



Stewards 2008

Ecumenical projects Highlights



World Council of Churches
WCC Youth Programme
Stewards Programme
Central Committee Meeting
6 February – 22 February 2008
Geneva, Switzerland

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Steward - ecumenical experience for young people

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches meets every 18 months to monitor and set directions to the Council's work. There was a group of young people from all over the world participating in the meeting as Stewards.

WCC Steward Programmes are unique events providing opportunities for participants to deepen their knowledge of the ecumenical movement, renew their ecumenical commitment and find inspiration for further work towards the unity of the Church.

Before the week of work at the Central Committee meeting, Stewards participated in a week-long Ecumenical Learning Programme which exposes them to the key issues of concern for the ecumenical movement world-wide.

Stewards formed a community of young people from different churches, countries and cultures, who bring their faith, backgrounds and visions to an ecumenical experience of togetherness and friendship. Being a steward is a challenge that may indeed be life changing.

The Stewards Programme is only the beginning of a long process. It encourages young people to continue the journey of ecumenism. The last element of the Programme focused on designing ecumenical projects which Stewards implement back home.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Natalie Maxson". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Natalie Maxson
Programme Executive
Youth (Young Adults)
World of Council of Churches

Big brother or sister for HIV/AIDS orphans

What

This is to start a project where young people in our community become aware of the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in and amongst our community.

Where

It starts first at home in South Africa and hopefully it will go all the way into Africa.

Why

The objective of the project is to make this epidemic aware in the implications of the disease. I will try to make it compulsory in all young organizations. Another objective is getting the young people to co-operate with me in this project.

For Whom

Youth.

How

- First I need to find the right orphanage and see if they are willing to work with me.
- I will start at home first and hopefully go all the way into Africa.
- This is for all young people in the church.
- This will be made aware in all communities and churches far and wide about this epidemic and how serious this disease is spreading.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances our priest has left the church and I need to discuss this project with the new priest which will only be starting in July 2008.
- Each organization would have to adopt a baby or child and work with him/ her with day to day duties and have to report back to me as frequently as possible.
- This project will hopefully be put into action of what as been discussed at the conference in Switzerland.

By Megan Morta
Anglican Church of South Africa



Megan said:

I want to use this project in the young people's ministry in our church.

I hope to achieve this awareness and overcome HIV by making people aware. Hopefully it will have an impact on everybody

I will be evaluating this project and I hope to carry it out as a task with everybody's help. There will be some hiccups due to my priest leaving but hopefully in the next month everything will be discussed.



Training Youth on Peace Building

Training Youth on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution with TAABCO

What

TAABCO is an organization of Research and Development Consultants. This project sets out specific trainings. TAABCO seeks to address and assist youth partners in the current situation in Kenya. The trainings proposed are aimed at working towards capacity needs of the partners in different regions in Kenya.

Where

Kenya

Why

The unprecedented political and humanitarian crisis in Kenya has put a great strain on civil society organizations (CSOs). Many with their background in community development and social work are involved in efforts to assist the affected and the displaced. However, things are far from what most of their staff are used to. Kenya is renowned as an oasis of peace in a region beset by a myriad of violent conflicts. Indeed over the years the country has taken in refugees from her neighbours by the hundred of thousands. Today however strife has been visited upon this erstwhile haven of peace.

The overall objective is to enhance the skills of some organizations to deal with building processes in their organizations as well as communities thus reducing conflict currently facing Kenyans.

For Whom

NGO. TAABCO has a large number of youth partner and client organizations. The relationship has been one of trust and mutual assistance to overcome challenges

How to support this project?

TAABCO will organize trainings for individual organizations in the following areas:

- Peace Building;
- Conflict management;
- Disaster Management
- Dialogue , lobbying and advocacy;
- Stress and trauma healing and counseling;
- Early warning methods

Gloria Wamela
Kenya

Gloria said:

The interventions undertaken by TAABCO are tailor made and relevant in enhancing a peaceful society. TAABCO upholds its values of providing quality consultancy services to individuals, agencies, communities and organizations.



Water and Climate Change

The idea

The idea is to start raising awareness about Climate change and water at the local level with hopes that it will proceed to an international level.

Contact partner: Ecumenical Water network (EWN) and the participants of the EWN summer school.

Genomes, medicine, and the environment, Dr. J.Craig Venter suggests, "design an organism capable of creating energy, and so reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels."

Main issues to address:

- Artificial life used to combat climate change.
- Food, water, shelter, and energy.
- Water must be considered a major component of a holistic approach to Environmental Justice.



Making each other visible



What

Connecting mainline parishes with migrant communities in Berlin

Where

Berlin, Germany

Why

Berlin is a multicultural city. A lot of people with migration-background formed their own communities of faith where they celebrate in their own tradition

For Whom

The Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). The EKD is currently struggling to elaborate new ways of living Christian faith in order to meet the contemporary needs of protestant christians in Germany. Interchange between Migrant-Churches and the EKD parishes would certainly enrich (and sometimes overcome) German traditions.

How and When

► Phase 1

- Get a picture of life and hopes of migrant churches in Berlin, investigated in 4-5 exemplary communities. *March 2008*

- Find out about forms of collaboration and influence between traditional german parishes and migrant communities. *April 2008- August 2008*

- Do a written documentation of the above. Make the results accesible to parishes, churches and church-related organisations. *September 2008*

► Phase 2:

- Do a documentary film about the above. *2008-2009*

► Phase 3:

- Establish a network between young people of migrant communities and protestant youth groups in Berlin. *October 2008- January 2009*

H. E. Charlotte Eisenberg

Evangelical Church of Germany

Charlotte said:

First I will concentrate on phase 1; when everything works out and I find the resources to continue I will start phases 2 and 3



Faith in Finland

What

Documentary Film on How Young Christians of Different Denominations Live Their Faith in Finland

Where

Finland

Why

In Finland, there are many Christian denominations. Recognising the variety of different Christian traditions in Finland, is often quite thin among the members of other denominations.

For Whom

Youth. The objective of this ecumenical project is to get in touch with young people of different denominations and show the viewer of this documentary: How do they live their Christian faith in practice?

How

➤ Documentary film:

One Christian from each four more significant denominations in Finland (Lutheran, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic) will be selected to be interviewed.

The themes for the questions are following:

1. Services
2. Prayer life
3. Other special and important parts of their faith.

These themes are to be researched in detail, and the questions will be prepared well beforehand for each different denomination in order to pay attention to the diversity

➤ The first two months after returning to Finland will be reserved for planning in more detail, finding people, equipment and financing. After the first two months the shooting will start. When enough material has been collected, the project will be taken to post production and editing stage. Final edited version should then be ready after about two months of editing.

➤ The final DVD and a copy of the master tape will be sent to WCC for archival and further use. The documentary will be subtitled in English and possibly also in other languages, if translators are found.

By Heikki Repo,
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Heikki said:

While this documentary focuses on what those interviewed are saying, one of the objectives of this documentary is also to show how they live their faith. Thus, the camera will be taken to both services and sessions of prayer.

Making a documentary film isn't totally unproblematic. The people to be interviewed have to be found, equipment has to be found and also time for shoots has to be found. There can also be problems with shooting in some churches. Other problems might relate to finding music for the product or some technical problems with the equipment. However, obstacles that can be passed with work and good preparation.





The Knot

The project is to connect Churches, Christian organizations into a Knot. The knot should be a provider and a resource constructed as a horizontal board and not as a superior council. The main task of the board is then to be an information centre. The information is about intra-Christian-structures. It is the task of the board to also find official channels of communication like internet, media, and publicity.

Where

Uppsala, Sweden. Uppsala is a town of and for students

Why

There are plenty of churches and different Christian organizations in Uppsala, and many of them are partly ecumenical. But there is nothing that connects these organizations between them. Their concern is mainly economical means and human resources for the churches.

For Whom

In short term, this project helps students, churches and organisations to be together and to understand the churches structures. In long-term, the project will have an impact on the general perspective on the church and its work.

How and When

► Oct.08: The first step is to build a local platform between the youth boards in the churches and the student organizations in Uppsala.

Getting in contact with representatives or personal contacts in the different churches and organizations.

► Dec.08: First meeting - Very important. This meeting should be as inclusive as possible. The real questions, problems and hopes by participants may see in this board and will be discovered and discussed.

There will be a youth board that connects the Christian structures into a centre. If the board accepts it, there will be a bank accumulating information to provide internally and externally

The board will contain one person from every kind of church and organization that relates to Christianity, at least ten persons in total.

Most of the work will be carried out voluntarily, except for the persons who are already paid by their church or organization.

► There is no timeline for the evaluation. It will instead be carried out as a recurrent point during the board meetings

► I will monitor the project and my supervisor is reverend Anna Ljung in the Mission Covenant Church of Gamla Uppsala.

Andreas Huld, Sweden

Andreas said:

There's a critical question linked to plans of an ecumenical project, how to launch it when you're not neutral and already have a membership in one of the churches that participate!? Maybe a projects possibility to succeed depends on from where the initiative is coming? I hope my involvement in the WCC will give me some of the trust and authority that makes me overcome these difficulties but they will surely remain through out the whole project.

I will investigate the possibilities to raise money for the project, which would have a directly positive impact on the outcome of the project.

Ecumenical Youth Group

What

The aim of this project is to provide practical ecumenical experience and ecumenical encounters to young students of theology in Prague

Where

Prague, Czech Republic.

Why

Prague is a city with 3 theological faculties and two theological colleges. All students of these institutions must approve their ecumenical knowledge by exams. However, there is a lack of practical experience of different Christian traditions. The aim of this project is to fulfill this need for an ecumenical experience in the real life.

For Whom

Students of Theology in Prague

How and When

A group of students will gather regularly twice a month and each meeting will be focused on a specific Christian tradition or church denomination. *October 2008, beginning of the academic year.*

One or more guests from the denomination will be invited.

The students thus can take the opportunity to ask questions about the theology, liturgy and ethics of this denomination.

Every Sunday after the meeting we will attend worship of the denomination. The students will have fresh knowledge about the specific church and may understand the liturgy more clearly.

After the worship we may go for a lunch and discuss our impressions and insights.

To start, the gathering will take place twice a month for three months. Then, an evaluation will be done to perform the project.

Magda Matulikova

Czech Republic

Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren



Magda said:

Most students at my faculty have some knowledge about the orthodox tradition, but just a few of us have ever visited the real orthodox worship, have a conversation with an orthodox clergyman or have read a recent orthodox theological book.

To found the Ecumenical Youth Group I need a support from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB), the Ecumenical Council of Churches (ECC) and Protestants Theological Faculty (PTF). I have already discussed this topic with leaders of ECCB and ECC, who gave me some support.



Ecumenical party

What

The main objective is to set up contact between young Christians of different confessions. To meet each other. To hear and to see each other. To share with one another our minds, opinion, abilities, and skills and so on. To introduce each church in creative and artistic ways.

Where

Minsk, Belarus.

Why

In Belarus there are many Christian denominations: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, different kinds of Protestant churches, and Greek-Catholic church. Some of the churches are not friendly to each another because of history and politics. Also Belarus still has problems with national language and culture. In the majority of churches, Russian language is dominating. All churches have youth groups and all the problems stated before, that they receive, are like a "bad heritage".

My organization, as Orthodox youth group, pay attention to this question.

For Whom

Youth group of Orthodox, Greek-Catholic, Catholic, and Protestant churches

How

We'll prepare the programme of the event with serious and not serious parts: games, introductions and so on. *June 2008*

Some challenges could be connected with church authorities because some of them wouldn't like to participate in this project. In this case, participation will be only on the youth-level.

The evaluation will be like a sharing opinion after event one by one, in a circle.

Raman Abramchuk
Belarusian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)



The steward said:

My organization gives place for the meeting and helps me organize the event

WCC will be one of the main points of our meeting. I'll use printed materials I've got at Geneva for presentation of WCC

After this project, good contacts will be set up between youth groups.



Connecting us

What

The project is for "youth centres", to adopt a theme like 'connecting people' as a series of evening gatherings with a meal, a lecture and a discussion. The lectures will be on on practical social political issues (on poverty / development strategy), on human rights, and on a specific case/country in the world. The aim of project is to allow Young Dutch people better understanding of political issues.

Where

Zwolle, the Netherlands.

Why

The different cultures (religions and classes) in Holland are increasingly moving apart from each other, because of international development. However, there is a lot of young people interested in larger political/economic issues and have a feeling that they must do something in the world. But the lack of time, information, self-assurance and access to other communities play a role in increasing isolation and selfishness.

For Whom

Young people between 18-25 years old

How and When

"Do research on youth centres"

- Make my organization enthusiastic on the 'connecting people' theme. " *March*

Paula said:

In the youth centre where I work, There are already several meeting of young people on several themes as interreligious dialogue, global mindset, spirituality, international exchanges. However, there is not much concrete attention paid to political issues, globalization, and specific organisations.

Therefore, it would be really interesting to invite lecturers from different political, ecumenical, intercultural organisations to come and share their opinions and allow young people to ask their questions.

"Visit youth centres"

- Investigate on a programme and speakers for the theme evenings, gather more information myself on political issues in Holland." *April 2008*

- Visit youth centres, explore on on common ground. *May 2008*

- First explore more with the youth centres, can we have a cross over? Do we want to adopt a common theme series? Or, Do we keep the youth centre connection, but start on setting up the theme evenings, ask speakers. Continue on gathering knowledge on political Holland." *June 2008*

- "Have either more talks with youth centres and have the 'connecting people' theme, once every three weeks. Or: adopt a more common programme with other centres". *September/October/November 2008*

- Furthermore, I want to seek connection with other youth centres that work in poorer areas to see if and how we can share things. I will continue to work for the intercultural dialogue and look if there are possibilities to follow-up on occasional meetings, so as to deepen the relationships we have just started.

The work of WCC will be a focus during the programme. My experiences as a steward can provide as a kind of guide. My churches will provide support and knowledge, when asked. I would love to see an improving connection of different (religious) local youth centres. And I hope to cooperate with representing lecturers of politically / socially involved organisations.



Interreligious dialogue through the culture

What

The aims of this project are to build a good relationship among youth in Indonesia, to learn about the culture and the relation with religion, and to share with each other about the experiences of the religion and culture

Where

Kuningan, West Java, Indonesia

Why

Indonesia has many cultures and religions and so many conflicts happened because the multi culture and multi religion context, so the dialogue should start from the culture and begin from youth.

For Whom

Young people about 19 to 30 years old, the participants will come from member of ENISY (Ecumenical Network Indonesian Student and Youth) and other organization such as Indonesian Students of Hindu Darma Community, Indonesian Students of Buddhism Community, Kong Hu Cu Indonesian Students, and Indonesian Students of Muslim Community.

How and When

This project will organized with ENISY Core Team which are YMCA, YWCA, Youth Departement of Comunion of Churches in Indonesia, Indonesian Movement of Catholics Students, Indonesian Movement of Christian Students, and Indonesian Movement of Youth Christian

May or June 2008

- Discuss about culture, and the relation between culture and religious
- Exposure to the place where one of the traditional religions in West Java, named Sunda Karuhun is forbidden by goverment of Indonesia
- Every organization should make action in their own organization so that they can implement their knowledge and influence the others

By Manda Andrian,
Nehemia Javanese Church, Indonesia



Empowering Ethnic Youth and Young Adults

What

Empowering Ethnic Youth and Young Adults to have fuller participation in Intercultural Nation-wide Conference in October this year in United Church of Canada.

Where

Canada

Why

In order to create a youth and young adult consultant body which devotes itself to developing intercultural interactions among youth and young adults from different ethnic congregations in terms of ethnic compositions, denominations, and theological understandings.

For Whom

Youth and young Adults (YAYA) of

(1) Ethnic United Churches such as Philippino, Korean, Taiwanese, Japanese, Chinese, Italian, congregations, etc.

(2) First Nations' United Churches, multi-cultural congregations or so called "White Church", and

(3) YAYA who belong to Black People's Journey in Vancouver and all the other regions of Canada

How

Ecumenical networking with:

➤ Ethnic youth leaders and YAYA members of ethnic/First-Nations'/Black/Multicultural congregations across Canada.

➤ Echos

➤ *Ethnic Ministries Unit-Wide Committee of United Church of Canada*

➤ *Vancouver School of Theology*

Ha Na Park,
Vancouver School of Theology, Canada



Ha Na said:

The issues are such as:

➤ Racism and ethnic youth and young adults in Canada

➤ Spirituality of intercultural congregational life in light of the perspectives of ethnic/First Nations'/Black youth and young adult



Ecumenical social project

What

The central target of this project is creating one youth body to work in some selected social work in Belo Horizonte. The people will learn work with ecumenical principle like dialogue, respect and valorisation of other persons. Together with this objective, this body will work to plan one social project to start by themselves after one year.

Where

Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Why

Belo Horizonte has almost 2.4 million population and 5.3 million in the official metropolitan area. Belo Horizonte has a lot of Christian churches, some churches with more than 2000 peoples acting in the services and working related with the church. The quantity of churches reflects in the quantity of social working in the city, although, the number of projects doesn't indicate that all of them are working well

For Whom

Youth

How

The work will take place once a month to bond people participating in several ways, like theatre, dance, sports, music and things related to the project and people skills

Implementation

1. Meeting with the churches leadership.
2. Map the social projects working in the city according to public-target, localization and kind of help
3. Select 3 specifics projects to work with directly
4. Meet the responsible of the selected projects and talk about the idea
5. Create one work group to plan the ecumenical project.
6. Make a service with the youth group of the city to launch out the project
7. Gather the people interested to work and make one database with their skills (graduation, abilities, etc).
8. Each 2 months make a forum to discuss the issues related to the projects.
9. Make monthly service with the young people to take some testimonials about the work to motivate the people and share experience
10. Meetings after the third month of work to start the plan to the project.

"In one year, we will have the entire project planned and ready to be implanted. That makes then young people reproducing idea and really involved in social projects".

Pedro Calixto Alves de Lima
Methodist Church of Brazil



Pedro said:

The young people and leaders will work together in the projects, and the plan of the project will be discussed among all people to get more ideas and make a good plan

The idea has support of the Methodist church, but the main idea is to spend less money and spend more workforce in the projects. During the monthly youth services, the staff will collect food and offers in general (clothes, money) to help the projects.

The material resources are not extremely necessary and will be provided for our partners and peoples that support this kind of initiative.



El Coyote

What

The Centre «El Coyote» works daily with an average of 50 children, between the ages of 2 and 14, in a situation of extreme poverty and of insatisfied needs. One of the objectives is to share a perspective of faith and the life of Jesus so that they can also experience it and share it in their family and everyday lives.

Where

Aquiles Lanza in Montevideo, Uruguay

Why

There is a high number of children that suffer from some kind of violence or abuse, i.e. either physical, psychological or emotional.

A high percentage of teenagers have some kind of socially deviated behaviours.

Many children have interrupted their school education for different reasons.

For Whom

Children -- Help children improve their school performance and encourage the completion of education. Encourage their health well-being.

How to support this project?

- *VOLUNTEERING* is a possibility
- *FINANCIAL SUPPORT* is equally important for the centre to be able to hire staff to carry out the programmes and to provide children with better meals and material for workshops as well as professionals to carry them out.

Andrea Celi
Church of Brethren
Uruguay

Andrea said:

"Join children in their way through life and search for a peaceful, loving and fulfilling life that Jesus can offer"



Scholarships for Ecumenical Youth

What

Scholarship. The project will try to get as many scholarships for the youth in order to allow them to keep advancing and studying

Where

Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua

Why

The youth upon completion of high school cannot go further in studies because they cannot afford it due to their economic status. The purpose of this project involves all of these youth who are searching for opportunities of more education and jobs to give them a chance to gain more knowledge

For Whom

Indigenous and Afro-descendants of the Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua.

How and When

➤ This project already began in September 2007, but this has not been legalized through the church system yet in the North Atlantic and to be extended in the South.

Every Saturday youth meeting, involves discussion about life during the week, peer counseling, games, and recruitment. Announcements about activities in the churches, scholarship information, or contact information will also be shared.

Currently, there are seven people who just graduated from the university participating in the group.

➤ The expectation from the WCC would be to lend advice on how to better interact with youth or perhaps provide a scholarship for one of the students participating in the program. Other organizations can help by providing money for scholarships and computers, which will assist the students in their education.

➤ We plan to build upon any donations with further profit-making endeavors so we are never stuck with one donation. The goal is to continue to grow and continue to make more money for the youth to have.

Eusebio Ivan Barrow Antonio
Moravian Church of Nicaragua



Eusebio said:

The government is run by non-indigenous people. It would be preferable to see more people from the area and who are from the people to work in the government because they know what the people need and are demanding.

Only a small amount of the youth go to university. The goal would be to increase these numbers of those who are continuing their education as well as to bring awareness to how few are actually moving past high school.



The History of The Armenian Apostolic Church

What

The purpose of this project is to increase the knowledge of the people that have not enough information about the Armenian Apostolic Church, introduce the background and the highlights throughout history

Where

Lebanon

Why

This is to introduce the right and detailed history about the Armenian Apostolic Church with some comparison to the other denominations and pointing out the different points of views that had been throughout the history

For Whom

Armenian Apostolic Church

How

Implementation

- Interviews with Bishops and theologians
- Dialogues with the youth of the Catholic and the evangelical denominations

Reference to the Archives

- Showing the different influence of the Armenian Apostolic Church in the Armenian lifestyle, culture, and social aspects
- The role and influence of the Armenian Apostolic Church in the WCC
- The nature of the cooperation of the Armenian Apostolic Church with the Catholic and Evangelical Churches
- The role of the youth in the Armenian Apostolic Church

The evaluation will be done by the Bishop of my church

By Nazeli Kandakarjian
Armenian Apostolic Church
Lebanon



Nazeli said:

The challenges are:

- Conflict between what was in the history and what is now and what people actually believe (challenge that people have changed and why and how).
- Sensitivity (dogma against the fact)
- Conflict among the different writers
- Conflict between different groups within the church, when some people still hold on to old points of view while others changed somehow

This work will mainly be done by me under the supervision of my Bishop but there will be few people helping me with their information who are experts in this matter, some teachers and even some members of the WCC



Documentary film about the churches in Bethlehem and Argentina



The stewards said:

A good understanding of the three churches that it may help us to find some common things, which might help with unity of the churches. (We guess we will be welcomed for making this dialogue with them)

With patience and showing respect for the people who we are dealing with, we can overcome all the challenges



What

A documentary film about the churches in Bethlehem and Argentina: *Understanding of "Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran*

Where

Bethlehem and Argentina

Why

For a long time we felt the distance between the different churches and we always hope to understand the reason behind this.

For Whom

Members of Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran's Churches

How and When

We are going to make interviews with the priests of the three different churches, and then with some of people who belong to these churches. *March 2008- December 2008*

Several questions will be prepared carefully before interviewing them:

- Questions related to their beliefs
- *Questions related to the way that they practice*
- *Questions related to their relation with other churches*
- *Their opinion about the church unity in the future and how it should start*

After showing the film to the Christians who belong to the different churches we will be able to hear the difference between their opinions, then we will be able to make dialogue with them trying to get the support for our plans related to unity of the church

We will do the evaluation by distributing questions papers between the Christians who belongs to the three difference churches
February 2009

Haytham Salsaa (Palestine)
Daniela Bedran (Argentina)



Ecumenical Sunday School Teachers Training Seminar

Salam said:

"It is taking place in the ecumenical church context. The Churches are already in contact through their leaders annual meeting.

There is a present ecumenical committee of the seven churches, and I am the coordinator & facilitator of this committee"

The meeting will take place at the Presbyterian Church hall for the Sunday school teachers of the churches with the help of a specialized institution from Lebanon named "Grain de blé".

Expectations are: Learning new ways of teaching, stimulating creativity, cooperation between the teachers, exchanging ideas, mutual future lesson plans that could be used for and by all

"Some misunderstanding may arise or some miscommunication, so the committee will try to prepare very well before the meeting and make sure that everything is going right. Challenges could be the big number of attendants."

What

The project is a training seminar which helps the Sunday school teachers to experience the richness of being together, exchanging ideas, sharing their concerns, and developing plans. It enables them to create new ways of teaching the children. These objectives will be achieved in the seminar through, small study groups, games, and lectures.

Where

Homs, in Syria at the hall of the Presbyterian church

Why

- There is a need to bring Sunday School Teachers together for exchanging learning experience
- There is a lack of knowledge of the creative & attractive new ways of teaching children. There is a need to bring churches out of traditional ways of teaching the children.

For Whom

"Sunday school teachers of the churches of Homs which includes Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Syriac Orthodox, Syriac Catholic, Maronite, Jesuits, Presbyterian."

How

- 2-3 days training seminar for the local Sunday school teachers of the churches of Homs.
- It will take place during a weekend that will be suitable for all teachers
- There is a present ecumenical committee of the seven present churches
- The Role of the ecumenical committee for the seminar is organizing, communication, coordination, facilitating, and funding
- There will be cooperation with the Middle East Council of Churches in informing them about the event and having some funds when and if needed.
- The trainers will come from the "Grain de blé" institution, which is specialized in children teaching.

Rev. Salam Hanna

National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon

HIV/AIDS Ecumenical Conference



What

The project is to implant a youth component within the HIV/AIDS advocacy groups, as well as foster stronger relationships between the Evangelical and other Christian denominations within the USA. This will primarily be done through educational workshops. The project is also to view HIV/AIDS through the lens of our faith and compassion for all members of God's creation

Where

USA

Why

HIV/AIDS has become a global pandemic and requires a Christian response. Collaboratively working together as Christians is the only way to address this problem. There are more young adult focused organizations and workshops addressing this rising problem, yet these are not viewed through a religious lens in their construction, or participants.

For Whom

Youth/Young Adults

How

Implementation of Plans: Attach a 1-2 day youth/young adult conference onto the Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, which is held around World AIDS Day in December 2008. This event takes place at Saddleback Christian Church in California. Our second idea for a date is in conjunction with the National Council of Churches Assembly, which is held in November 2008 in Denver, Colorado.

This event will provide a three-pronged approach. Awareness of health and body education, the social sins surrounding gender, sex, and poverty, as well as the theological implications of HIV/AIDS will be our primary goals.

Specifically, we want to raise awareness of the many social problems that are tied up within HIV/AIDS both domestically and globally. This will primarily be done through educational workshops. The next step would be to creatively and constructively formulate ideas for sharing this news with the participant's local congregations and communities, as well as the larger political arena. Intentional small groups will be used throughout this event. Providing space for discussion, sharing of ideas and perceptions, these groups offer support and information during and after the conference. And finally, to enter into prayerful worship as a means of social renewal and protest against the social sin of HIV/AIDS that plagues our whole world.

Whitney Burr and Robyn Fickes – USA Stewards

The stewards said:

By utilizing our preexisting relationships within the WCC, we hope to be in conversation with many people in order to implant our project. Providing educational material, and possibly financial assistance, the WCC USA region will be a strong sponsor of this event. We also intend to rely upon the support from the World Student Christian Federation, as well as the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. We also hope to rely upon the support and information from the many Christian denomination's Social Justice branches that focus specifically upon HIV/AIDS

Whitney and I will form a relationship with the preexisting team at Saddleback Christian Church, as well as with the many partnering organizations. We will be accountable to those sponsoring organizations. Challenges will be addressed by appealing to the wisdom and experience from these organizations

Something Ecumenical

The point of this project is to form stronger ecumenical bonds in Canada and interest youth in the ecumenical movement, by initiating projects with partner churches that include opportunities for ecumenical dialogue

Where

Canada

Why

Due to the size and diversity of this country it is difficult for young people to be aware of the ecumenical movement and connect with youth of other denominations. We come from such a wide variety of denominations with varying degrees of interest in ecumenical dialogue and cooperation.

For Whom

Youth

How and When

- Provincial Level: Plan and Facilitate a Youth gathering/forum
Contacting Synod Youth organizer in the province of Saskatchewan (Jen Bell) and enlisting her assistance to plan an ecumenical weekend retreat, either in Saskatoon, or at one of the church camps
Contacting "Prairie Center for Ecumenism" in Saskatoon and getting their support to liaise with church leaders from other denominations in co-ordinating the ecumenical weekend retreat.
- The National Level part of the project will begin with introducing opportunities for ecumenical dialogue and inviting inter-denominational youth representatives at CY09 (A triennial gathering of Canadian Presbyterian youth to be held in July 2009 in Ontario). Plans for this will develop further after contact with Jen Bell and Reuben St. Louis.
- Exploring the possibility of forming ecumenical youth teams to work with partner churches in other countries.
- The project will be monitored and facilitated by youth coordinators of each denomination to ensure that goals are met and the needs and views of all denominations are being respected

" I hope to be able to expand from this and create a foundation upon which a similar forum can be created at the national level"

Elisabeth Mae Yando
Presbyterian Church in Canada
Canada

Beth said:

Opening to an understanding that ecumenical work can and should be hands on, and not just sitting and engaging in ecumenical dialogue

The purpose of this event would be to introduce young people to ecumenical issues in the hope that they would take their interest back to their home churches and continue to work locally at furthering ecumenical dialogue in their own communities

My expectations are to form a youth body within the province of Saskatchewan that can meet in a forum on a regular basis to form ecumenical relationships which I hope would ultimately facilitate the development of an ecumenical movement in the youth body in the province.





Participants in WCC stewards programme 2008

Ms Whitney Burr, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Mrs Ha Na Park, Vancouver School of Theology, Canada
Mr Heikki Antero Repo, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
Ms Magda, Matulikova, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren
Mr Haytham Salsaa, Roman Catholic Church Of Palestine
Mr Pedro Lima, Methodist Church of Brazil
Ms Manda Andrian, Javanese Christian Churches (GKJ) of Indonesia
Ms Andrea Celi, Church of the Brethren of Paraguay
Ms Daniela Bedran, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, Argentina
Ms Megan Morta, Church of the Province of Southern Africa, South Africa
Ms Paula De Jong, Protestant Church in the Netherlands
Mr Raman Abramchuk, Belarus Exarchate of Russian Orthodox Church
Ms Charlotte Eisenberg, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland
Mr Eusebio Ivan Barrow Antonio, Moravian Church in Nicaragua
Ms Nazeli Kandakarjian, Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Cilicia), Lebanon
Mr Salam Hanna, National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, Syria
Ms Robyn Fickes, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), USA
Ms Elizabeth Yando, Presbyterian Church in Canada
Mr Andreas Huld, Svenska Missionskyrkan, Sweden
Mr Mutua Kobia, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva, Switzerland
Ms Gloria Wamela, Kenya
Mr Henrik Hansson, Church of Sweden
Ms Ginger Porter, Congregational church of American Samoa
Mr Antsa Rakotoarisoa, Anglican Church, Madagascar
Mr Francis Chan, Lutheran Church, Hong Kong
Ms Rolita Machila, Lutheran Church, Zambia



World Council of Churches
WCC Youth Programme
www.ecumenicalyouth.org