

Newsletter II March 2007

Dear friends,

since our last newsletter one year has passed, seemingly in no time. I hope the past 12 months have been a blessed and also agreeable time!

I am now going to report to you what happened to our plans of 2006 and also to describe our intentions for the coming up time.

2006

- **Study-trip to Sao Leopoldo in southern Brazil.**

The headline for the trip was “new Pentecostal movements and the theology of prosperity”.

The participants got many occasions of exposure to the 'strangeness' of the Brazilian Pentecostal movement, when perceived from the viewpoint of traditional German mainstream-Church members. The group had chances to get in touch with persons and congregations, to learn and reflect the situation.

It was a great help that Brazilian colleagues and theology students were around to share impressions and reflections, to evaluate together and to hear their assessments.

Please, turn to the website to find details and pictures.

- **The 2006-IPCC-Seminar in Hamburg/Germany**

More than 70 participants gathered at the Academy of Mission /affiliated to the University of Hamburg, Sept. 17-22, 2006 for the

19th International Seminar for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling:

“the truth will make you free”.

As we had intended in planning the seminar it became true: spaces for encounter of mission and pastoral care opened up, - for many of the participants for the first time in their life. (Again: see more at our website) - group picture follows -



The Academy of Mission and the SIPCC agreed on a series of annual consultations as a follow up program. They shall deal with issues which both sides consider to be necessary and urgent to study more and discuss. (First date is fixed: Oct. 27-28, 2007)

Another result of this 'encounter': you may remember that the SIPCC had initiated a process of dealing with pastoral care aspects of those people who are on assignment abroad, working for mission and church-aid agencies and being in need of accompaniment, support and supervision. It became obvious during the seminar that the preparatory work as delivered by the task force "round table counselling counsellors", had to be re-assessed, in particular in a closer contact with 'the Mission-side'.

This new step has started recently. The group reshaped its task and name "Working committee on Seelsorge, Counselling and Supervision in Mission", when it met Nov. 23rd, 2006, in Duesseldorf/Germany. Further steps of negotiations with Mission agencies in Germany are set up.

2007

Two major events are ahead of us in the SIPCC:

- one being our cooperation in "German Protestant Kirchentag" - this year June 6-10 having its venue in Cologne [you may take a look at www.kirchentag.de –Engl-version] .
 - as we did so already the last 3 times (2001, 2003, 2005), we will present SIPCC-work and ideas at a stall within the frame of "Market of Opportunities" ;
 - also we will present a new cooperation: with Muslim partners we will start to deal with Muslim spiritual presence in Hospital Chaplaincy settings, which still is unknown in Germany.

- The other being the **8th Worldwide Congress of the ICPC**, Aug. 7-14, 2007 at its venue Krzyzowa/Poland (south of Wroclaw).

The SIPCC is a member organization of the *International Council on Pastoral Care and Counselling (ICPCC)*. ICPCC organizes worldwide congresses each four years. In the last one in Bangalore/India when our member and friend Nalini Arles had been the convenor, the ICPCC General Assembly elected Helmut Weiss for this office for 2007. So this year the SIPCC is even a little bit closer to this event again.

The SIPCC supports this congress in Poland in various ways, one being finances. Because of this congress there will be no SIPCC-seminar. I / we invite all of you to come to Poland (and register soon, if you can come and did not register yet).

The topic will be

“treasure in earthen vessels” – Care of Souls facing Fragility and Destruction – Individual and Systemic Perspectives

Again here I refer you to the internet, but this time to www.icpcc.net – for more congress details.

For you, being SIPCC-members, it is very important to become aware of the fact that our **2007-sipcc-annual-general assembly will be at the congress-venue, too!**

In the past year we could realize the SIPCC attracted more interest to the realm of intercultural pastoral care and counselling, at least definitely in Germany.

We get asked for information and we get offers to cooperate with other organizations who also want to deal with our particular issues.

One of the results of this development is a cooperation with

„Evangelische Akademie im Rheinland” at Bonn (our former capital city).

At the end of March we will begin a series of annual consultations for specialists in the PCC field on intercultural aspects of pcc, this time focusing on

„PCC within the diversity of faiths, as represented in Germany today” – *assessment, impulses and perspectives.*

Looking forward: 2008

Meanwhile we have fixed the date for the

20. International Seminar for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling, taking place in the Lutheran School of Theology at Bratislava, Slovakia, Aug 31st – Sept 6th, 2008.

The focus will be the

strive for cultural and religious identities in times of change.

Two more -and last- remarks

concerning fields of SIPCC-work, where we need your help:

- Publications

Though we have planned to publish papers from our study trip to Brazil, and though we have planned to publish the papers of our Hamburg-seminar 2006 and though we have definitely

planned to publish an English-language book (in cooperation), we got stuck in all this. Here we need help, especially in regard with helping to translate, to edit and also to write articles. (We have asked our German speaking members in particular, - but, if we can go on here at all, we also need help from English speaking members).

- Finances

We still have a solid basis, but in order to go on for the next seminar, we need more scholarship funds. We are about to develop a long term strategy, - but for the time being we just need all help we can get to raise money. If you are specialist in fundraising – or if you have close contacts to such persons, please, let me or Helmut or Ulrike Mummenhoff know.

Last but not least:

The board, the planning committee and me send you
our heartfelt thanks

for all you activities and supports, your cooperation and creativity in all your contacts to our association!

My best wishes and regards
yours

Sabine Temme