F. Clavio, Philippines  
Mrs Helen Chandra, India  
Ms Chandani Dissanayake, Sri Lanka  
Ms Hannah Devashanthi, India  
Rev. Sumithra Fernando, Sri Lanka  
Ms Indrani Jayasundara, Sri Lanka  
Ms Jennifer Jag Jivan, Pakistan  
Rev. E. Kamalam Joel, Sri Lanka  
Ms Wiwik Ratna Kumarasari, Indonesia  
Ms Wendy Yen-po Kuo, Taiwan  
Dr Monica J. Melanchthon, India  
Ms Pamela Inez Rohitas, India  
Sr Victorine Rodrigo, Sri Lanka  
Dr Nelly Saha, Bangladesh  
Ms Helen Monisha Sarker, Bangladesh  
Ms S. Saraswathie, Sri Lanka

Ms Or. Christine Yan Yan, Hong Kong  
Ms Lee Ji-Young, Korea  
Ms Leonora Ulgasan, Philippines

A follow-up consultation: "Asian Women Synod of 2000" will be held in North East Asia next year.

**For more information contact:** Mrs Priscilla Atuel, ACISCA Treasurer, Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc., 937 P. Parades Street, Sampaloc, PO Box 1600, Manila, Philippines, Tel: 0063-2-735-4661/64 Fax: 0063-2-735-1465 E-mail: [kkfi@skynet.net](mailto:kkfi@skynet.net)

**Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc. (KKFI), Philippines** has decided to purchase two hectares of land in Bulacan (30 km from Manila) to be the relocation site of some of their programmes like the shelters for street children, therapeutic communities for women and men, and also for the Job Skills Training Programme. They realise that, forty-nine years after its founding, KKFI has to move on to become self-reliant. With the dwindling and phasing out of foreign project partners, they have to pursue a development plan to generate resources to sustain all of their programmes and services.

Asia Volunteer Centre – AVC

AVC has the goal to produce talented people who contribute to lasting development of the Asian countries. They make available knowledge and information about the Asian politics, economy and religion, culture, history, and lifestyle from a grassroots point of view, and help to achieve mutual understanding at the public level. The original policy of AVC is to train international volunteers. In addition, it hopes to open the future of Japan which seems stagnant to other possibilities.

**Sarawak Study Tour 1999.** In Sarawak, a province of Malaysia, many tribes of aborigines maintain their original culture. They live depending on the abundant tropical rain forest. However, the forest was seen as resource by others, and has been cut down on a large scale. In addition, Japan is the biggest wood importing country in the world, and 60% of its import is from Sarawak.

From 20-29 March 1999, one of the AVC staff, Mr Tomoo Arakawa and 12 other people toured Sarawak. They walked in Kuching and Sibu cities, staying at local hotels. Then they went through a home stay in a long house in Rumah Seli. A long house is a tenement of community life for 100-150 families. This tour was planned to experience Sarawak's natural environment and the lifestyle and agricultural work of its residents. The members were expected to understand the real situation of the people and think about it as their own problem through the activities in Sarawak.

**For more information contact:** Asia Volunteer Centre (AVC), 2-30 Chayamachi Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0013 Japan, Representative Rev. Satoshi Hirata Tel: 0081-6-6376-3545 Fax: 0081-6-6376-3548 E-mail: [avc@earth.email.ne.jp](mailto:avc@earth.email.ne.jp) URL: <http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/UB5C-MN>

## AFRICA

**LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK – Sustainable and Permanent Development**

The following document, prepared by Langton Kuvheya, Director at the Zimbabwe Council of Churches Training Centre, is a philosophy that he uses in his work and proposes that it be included in ACLCA workshops. He has strong convictions that, given the opportunity, this philosophy can take African countries somewhere towards the attainment of sustainable development.

To achieve sustainable and permanent development at family group, village community, society, church, industrial, institution, workplace, national, or international level – **"LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK"**.

The People have a right in public life to participate fully in decisions that affect their lives. Participation constitutes a right which is to be applied in the economic, social and political fields.

One of the people's rights is to be the key decision makers in matters that affect their lives. The people's desire to be the agents of their own development and to have their freely made decisions should be respected.

If the people are truly to be the main artisans for their own future, they will need not only to be involved in the decisions that affect them, but also in designing those decision making processes.

Leaders at all levels should sincerely and honestly listen to the people they lead. **Jesus listened to the blind beggar at Jericho (Luke 18: 35-43) and development took place.**

People should be the administrators and artisans of their own progress without the interference from those who would keep them in situations of intolerable injustice.

People should be able to manage their own affairs as autonomously as possible but should not interfere with the rights of others.

All people have a right to development and a right to the things they need for their survival and flourishing as people. People's development is a vocation and must be integral rather than simply economic. It must include all the dimensions of the human person.

For the people to speak, they need to be accepted. Their ideas, feelings and contributions need to be respected. If we truly believe that God created us in His image, we need to accept one another with our differences and despite our limitations and our failures.

To promote sustainable and permanent development –

**“LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK” LISTEN TO THEM**

**Contact address:** Langton Kuvheya, Director, Zimbabwe Council of Churches Training Centre, Box H133, Hatfield, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel: (2634)572122 Fax: (2634)573073

**A Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Network** was launched by ACLCA (Association of Christian Lay Centres in Africa) at a consultation in Harare, Zimbabwe, 20 November 1998. The aim of the consultation was to explore the desirability of setting up a network on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution in Africa. This was necessitated by the fact that in spite of colonialism having given way to independent movements in Africa, the continent is still faced with struggles for power and influence. Many of the challenges have been accompanied by violent conflict and peace is illusive. The various sub-regions have had consultations in their areas to look into the nature of conflicts that have continued to trouble Africa. The sub-regions represented were Northern/Eastern Africa, Southern/Central Africa and Western Africa.

### NIGERIA

Congratulations! Development Education Centre (DEC), a lay centre in Enugu State, Nigeria, which celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December 1998 is just a success story. This lay centre with full accommodation facilities for 100 persons, is 70% self-sustaining and plans to attain a 100% financial sustainability by the year 2000. DEC, whose thrust focuses mainly on poor women, young unemployed females and out of school female youths in urban areas, runs programmes which include literacy, community health work, micro-enterprises and income generating projects, and skills acquisition programme.

DEC's vision of helping women work towards achieving self-reliance, and of bringing about social justice, peace and development has been in many ways realized. Since 1988 DEC has enabled the establishment of 80 micro-enterprises and income generating projects owned by women's self-help groups in 75 rural communities. Such micro-enterprises include rice mills, palm oil processing plants, grain mills, pineapple orchards, goats, poultry, etc. The literacy programme, conceived in 1993, has to date trained 6,000 adult learners in 200 communities. It has also trained more than 300 community health workers in more than 250 villages since 1992 when this programme started. From 1993 to 1998 DEC has made 15,000 loans to both individuals and groups.

DEC's holistic approach to women's needs is more than amazing. Apart from assisting women to attain self-reliance, it has also taken the initiative on democracy and governance. This programme, started in 1997 had by the end of 1998 already mobilised more than 300,000 women, men and youths in more than ten states. These people are today effectively participating in Nigeria Transition Programme.

**Contact address:** Ms Cecilia U. Asogwa, Executive Director, Development Education Centre, No. 3/5 DEC Avenue, Independence Layout, Box 15723, (UNEC Post Office), Enugu, Nigeria Tel: (042) 451000 Fax: 234-42-458499

**THE MIDDLE EAST**

**BAYAD RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

The purpose of the centre is to offer different facilities for youth and families in order to hold their meetings and to adapt themselves to retreat, pray and to study the holy Bible. In addition, leadership training courses and other programmes may be held by them or other organizations. The centre is situated in upper Egypt and run and owned by the diocese of Beni Souef. They are a member of ACLCA (Association of Christian Lay Centres in Africa) and also MEATRC (Middle East Association of Training and Retreat Centres).

They look forward to building new friendships with other centres through exchange programmes or receiving groups.

Social and developmental activities in their diocese include: Mentally handicapped centre, Desert reclaiming project, Primary health care centre, Retreat centre, Leadership training institute for girls. Projects include: old people's home, hospital, nursery, cement brick factory, furniture training, farm.

**For more information contact:** Fr Youssef A. Andarws, General Director, Bayad Retreat and Conference Centre, Coptic Orthodox Diocese, St Mary Monastery, P.O. Box 30, Beni Souef, Egypt Tel/Fax: (20)82-325838

**LETTER TO THE TEAM**  
from Educators in  
*Cone-Sul*

*Many thanks for your greetings which we received while we were holding the meeting. We the members of the sub-regional commission of education have received with much satisfaction your greetings and invitation to mutual collaboration. We believe it is necessary to optimize our work.*

*In this first exchange of greetings, and before commenting on our encounter, we would like to give you a brief outline of the work our commission has been doing. We recognize 5 moments in our life work:*

*The first starts off with the mandate received in the Salvador Bahia meeting held in November 1991 where Latin American ecumenical organisations and cooperation agencies met. The mandate consisted of constituting a regional commission on education. At the time we needed to know what the*

***What is happening with popular education?***

*ecumenical groups were doing as regards educational practices in their social work with the poorer sectors of society. The question that came up was:*

*The second moment was when we met to interpret the results of these meetings and a main discovery was the necessity to establish relations between popular education and formal education.*

*A third moment in our journey was the historical circumstance that the educational systems of our countries were initiating processes of Educational Reform, this created a demand to link the practices of popular education with the process of the reform taking*

place. In this framework was started the investigation on a key aspect of the reforms: the work and its relationship to the curriculum. The question that motivated this investigation was:

The results of the investigation pointed out, on one hand, the precocity of our educational systems, which do not manage at least on

*what happens to the curriculum in the poor sectors of our society?*

the short term - to reach the young poor with its goals of curricular reform, and on the other hand, the perceptions and ideas that these segments of society have towards the school as related to their own biographies. In the context of high unemployment among the youth, the question of the relation between school and a training that enables for work comes up.

A fourth concern is the need to deepen the strategies of survival among the youth groups. A study to link education, unemployment and strategies for survival of the excluded youth sectors was undertaken.

At the level of social investigation we have verified that in the majority of the countries of the region, secondary technical education is of bad quality and does not manage to link school and work. Exploring other alternatives, we reached the conclusion that a system of dual education could be a possibility.

Dual education is an educational model that combines theoretical formation of the school with practical training at the work place: the idea of two days at school and three days at work has been one of the equations that has linked school and work for young students.

With this perspective we initiated a fifth moment in our journey where we tried to explore and investigate the so-called dual education.

It is the context of this fifth moment that we have developed at our Lima meeting, we have made progress in clarifying a line of action for the next months.

On one side is dual education as a possibility of action for the future, on the other, the development of formative actions to strengthen the actors in the ecumenical field, especially evangelical teachers and youth leaders in the area of church and ecumenical organisations.

In the same way, we have discussed and worked on the project: "For a democratic citizen ethic from an evangelical field" which we find interesting because of:

Its motivations to promote citizenship;

Its specific objectives to develop processes of ecumenical reflection oriented towards formation and;

To hand over educational systems to the evangelical teachers that take place within the educational system of each country.

We prepared a work plan where Chile and Peru will be collaborating closely and we also prepared a work design for Peru.

Finally we would like to comment on the key point of the meeting.

We would like to manifest our interest for reflection going on in other regions, we would like to share and exchange ideas on educational focuses and methodologies taking place in other regions. We also manifest our will to collaborate with the work that the team of EEF is undertaking in the region.

We are satisfied with the progress made these past few days, but we are left with the feeling that there is still much to be done in our countries.

We hope that this information on our work will contribute to close ties of collaboration and mutual enrichment.

Fraternal greetings,

Translation of e-mail  
from Rafael Goto  
Humberto Shikiya  
and Hugo Villela



**FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION  
RESOURCE MATERIAL  
FOR AFRICA**

The churches of Africa have expressed a long standing need for resource materials for Family Life Education. To help meet that, the EEF team is collaborating with the Theology, Education and Family Life Desk of the All Africa Conference of Churches by assisting with the funding of a Writers Workshop.

The objectives of the Workshop are:

To meet the needs of African churches for simple resources on marriage and family life written by Africans for Africans;

To write a booklet on some pertinent issues in marriage and family life in a manner which is relevant to African realities;

To utilise the experience of family life educators, counsellors and other related resource persons in producing qualitative material.

Twelve writers have been identified from different parts of the continent. They will each prepare material in advance for discussion at the Workshop which will be held in October in Ghana. It is hoped that work on the resulting booklet will be completed by the end of the year.

In order to cross fertilise experience and understanding, EEF is hoping to make it possible for someone actively involved in family life education in another region of the world to attend the Workshop.

**CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS  
IN INDIA**

EEF is supporting a project of the All India Association for Christian Higher Education (AIACHE) to survey Christian Schools in India. The survey is examining the status, location, church affiliation, student and teacher profile and medium of instruction of Christian schools. A questionnaire has been sent to all churches, including the Roman Catholics. There is a particular concern to study the Christian education programme/value education offered by these schools in a pluralistic society.



At a Conference held last year by the AIACHE on "Christian Schools of India: Vision and Mission", participants from different parts of the nation belonging to Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions affirmed the holistic nature of Christian mission. They recognised the implications of the priority given by Christ to those who are weaker and underprivileged and the counter-cultural nature of his teaching. Referring specifically to education they stated:

"Education does not take place in a vacuum. Education is value based. Today the world has become highly competitive and self centred. Therefore, Christian schools are called to impart education toward the development of human values.

If there are some schools mainly for the elite class, the resources of such schools should be

utilised to give education to under-privileged children and weaker sections of society.

We must pay more attention to the education of girls and take measures to minimise the drop-out rate of girls.

Value education must be imparted not only through special curricula and lessons but also through multiple strategies including cross-curricular activities, campus celebrations and the ethos of the whole institution. We must not alienate or ignore the poor and the oppressed in the name of excellence and quality. We have to identify with them and manifest the love of God. The virtues of caring, sharing and cooperation should be cultivated and practiced.”

Their statement goes on to stress the importance of developing the Christian identity and character of the school by symbol, religious activity and through the quality of relationships. Excellence for children, professional development for staff and a transparent admissions policy are advocated. Christian schools and colleges need to strengthen a sense of partnership in academic matters and sharing resources.

Christian schools have the call to constantly strive after the example set by the master teacher Jesus. Through the Lord’s-Prayer, he ... made us one world community consisting of brothers and sisters in the parent-God. The request for Food, Forgiveness and Freedom contained in the Lord’s Prayer continues to be relevant in the vision and mission of the Christian Schools.



*News from the Education Networks*

**LIVING IN THE NET —**



### News and reports on books and publications



### Learning Resources

As already mentioned in the Editorial, the newly elected *Central Committee* of the World Council of Churches assembles in Geneva from August 25 to September 3 1999. Central to this session's work will be among others the nomination of the Commissions among which there is the Commission for Education and Ecumenical Formation. We are very much looking forward to this as it is the first time that Education will have its own Commission.

In March 20 - 24 1999, the working group on the project "Wholistic Education" met in New York, to further outline and co-ordinate its work. A report about the significance of this meeting, the intentions and the regional projects, will appear in the next issue of EEF-NET. For those who do not wish to wait so long, please contact Edna Orteza ([EJO@wcc-coe.org](mailto:EJO@wcc-coe.org)) for a full report.

The team is doing a research project on ecumenical learning experiences in local churches. A questionnaire can be obtained from ([ger@wcc-coe.org](mailto:ger@wcc-coe.org)) So far, we received, within the last couple of months, about 200 examples, which we would like to complement with further material on bi-lateral, multi-lateral, inter-confessional, inter-religious forms of learning. We invite you to participate in this fact finding programme.

The Lay Academy Boldern near Zurich/Switzerland (CH 8708 Männerdorf) asked us to point to their regular European Women's Summer Academy, which this year is held from 7 - 14 August under the title "Computer, Cow and Women's Business. If you are interested this year or in the coming years, please contact: *Dr. Reinhild Traitler at Boldern.*

#### CHRISTIAN MORAL AND PEACE EDUCATION FOR SIERRA LEONE

The Church and Society Department of the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone have responded to their analysis of the breakdown of moral values and increase of violence in the country by advocating moral and peace education in the community. Training opportunities in moral and peace education are being created using 120 trainers who themselves have been trained for this purpose.

They have produced learning resources for Christian Moral and Peace Education through Sunday Schools. The material comes in four volumes for the age groups 0-5, 6-12, 13-18 and 18+. The material uses selected Bible passages as the basis for engaging with the given themes. The youngest children focus on the family and relationships in the community. Older children look at the environment and personal qualities. Teenagers deal with issues of conscience, crime, violence, corruption, abuse and peace and reconciliation. The material for adults falls into three sections - marriage and family life, public and work life, the peaceful life.

#### CUADERNOS BIBLICOS PARA NIÑOS Y NIÑAS

The Comisión Evangélica Latinoamericana de Educación Cristiana (CELADEC) in association with the Consejo Latinamericano de Iglesias (CLAI) has produced a series of illustrated booklets to help children engage with the Bible. They are in workbook style with spaces to write or draw and with puzzles and games to play.

The six booklets received by EEF help children look at the opening chapters of Genesis, Abraham and Sarah, the exodus, occupying the promised land, the kings of Israel and the prophets. There are also booklets for leaders or teachers to help them use each section of the material with children in groups in a variety of settings.

### UNITY OR UNIFORMITY ?

EEF-TEAM - GERT RÜPPELL - 26 OVERHEAD PROJECTION PRESENTATIONS-COLOUR

The second teaching aid in the series "What on Earth is the Ecumenical Movement" focusses on the development of the discussion on Unity in the Ecumenical History. It can be used in Seminars as well as for work in congregations.

*The Folder contains colour /or black & white presentations (colour 30 CHF /b & w 10 CHF, colour transparencies (50 CHF) Orders and Payment (by Master or Visa) Bookshop WCC, P.O.B.2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland*

### WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PUBLICATIONS

SINFONIA OECUMENICA - Worship with the Churches in the World 100 Liturgies in 4 languages: English, French, German and Spanish gathered by a group of experts on ecumenism. Published on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WCC. 1998, 984 pp., Sfr 63.50 (Basilea/Gütersloher)

ABRAHAM, K.C. – Christian Witness in Society. A Tribute to Dr M.M. Thomas (1916-1996) M.M. Thomas was moderator of the WCC Central Committee from 1969 to 1975. 1998, 226 pp., Sfr 30.- (BTE-SSC Bangalore)

FREIRE, Paulo – Pedagogy of the Heart. Inter-relations of education, political struggle and meditations from his early life and on. Notes A. Freire. 1998, 141 pp., Sfr 27.50 (Continuum)

KURIAN, M. Sarah Chakko. A president of the WCC from 1951-1954, Sarah Chakko was an eloquent voice for women in the ecumenical movement and a pioneer Christian educator in India. 1998, 173 pp., Sfr 10.50 (C.S.S. Kerala)

PRAYERS ENCIRCLING THE WORLD  
An International Anthology. 300 prayers that range over life's experiences and represent a wide spectrum of Christian traditions. 1999, 278 pp., Sfr 23.50 (Westminster John Knox Press)

*The publications are available from: WCC Bookshop, P.O. Box 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22)791 6378 Fax: (41-22)791 0361  
E-mail: [ryp@wcc-coe.org](mailto:ryp@wcc-coe.org)*

## News from the team



The team has recently been involved in outlining its three-year activity plans. The coming Central Committee will look into this and make suggestions before passing it. After that we will as usual produce our annual folder on the activities of the EEF-TEAM, which you can request free of charge.

We welcome Gerald Arci to the team who works as finance assistant to the scholarship programme.

As mentioned earlier in this issue, the web page of the EEF-TEAM is due to start in August and you will then be able to receive our latest news via the net. We hope for many "hits".