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FEATURE: A Refuge from Domestic Violence



At Vida Plena, a shelter run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, women and children seeking refuge from domestic violence receive support through legal accompaniment, healing programs, psychosocial and spiritual care. © IELCH

Chilean Lutheran Church Agreement with Government Provides Women's Shelters

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, Chile/GENEVA (LWI)
– Between 2001 and 2009, Chile registered 392 cases of murdered women. Most of the victims were killed by men with whom they had a close, intimate relationship. Only a small number of the deaths could be attributed to unfamiliar perpetrators.

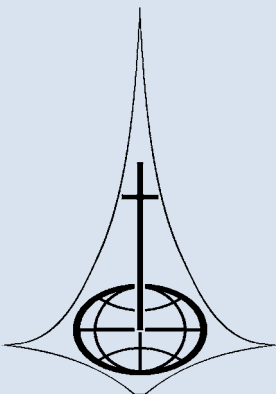
Although some of the victims had obtained court orders for protection, such measures did not work. The police often lacked sufficient powers to protect the women, making it impossible to prevent the murders.

In the face of this crisis, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH) is providing a safe place for women and their

children who are threatened by domestic violence.

The Vida Plena (“life in fullness”) shelter in Providencia, a suburb of the Chilean capital Santiago de Chile, offers a way out of this situation, giving protection to women and children in life-threatening situations due to domestic violence. The refuge run by the IELCH in cooperation with the Chilean Ministry for Women (Servicio Nacional de la Mujer – SERNAM) is a safe place where women can live for a period of time.

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Assembly Update No. 1 I-VIII

Honduran Lutheran Church Denounces Military Coup

Leaders of the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (ICLH) sharply criticized the military coup that took place in Honduras at the end of June. In a public statement made in early July, they denounced both the coup itself and the way in which President Manuel Zelaya was “driven from office and forced into exile through coercion and intimidation.”

The church further declared, “We denounce the violation of human rights through the military’s take over and demand that it come to an end.” According to the church, the military, in its efforts to stop demonstrations against injustices committed since the coup took place, had resorted to violence, resulting in human injury and arrests. The coup, said the ICLH, had been led by “a sector that controls the country’s economic forces.”

The president of the Central American country Manuel Zelaya was toppled on 28 June by military forces and fled to neighboring Costa Rica. He was accused of violating the Honduran constitution by attempting to obtain an illegal second term of office.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) reacted to the situation in Honduras in the wake of the coup with great concern. In a statement in early July, the general secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko condemned the use of armed violence and anti-

constitutional means to resolve political conflicts, and called for the reestablishment of the democratically elected Honduran government, as well as resumption of political processes in the country in accordance with the constitution.

The Honduran church leaders also criticized the violation of freedom of the press and restrictions imposed on freedom of movement through curfews and nationwide power cuts. Many media businesses have been shut down and their facilities destroyed by the military.

The church leaders clearly emphasized in their statement that their decision to speak out in no way implied support for Zelaya, but rather was aimed at “denouncing the means by which the president had been removed from office and the usurpation of power that resulted.” If Zelaya has committed errors, they noted, “he must be tried according to due process, which entitles him to a full defense.”

The Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras has around 1,200 members and joined the LWF in 1994.

The full text of the general secretary’s statement on the situation in Honduras is available on the LWF web site at:

www.lutheranworld.org/News/LWI/EN/2466.EN.html

The Lutheran World Federation

– A Communion of Churches
150, route de Ferney
P.O. Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2,
Switzerland

Telephone +41/22-791 61 11
Fax +41/22-791 66 30
E-mail: info@lutheranworld.org
www.lutheranworld.org

Editor-in-Chief
Karin Achtelstetter
ka@lutheranworld.org

English Editor

Pauline Mumia
pmu@lutheranworld.org

German Editor

Dirk-Michael Gröttsch
dmg@lutheranworld.org

Layout

Stéphane Gallay
sga@lutheranworld.org

Circulation/subscription

Colette Muanda
cmu@lutheranworld.org

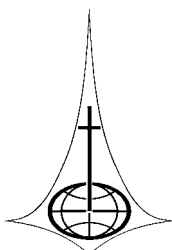
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Includes **Assembly Update No. 1**



LWF Concerned about Situation in Honduras in Wake of Military Coup

General Secretary Noko Calls for Restoration of Democratically-Elected Government

GENEVA (LWI) – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has expressed great concern about the situation in Honduras following the military coup d’etat on Sunday, 28 June. LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko said in a statement on 2 July that the communion of 140 member churches feared the “instability and polarization of society provoked by these events” would undermine “hard-won development gains, fostering widespread social upheaval and worsening conflict in the country.”

The LWF joined all those around the world who have called for the restitution of the democratically-elected government of Honduras, and the resumption of the constitutional and political process in Honduras, Noko declared.

“The LWF condemns the use of armed force and unconstitutional means to resolve political disputes,” the LWF general secretary stressed. The people of Honduras and the region have suffered enough from military arrogations of power in the past. Such actions, he said, could not resolve underlying disputes and competing claims, and must not



“No more putschists!! COPINH” – This is the message displayed on this poster by a Honduran demanding return to democratic rule. COPINH, the Council of Indigenous Peoples in Honduras, joined in the protests against the ouster of President Manuel Zelaya. © LWF/DWS Honduras

be allowed to be part of Honduras’ future.

Noko called, moreover, for the cessation of all police and military action against the civilian population of Honduras, and the release of all those detained in the protests over the last few days.

The LWF general secretary urged the international community—and especially the Organization of American States (OAS)—“to establish mecha-

nisms to help mediate the current crisis, to support the democratic process leading to elections scheduled for 29 November this year and to oversee the transition to a new government following those elections.”

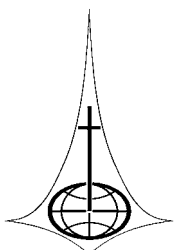
Referring to the unanimous resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 30 June 2009 condemning the coup d’etat and demanding the immediate and unconditional reinstatement of toppled president Manuel Zelaya and restoration of the democratically-elected government, the LWF general secretary said that it was imperative that the international community, particularly the governments of the Latin American region and the OAS, took appropriate actions to give practical effect to these expressions.

Noko expressed particular concern that the political confrontation could turn to violent conflict after the announced return of President Zelaya to Honduras. He therefore called upon all parties and their supporters to choose the path of political dialogue, rather than violence.

The OAS on Wednesday gave interim Honduran president Roberto



At the end of June, thousands of Hondurans went to the streets to protest against the power take over and the interim administration of Roberto Micheletti. The United Nations and the LWF have called for the restitution of the democratically-elected government. © LWF/DWS Honduras



Micheletti until 4 July to reinstate the ousted president and threatened Honduras with expulsion from the organization. The transitional government, however, rejected the ultimatum. Micheletti ruled out Zelaya's reinstatement and announced that if Zelaya returned to Honduras he would be immediately arrested.

Through its Department for World Service (DWS), the LWF has been active in Honduras since Hurricane

Mitch in 1998, providing humanitarian assistance and development aid. The LWF/DWS Regional Program in Central America works in several areas of Honduras, including Santa Barbara, Copan, Colon, Olancho and El Valle, and is currently involved in responding to the earthquake of May 2009 within the framework of Action by Churches Together (ACT) International. The LWF/DWS Honduras program works in close cooperation

with the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras, which has been an LWF member church since 1994.

The full text of the statement by LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko on the situation in Honduras is available in PDF format at:

www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF_Statement_on_Honduras-2009.pdf

2 July 2009

LWF General Secretary Challenges Faith Communities to Reject Islamophobia

World Religious Leaders Meet at Kazakhstan Summit

ASTANA, Kazakhstan/GENEVA (LWI) – Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), has urged the world's religious communities to reject Islamophobia.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions held 1-2 July in Astana, Kazakhstan, Noko acknowledged that "unhealed memories caused by ignorance, prejudice, injustice, domination

and oppression continue to trouble relations between even some of us in this room."

He noted, however, that each gathering of the Congress brought the religious leaders deeper into relationship with one another and sent a message to the world of the potential of interreligious dialogue and cooperation for peace.

United States President Barack Obama's outreach to the Muslim

world, moving away from the language of the "war against terror," was "a hopeful sign towards the healing of memories," Noko said. "I hope that it will be met with openness and affirmation by political and religious leaders of Muslim communities."

But Obama's overture "also challenges other religious communities to reject Islamophobia," he emphasized. "We need to move from speeches to action."

Over 400 people in 77 delegations from 35 countries representing all the world's main religions attended the Congress. Special guests and representatives from international organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also participated. During Noko's weeklong stay in Kazakhstan, he held talks with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

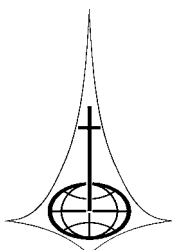
Opening the summit, Nazarbayev said interfaith dialogue is an important instrument to counter religiously inspired violence, and urged participants to unite to create a non-nuclear world.

The Congress addressed the question of moral and spiritual values, world ethics, dialogue and cooperation, and solidarity in times of crisis.

"In today's world, [humankind] is left with no other option but to engage in dialogue and interaction," said Dr Mahdi Mostafavi, leader of the Iranian



The "Pyramid of Peace and Accord" in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana, was the venue for the July 2009 Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Over 400 delegates representing the world's main religions attended the congress. © LWF/Anli Serfontein



Assembly Update

Vollversammlung Aktuell • Assemblée Actualités • Rumbo a la Asamblea

Issue 1 • September 2009

Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation to Meet in July 2010

The Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) will meet in less than a year in Stuttgart, Germany, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg.

The LWF's highest decision-making body convenes normally every six years to deliberate and decide policy for the organization's activities.

Assemblies are milestones in the life of the LWF and reflect the understanding and views of the whole Federation. "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread" is the theme for the upcoming assembly, to be held from 20 to 27 July 2010.

The assembly participants will include 418 delegates from the 138 full LWF member



Participants in the 2003 Winnipeg Assembly
© LWF/D. Zimmermann

churches around the world. Representatives of associate member churches, recognized councils and congregations, observers from the LWF National Committees and related agencies will also attend. Others include local, co-opted and LWF staff, interpreters, translators, stewards and accredited media persons.

Every Assembly elects a President and Council to lead the Federation through its governing bodies' meetings. The Assembly is also responsible for the LWF Constitution, and acts on the address of the President and reports of the General Secretary and Treasurer.

Elfte Vollversammlung des Lutherischen Weltbundes im Juli 2010

Die Elfte Vollversammlung des Lutherischen Weltbundes (LWB) wird in weniger als einem Jahr in Stuttgart (Deutschland) stattfinden. Gastgebernde Kirche wird die Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg sein.

Das höchste Entscheidungsgremium des LWB tritt in der Regel alle sechs Jahre zusammen, um über die Arbeitsgrundsätze der Organisation zu beraten und zu entscheiden.

Vollversammlungen sind Meilensteine im Leben des LWB und spiegeln das Verständnis und die Sichtweisen des Weltbundes wider. Das Thema der kommenden Vollversammlung vom 20. bis 27. Juli 2010 ist „Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute“.

Neben den 418 Delegierten der 138 Mitgliedskirchen nehmen VertreterInnen der assoziierten Mitgliedskirchen und der anerkannten Räte und Gemeinden sowie BeobachterInnen der Nationalen Komitees und der Partnerorganisationen teil. Zusätzlich werden MitarbeiterInnen der Kirche vor Ort, kooptierte MitarbeiterInnen und LWB-Stabsmitglieder, DolmetscherInnen, ÜbersetzerInnen, Stewards und akkreditierte MedienvertreterInnen vor Ort sein.

Jede Vollversammlung wählt eine/n PräsidentIn sowie die Mitglieder des Rates, die regelmässig tagen und die Geschäfte des Weltbundes führen. Die Vollversammlung beschliesst ausserdem die Verfassung des Weltbundes und billigt die Berichte des Präsidenten/der Präsidentin, des Generalsekretärs/der Generalsekretärin und des Schatzmeisters/der Schatzmeisterin.

La XI Asamblea de la Federación Luterana Mundial se reunirá en julio de 2010

En menos de un año, la XI Asamblea de la Federación Luterana Mundial (FLM) se reunirá en Stuttgart, Alemania, y será acogida por la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Württemberg.

La Asamblea, órgano supremo de la FLM, se reúne habitualmente cada seis años para deliberar y definir la política de las actividades de la organización.

Las asambleas son hitos en la vida de la FLM y reflejan el entendimiento y los puntos de vista de la Federación en su conjunto. "Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día" es el tema de la próxima Asamblea, que tendrá lugar del 20 al 27 de julio de 2010.

Participarán en ella 418 delegados/as de las 138 iglesias miembro de pleno derecho de la FLM, representantes de iglesias que son miembros asociados, representantes de congregaciones y consejos reconocidos y observadores/as de los comités nacionales de la FLM y organismos conexos. También asistirán miembros del personal local, el personal cooptado y el personal de la FLM, intérpretes, traductores/as, *stewards* y profesionales de prensa acreditados/as.

En cada asamblea se elige al/a la presidente/a y a los/as integrantes del Consejo que conducirán la Federación entre las reuniones de su órgano rector. Además, la Asamblea se ocupa de todo lo relativo a la Constitución de la FLM y toma decisiones acerca de la alocución del Presidente y los informes del Secretario General y del Tesorero.

La Onzième Assemblée de la Fédération luthérienne mondiale aura lieu en juillet 2010

Dans moins d'un an, la Onzième Assemblée de la Fédération luthérienne mondiale se tiendra à Stuttgart, en Allemagne, sous les auspices de l'Église évangélique luthérienne du Wurtemberg.

L'Assemblée, qui se réunit normalement tous les six ans, est l'autorité de décision suprême de la FL, qui délibère et décide des orientations quant aux activités de l'organisation.

Les Assemblées sont des bornes dans la vie de la FLM et reflètent la compréhension et les positions de toute la Fédération. « Donnons aujourd'hui notre pain quotidien » est le thème de cette prochaine Assemblée, qui se tiendra du 20 au 27 juillet 2010.

L'Assemblée sera constituée de 418 délégué(e)s des 138 Eglises membres de la Fédération luthérienne mondiale, de part le monde. Des représentant(e)s d'Eglises membres associées, des conseils et communautés reconnus, des observateurs et observatrices de comités nationaux de la FLM et d'institutions rattachées seront également présents. Présentes seront également des personnes locales, le personnel de la FLM et le personnel coopté, des interprètes, des traductrices et des traducteurs, des stewards et des journalistes accrédités.

Chaque Assemblée élit un président et un conseil pour guider la Fédération grâce aux réunions de ses organes directeurs. L'Assemblée est aussi responsable de la constitution de la FLM et prend acte du discours du président et des rapports du secrétaire général et du trésorier.



Message from the General Secretary

From Lament to Acts of Justice for Daily Bread

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” is the theme of the Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). This petition reverberates not only our prayer, hope and sadness, but also our collective lament.

As Christians we believe that God’s creation is meant for all so that all may have life in its fullness. This abundance begins with life-sustaining daily bread. However, every time we say the Lord’s Prayer, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11), we are reminded of the deep gulf between our petition and the realities that deprive millions across the world of a nourishing meal each day. They struggle with endemic poverty, starvation, landlessness and lack of access to the bounty of creation.

While our theological deliberations include deep ethical dimensions, we are also faced

with spiritual and moral challenges. Undoubtedly, the myriad diaconal initiatives that include response to climate change and care for creation are an expression of our spirituality. However, the manifestation of flourishing greed that endangers humanity and the earth also signifies the erosion of our spirituality. As a communion of churches, do we have the courage to turn Jesus’ prayer into acts of justice that challenge powers bent on creating profit-oriented systems for the short-term gain of a few?

In July 2010 the LWF gathers for its next assembly in Stuttgart, Germany, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD). This is an opportunity for representatives from every

LWF member church to recognize significant life-giving and hope-restoring moments in our journey together as a communion. As the top legislative and policy-making body of the Federation, the assembly will also provide general direction for the future work coordinated by the Geneva-based communion office.

As we prepare for this milestone event of the Lutheran communion, let us turn Jesus’ prayer from a lament into a hopeful declaration for justice in solidarity with the most vulnerable in our communities.



Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko
LWF General Secretary



© LWF/H. Putzman Penet

Botschaft des Generalsekretärs

Unser tägliches Brot: Von der Klage zum aktiven Einsatz für Gerechtigkeit

Liebe Schwestern und Brüder,
„Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute“ lautet das Thema der Elften Vollversammlung des Lutherischen Weltbundes (LWB). Diese Bitte reflektiert als Gebet nicht nur unsere Hoffnung und Traurigkeit, sondern ist auch Ausdruck unserer kollektiven Klage.

Als Christinnen und Christen glauben wir, dass Gottes Schöpfung allen Menschen gleichermaßen geschenkt ist, so dass alle das Leben in Fülle haben können. Doch jedes Mal, wenn wir im Vaterunser bitten, „unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute“ (Matthäus 6,11), werden wir daran erinnert, welche tiefe Kluft besteht zwischen dieser Bitte und den Faktoren, die täglich Millionen Menschen weltweit eine sättigende Mahlzeit vorenthalten. Sie haben zu kämpfen mit endemischer Armut, Hunger, Landlosigkeit und mangelndem Zugang zu den Gaben der Schöpfung.

Während unsere theologische Diskussion ethische Aspekte vertieft mit einbezieht,

sehen wir uns dennoch spirituellen und moralischen Herausforderungen gegenüber. Zweifellos ist die grosse Anzahl diakonischer Initiativen, die auf den Klimawandel reagieren und die Schöpfung bewahren wollen, ein Ausdruck unserer Spiritualität. Die Manifestation ungezügelter Habgier jedoch, die die Menschheit und die Erde in Gefahr bringt, signalisiert auch die Aushöhlung unserer Spiritualität. Haben wir als Gemeinschaft von Kirchen den Mut, das Gebet Jesu in ein Handeln für Gerechtigkeit umzusetzen, das jene Mächte herausfordert, die nur darauf aus sind, profitorientierte Systeme für den kurzfristigen Gewinn einer verschwindenden Minderheit zu schaffen?

Im Juli 2010 kommt der LWB zu seiner nächsten Vollversammlung in Stuttgart (Deutschland) zusammen. Gastgeberinnen sind die Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg und die Vereinigte Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche Deutschlands (VELKD). Das ist eine gute Gelegenheit für Vertreter und Vertreterinnen aller LWB-Mitgliedskirchen, sich erneut bedeutsame, Leben und Hoffnung schaffende Momente in Erinnerung zu rufen für unseren gemeinsamen Weg als Gemeinschaft von Kirchen. Als höchstes gesetzgebendes und richtungweisendes Organ des Weltbundes entscheidet die Vollversammlung auch über die allgemeine zukünftige Ausrichtung der Arbeit, die von unserem Büro in Genf aus koordiniert wird.

Mögen unsere Vorbereitungen auf dieses für die lutherische Gemeinschaft so bedeutende Ereignis dazu dienen, dass wir mit dem Gebet Jesu nicht länger nur die Realität beklagen, sondern in Solidarität mit den Schwächsten unserer jeweiligen Gesellschaft hoffnungsvoll Position beziehen für Gerechtigkeit.

Pfr. Dr. Ishmael Noko
LWB-Generalsekretär



Message du secrétaire général

Des lamentations aux actions pour la justice afin d'assurer le pain quotidien

Chers sœurs et frères,

« Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain quotidien » est le thème de la Onzième Assemblée de la Fédération luthérienne mondiale (FLM). Cette supplique n'est pas seulement le reflet de notre prière, de notre espérance et de notre tristesse, elle est aussi une lamentation collective.

En tant que chrétien(ne)s, nous croyons que la création de Dieu est là pour chacune et chacun de nous afin que tous aient la vie en plénitude. Cette abondance commence par le pain quotidien qui nous maintient en vie. Cependant, chaque fois que nous disons dans le Notre Père : « Donne-nous notre pain quotidien » (Mt 6,11), nous nous souvenons de ce gouffre immense qui sépare notre demande, des réalités qui veulent que des millions de personnes dans le monde soient privées d'un repas nourrissant chaque jour et doivent faire face à une pauvreté endémique, à la privation de nourriture, au

manque de terres et à l'absence d'accès à la munificence de la création.

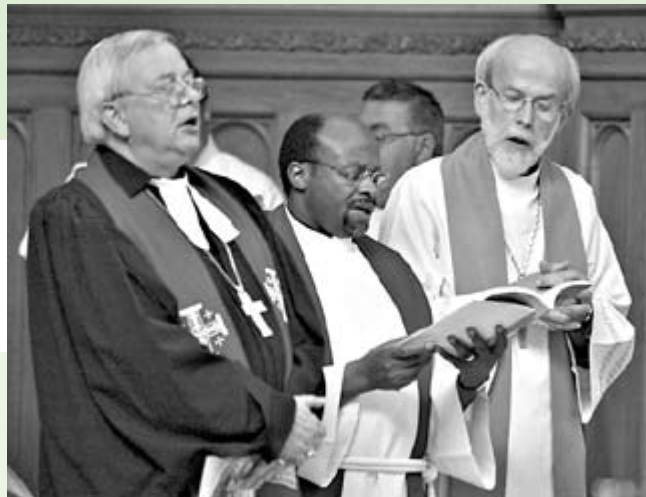
S'il est vrai que notre réflexion théologique comporte des dimensions d'une grande profondeur éthique, il nous faut aussi affronter des défis d'ordre spirituel et moral. Il ne fait aucun doute que la multitude d'initiatives diaconales visant, entre autres, à réagir aux changements climatiques et à prendre soin de la création sont une expression de notre spiritualité. Cependant, les manifestations d'avidité florissante, mettant en danger l'humanité et la terre aussi, témoignent de l'érosion de notre spiritualité. Avons-nous le courage, en tant que communion d'églises, de transformer la prière de Jésus en actions pour la justice interpellant les puissants qui font tout pour créer des systèmes axés sur le profit, entièrement dédiés aux gains à court terme d'une minorité ?

En juillet 2010, la FLM tiendra sa prochaine Assemblée à Stuttgart, Allemagne, sous les auspices de l'Eglise évangélique

luthérienne du Wurtemberg et de l'Eglise évangélique luthérienne unie d'Allemagne (VELK). Ce sera l'occasion pour les représentant(e)s de chaque Eglise membre de la FLM de prendre conscience des moments importants qui auront jalonné notre cheminement commun en tant que communion, en nous redonnant vie et espérance. En tant qu'organe législatif et politique suprême de la Fédération, l'Assemblée déterminera également l'orientation générale des activités à entreprendre, coordonnées par le bureau de la communion à Genève.

Au moment où nous nous préparons à cet événement de la plus haute importance pour la communion luthérienne, faisons en sorte que la prière de Jésus cesse d'être lamentation pour devenir une déclaration prometteuse en faveur de la justice, par solidarité avec les plus vulnérables de nos communautés.

Le pasteur Ishmael Noko
Secrétaire général de la FLM



Assembly 2003: (from left) outgoing LWF President Christian Krause, General Secretary Ishmael Noko and incoming President Mark S. Hanson © LWF/D. Zimmermann

Mensaje del Secretario General

Del lamento a actos de justicia por el pan cotidiano

Queridos hermanas y hermanos:

“Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día” es el tema de la Undécima Asamblea de la Federación Luterana Mundial (FLM). Esta petición no solo reverbera nuestra oración, esperanza y tristeza, sino también nuestro lamento colectivo.

Como cristianos/as, creemos que la Creación de Dios es para todos/as así todos/as pueden tener vida en plenitud. Esa abundancia comienza con el pan cotidiano que sustenta la vida. Ahora bien, cada vez que decimos el Padrenuestro “El pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy” (Mateo 6.11), se nos recuerda el profundo abismo que existe entre nuestra petición y las realidades que cada día privan de comida nutritiva a millones de personas en el mundo entero. Todas ellas luchan contra la pobreza endémica, la inanición,

la carencia de tierras y la falta de acceso a la munificencia de la Creación.

Nuestras deliberaciones teológicas incluyen profundas dimensiones éticas, pero al mismo tiempo, afrontamos retos espirituales y morales. Indudablemente, la miríada de iniciativas pastorales que abarcan la intervención frente al cambio climático y el cuidado de la Creación son expresión de nuestra espiritualidad; no obstante, la codicia floreciente que pone en peligro la humanidad y la Tierra también implica la erosión de nuestra espiritualidad. En cuanto comunión de iglesias, tenemos el coraje de convertir la oración de Jesús en actos de justicia que impugnen los poderes empeñados en crear sistemas orientados al lucro para que unos/as pocos/as obtengan ganancias a corto plazo?

En julio de 2010, la FLM se congregará en su próxima asamblea que tendrá lugar

en Stuttgart, Alemania, y será acogida por la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Württemberg y la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida

de Alemania (VELKD). Esa será una oportunidad de que los/as representantes de cada iglesia miembro de la FLM reconozcan los significativos momentos de don de vida y restauración de la esperanza de la trayectoria común de nuestra comunión. Órgano supremo de reglamentación y formulación de políticas de la Federación, la Asamblea también definirá la orientación general de la futura labor coordinada por la oficina de la comunión con sede en Ginebra.

Mientras nos preparamos para este hito de la comunión luterana, hagamos que la oración de Jesús se transforme en declaración esperanzadora de justicia en solidaridad con los seres más vulnerables de nuestras comunidades.

Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko
Secretario General de la FLM



Logo

The simple design of the Assembly logo combines two graphic elements in a single image.

Drawn in one brushstroke, the green bud represents the life and growth of God's creation as well as the growing and spreading of God's reign. It likewise evokes the "daily bread" of the Assembly theme. The petition for "daily bread" is a

reminder that all human beings share the same basic needs, and are called to a commitment to life in dignity for all.

The logo's central cross affirms that Jesus Christ, the Crucified One, is Lord of the Church. Its upward curve suggests that it is a living entity, symbolizing Christians' hope in the Resurrection.

Designed by the Leonhardt & Kern Agency in Germany, the logo may be downloaded from the LWF Web site.



Vollversammlungs-Logo

Das schlichte Design des Logos vereint zwei Elemente in einer Grafik. Die mit nur einem Federstrich gezeichnete, grüne Knospe versinnbildlicht das Leben und das Wachstum, das Gott der ganzen Schöpfung schenkt, und ist ein Hinweis auf das Reich Gottes, das wächst und sich ausbreitet. Sie illustriert ausserdem das „tägliche Brot“ aus dem Thema der Vollversammlung. Die Bitte um das „tägliche Brot“ ist eine Erinnerung, dass alle Menschen dieselben Grundbedürfnisse haben und dass alle aufgerufen sind, allen Menschen ein Leben in Würde zu ermöglichen.

Das Kreuz in der Mitte soll deutlich machen, dass der gekreuzigte Jesus Christus der Herr der Kirche ist. Die leicht nach oben gekrümmte Form des Kreuzes soll verdeutlichen, dass das Kreuz etwas Lebendiges ist, das die Auferstehungshoffnung der ChristInnen symbolisch darstellt.

Das Logo wurde von der Agentur Leonhardt & Kern aus Ludwigsburg (Deutschland) entworfen und kann von der LWB-Webseite heruntergeladen werden.

Logo

Le style simple et modeste du logo de l'Assemblée combine deux éléments graphiques en une seule image.

Dessiné d'un seul coup de pinceau, le bourgeon vert représente la vie et la croissance de la création de Dieu ainsi que l'expansion du règne de Dieu. De la même manière, il évoque notre « notre pain quotidien », thème de l'Assemblée.

La supplique pour « le pain quotidien » est un rappel que toute l'humanité partage le même besoin élémentaire, et est appelée à un engagement pour une vie de dignité, pour toutes et pour tous.

La croix au milieu du logo affirme que Jésus Christ, le Crucifié, est le Seigneur de l'Eglise. S'élevant en courbe légère, la croix suggère une entité vivante, symbolisant l'espérance chrétienne dans la Résurrection.

Réalisé par l'agence Leonhardt et Kern en Allemagne, le logo peut être téléchargé sur le site web de la FLM.

Logotipo

La simplicidad del dibujo del logotipo de la Asamblea combina dos elementos gráficos en una sola imagen.

En una sola pincelada, el retoño verde representa la vida y el florecimiento de la Creación de Dios, así como el crecimiento y la propagación del reinado de Dios. También evoca "el pan de cada día" del tema de la Asamblea. Esa petición del "pan de cada día" nos recuerda que todos los seres humanos tenemos las mismas necesidades básicas y estamos llamados a empeñarnos en una vida en dignidad para todos.

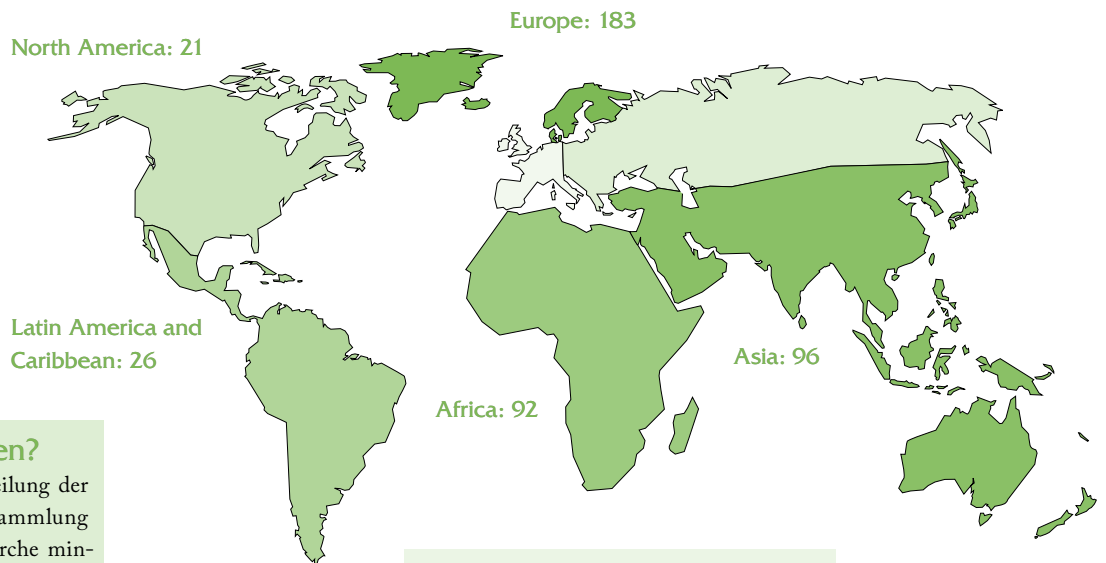
La cruz central del logotipo afirma que Jesucristo, el Crucificado, es Señor de la Iglesia. La curva ascendente sugiere que es una entidad viva y simboliza la esperanza cristiana en la resurrección.

Diseñado por la Agencia Leonhardt & Kern de Alemania, se puede descargar en el sitio web de la FLM.



Who Are the Delegates?

Guidelines for allocating delegates to the Eleventh Assembly allow for at least one representative from each full member church. The 418 delegates will include 50 percent women and 20 percent youth (under the age of 30 years).



Wer sind die Delegierten?

Die Richtlinien für die Verteilung der Delegierten der Elften Vollversammlung legen fest, dass jede Mitgliedskirche mindestens eine/n Delegierte/n entsendet. Mindestens 50 Prozent der 418 Delegierten sollen Frauen und mindestens 20 Prozent Jugenddelegierte (unter 30 Jahren) sein.

Qui sont les délégué(e)s ?

Les directives pour la nomination des délégué(e)s à la Onzième Assemblée permettent au moins, un(e) représentant(e) de chaque Eglise pleinement membre. Les 418 délégué(e)s comprendront cinquante pour cent de femmes et vingt pour cent de jeunes (moins de 30 ans).

¿Quiénes son los/as delegados/as?

Las directrices sobre la asignación de delegados/as ante la Undécima Asamblea estipulan que haya al menos un/a representante de cada iglesia miembro de pleno derecho. De los/as 418 delegados/as, el 50 por ciento serán mujeres y el 20 por ciento, jóvenes (menores de 30 años).

2003 Assembly participants © LWF/D. Zimmermann



Previous Assemblies

FRÜHERE VOLLVERSAMMLUNGEN • LES ASSEMBLÉES PRÉCÉDENTES • LAS ASAMBLEAS ANTERIORES

1947	Lund, Sweden Lund, Schweden Lund, Suède Lund, Suecia	The Lutheran Church in the World Today Die lutherische Kirche in der Welt von heute L'Eglise luthérienne dans le monde d'aujourd'hui La Iglesia Luterana en el Mundo de Hoy	1977	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Daressalam, Tanzania Dar es-Salaam, Tanzanie Dar es Salam, Tanzania	In Christ—A New Community In Christus – eine neue Gemeinschaft En Christ – une communauté nouvelle En Cristo – Una Nueva Comunidad
1952	Hanover, Germany Hannover, Deutschland Hanovre, Allemagne Hannover, Alemania	The Living Word in a Responsible Church Das lebendige Wort in einer verantwortlichen Kirche La parole vivante dans une Eglise responsable La Palabra Viviente en una Iglesia Responsable	1984	Budapest, Hungary Budapest, Ungarn Budapest, Hongrie Budapest, Hungría	In Christ—Hope for the World In Christus – Hoffnung für die Welt En Christ – espérance du monde En Cristo – Esperanza para el Mundo
1957	Minneapolis, USA Minneapolis, USA Minneapolis, Etats-Unis Minneapolis, EE.UU.	Christ Frees and Unites Christus befreit und einigt Le Christ libère et unit Cristo Libera y Une	1990	Curitiba, Brazil Curitiba, Brasilien Curitiba, Brésil Curitiba, Brasil	I Have Heard the Cry of My People Ich habe das Schreien meines Volkes gehört J'ai entendu les cris de mon peuple He escuchado el Clamor de mi Pueblo
1963	Helsinki, Finland Helsinki, Finnland Helsinki, Finlande Helsinki, Finlanda	Christ Today Christus heute Christ aujourd'hui Cristo Hoy	1997	Hong Kong, China Hongkong, China Hong-kong, Chine Hong Kong, China	In Christ—Called to Witness In Christus – zum Zeugnis berufen En Christ – appelés/ées à témoigner En Cristo – Llamados/as a dar Testimonio
1970	Evian, France Evian, Frankreich Evian, France Evian, Francia	Sent into the World Gesandt in die Welt Envoyés dans le monde Enviados al Mundo	2003	Winnipeg, Kanada Winnipeg, Kanada Winnipeg, Canada Winnipeg, Canadá	For the Healing of the World Zur Heilung der Welt Pour guérir le monde Para la Sanación del Mundo



Assembly Planning Committee

The General Secretary ensures that all the LWF constitutional mandates and Council resolutions are implemented in organizing this important event. The Council-appointed Assembly Planning Committee (APC), comprising representatives from the different LWF regions, meets regularly to plan the

assembly. The APC chairperson is Ms Angelene Swart, former president of the Moravian Church in South Africa. There are other coordinators with specific terms of reference for worship, communication, finances, content, logistics and pre-assemblies. The Deputy General Secretary is responsible for co-

ordinating Council-related matters. The assembly host church has appointed a Local Planning Committee which continues with the local preparations under the leadership of Rev. Klaus Rieth. Mr Reinhard Gradmann serves as the Assembly Logistics Coordinator based in Stuttgart.



January 2008 Assembly Planning Committee meeting in Stuttgart, Germany
© LWF

Comité de planification de l'Assemblée

Dans l'organisation de cet important évènement, le secrétaire général veille à ce que tous les mandats constitutionnels de la FLM et les résolutions du Conseil relatives à l'Assemblée, soient mises en application. Le Comité de planification, nommé par le Conseil, comprenant des représentantes et des représentants des différentes régions de la FLM, se rencontrent régulièrement pour planifier l'Assemblée. La présidente de ce comité est Mme Angelene Swart, ancienne présidente de l'Eglise morave d'Afrique du Sud. Il y a d'autres coordinateurs avec des termes de référence spécifiques pour le culte, la communication, les finances, le contenu, la logistique et les pré-assemblées. Le secrétaire général adjoint est responsable de la coordination des questions relatives au Conseil. L'Eglise hôte de l'Assemblée a nommé un comité local de planification qui suit les préparations locales, sous la direction du pasteur Klaus Rieth. Monsieur Reinhard Gradmann sert en tant que coordinateur logistique de l'Assemblée, basé à Stuttgart.

Planungsausschuss für die Vollversammlung

Im Rahmen der Vorbereitung der Vollversammlung trägt der LWB-Generalsekretär dafür Sorge, dass die im Blick auf die Vollversammlung von der LWB-Verfassung vorgegebenen Aufgaben sowie die entsprechenden Ratsbeschlüsse umgesetzt werden. Der vom Rat eingesetzte Planungsausschuss für die Vollversammlung umfasst VertreterInnen der verschiedenen LWB-Regionen und trifft sich regelmässig, um die Vollversammlung zu planen. Die Vorsitzende des Planungsausschusses ist Angelene Swart, ehemalige Präsidentin der Brüder-Unität in Südafrika. Weitere KoordinatorInnen sind verantwortlich für die Vorbereitung einzelner Bereiche wie Gottesdienste, Kommunikation, Finanzen, inhaltliche Gestaltung, Logistik und die vorbereitenden Konsultationen zur Vollversammlung. Der Stellvertretende LWB-Generalsekretär hat die Verantwortung für die Koordinierung aller Ratsangelegenheiten. Die gastgebende Kirche hat einen Lokalen Planungsausschuss für die Vollversammlung eingerichtet, der sich unter der Leitung von Kirchenrat Klaus Rieth um die Vorbereitung der Vollversammlung vor Ort kümmert. Reinhard Gradmann koordiniert von Stuttgart aus die Logistik der Vollversammlung.

Comité de Planificación de la Asamblea

El Secretario General se asegura de que todas las disposiciones constitucionales y las resoluciones del Consejo de la FLM sean aplicadas en la organización de este importante acontecimiento. El Comité de Planificación de la Asamblea (CPA), nombrado por el Consejo, está integrado por representantes de las distintas regiones de la FLM y se reúne periódicamente para llevar a cabo esa labor. La Sra. Angelene Swart, ex presidenta de la Iglesia Morava en Sudáfrica, preside el CPA. También hay otros/as coordinadores/as con mandatos concretos en las esferas de liturgia, comunicación, finanzas, contenido, logística y preasambleas. El Secretario General Adjunto se encarga de coordinar los asuntos relacionados con el Consejo. A su vez, la iglesia anfitriona de la Asamblea designó un Comité de Planificación Local que prosigue con los preparativos locales bajo la dirección del Rev. Klaus Rieth. El Sr. Reinhard Gradmann presta servicios en calidad de Coordinador de Logística de la Asamblea en Stuttgart.



Gastgebende Kirche

Die Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg

Die Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg ist eine der ältesten Kirchen der Reformation. Sie besteht seit 1534. Ihre historische und theologische Besonderheit liegt darin, dass sie infolge ihrer geographischen Lage zwischen

den lutherischen und den zwinglianischen Gebieten der Reformation von Anfang gefordert war, zwischen beiden Richtungen zu vermitteln. Dies ist bis heute in der schlichten Form des „oberdeutschen Predigtgottesdienstes“ und in

einem eigenen Katechismus spürbar, der lutherisch ausgerichtet und stark geprägt von dem württembergischen Reformator Johannes Brenz ist. Wichtig für die geistliche Prägung der Landeskirche ist das Heimatrecht der pietistischen Gruppen innerhalb der Kirche. Es wurde 1743 durch das Pietistenreskript festgeschrieben und 1992 erneuert.

Assembly Host Church: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg

Established in 1534, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg is one of the oldest churches of the Reformation. It has the historical and theological particularity of being geographically located between the Lutheran and Zwinglian spheres of influence and therefore, from the very beginning, had a role as mediator between the two. To this very day, this is recognizable in the simple “service of the word” in Upper German and in a unique catechism that is Lutheran-based but markedly influenced by Württemberg reformer Johannes Brenz. An important element of the church’s spiritual identity is the right of residence of Pietists within the church. It was

guaranteed by the general Pietist rescript of 1743 and renewed in 1992.

Today, the Württemberg church encompasses the former Kingdom of Württemberg and several congregations that had been Prussian until 1945. It has nearly 2.3 million members in 1,441 congregations and 48 “deaneries” (church districts), served by around 2,500 pastors. The church synod, the only one in Germany that is elected directly, consists of 60 lay people and 30 ordained pastors. Bishop Dr Frank Otfried July has led the church since 2005.

Formation and diakonia are important concerns for the regional church. The present theological focus is on questions about baptism

Heute umfasst die württembergische Landeskirche das Gebiet des ehemaligen Königreiches Württemberg und einige Gemeinden, die bis 1945 preussisch waren. Sie hat knapp 2,3 Millionen Mitglieder, die in 1.441 Kirch-

engemeinden und 48 Dekanaten (Kirchenkreisen) leben. Sie beschäftigt rund 2.500 PfarrerInnen. Die Landessynode, als einzige in Deutschland direkt gewählt, besteht aus 60 nichtordinierten und 30 ordinieren Mitgliedern. Landes-

www.elk-wue.de

Église hôte : L'Église évangélique du Wurtemberg

L'Église évangélique du Wurtemberg est l'une des plus anciennes Églises issues de la Réforme. Elle existe depuis 1534. Sa particularité, d'un point de vue historique et théologique, tient à ce qu'elle est située géographiquement entre les territoires luthériens et zwingliens de la Réforme, ce qui l'a amenée d'emblée à servir de médiatrice entre ces deux courants. Aujourd'hui encore, il en reste des traces dans la simplicité du « culte de la parole en allemand supérieur » et dans son catéchisme d'inspiration luthérienne et fortement marqué par le réformateur wurtembergeois Johannes Brenz. Le droit de cité octroyé aux groupes piétistes au sein de l'Église a joué un rôle important dans son orientation spirituelle. Il est codifié dans un rescrit de 1743, qui a été renouvelé en 1962.

Aujourd'hui, l'Église évangélique du Wurtemberg englobe le territoire de l'ancien royaume de Wurtemberg et quelques communautés demeurées prussiennes, jusqu'en 1945. Elle compte près de 2,3 millions de membres qui vivent dans 1 441 paroisses et 48 décanats (circonscriptions ecclésiastiques). Le synode, le seul en Allemagne à être élu au suffrage direct, se compose de 60 membres non ordonnés et de 30 membres ordonnés. Son évêque (« Landesbischof ») est, depuis 2005, Frank Otfried July.

L'Église attache une grande importance à tout ce qui concerne la formation et la diaconie. Sur le plan théologique, elle se concentre actuellement sur les questions touchant au baptême, en théorie et en pratique, et sur la question du « culte ».

Stiftskirche in Stuttgart (Deutschland)
© Horst Schneek



bischof ist seit 2005 Dr. h.c. Frank Otfried July.

Wichtige Themen in der Landeskirche sind die Bildung und die Diakonie. Ein theologischer Schwerpunkt liegt derzeit auf Fragen der Taufe in Theorie und Praxis sowie auf dem Thema „Gottesdienst“.

Iglesia Anfitriona: La Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Württemberg

La Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Württemberg es una de las iglesias más antiguas de la Reforma, pues fue fundada en 1534. Su peculiar singularidad histórica y teológica consiste en que, por su situación geográfica entre las regiones influidas por Lutero y Zwingli, ha desempeñado desde el principio el papel de mediadora entre ambas. Esto se percibe incluso hoy en día en la forma sencilla del “servicio religioso de la

predicación” en alto alemán y en un catecismo propio de orientación luterana y fuertemente marcado por el reformador Johannes Brenz, natural de Württemberg. Es importante para el carácter espiritual de esta iglesia el derecho de residencia de los grupos piétistas dentro de ella, que se fijó en 1743 mediante el rescripto de los/as piétistas y fue renovado en 1992.

Hoy en día, la Iglesia de Württemberg abarca la región del antiguo reino de Württemberg y algunas comunidades que fueron prusianas hasta 1945. Cuenta con casi 2,3 millones de

miembros de 1.441 congregaciones y 48 decanatos (distritos eclesiales), de los que se ocupan unos/as 2.500 pastores/as. El sínodo regional, el único en Alemania que es elegido directamente, consta de sesenta personas laicas y treinta pastores/as ordenados/as. El Obispo Dr. Frank Otfried July dirige la iglesia desde 2005.

La formación y la diaconía son temas de gran interés para la iglesia, la cual actualmente se centra en materia teológica en las cuestiones del bautismo en la teoría y la práctica, y en el tema del “culto”.



Assembly Theme Resources: Food Security and Sovereignty

A special *LWI* edition titled, "What Is Enough? Perspectives on Food Security and Sovereignty," provides reflections on the LWF Eleventh Assembly theme, "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread." *LWI No. 05/2009* presents insights on the moral and practical concerns of the global food security crisis and the consequent challenges for Lutheran ministries around the world.

Contributing authors share their views on food security, education, climate change, land rights and advocacy.

The publication includes the *LWF Sunday 2009* liturgical material in all four LWF languages.



Recursos para el tema de la Asamblea: Seguridad alimentaria y soberanía

El número especial de *LWI* intitulado *What Is Enough? Perspectives on Food Security and Sovereignty* recoge reflexiones sobre el tema de la Undécima Asamblea de la FLM: "Danos hoy nuestros pan de cada día". En ese número (*LWI No. 05/2009*) también se consideran preocupaciones de orden moral y práctico en torno a la crisis mundial de seguridad

alimentaria y los consiguientes retos que plantean a los ministros luteranos del mundo entero.

En sus artículos, los colaboradores/as comparten opiniones sobre seguridad alimentaria, educación, cambio climático, derechos a la tierra y sensibilización.

La publicación incluye material litúrgico para el *Domingo de la FLM 2009* en los cuatro idiomas de trabajo de la FLM.

Parallelen zwischen lutherischen Lehren und Menschenrechtserklärung

„Unsere Menschenrechte gib uns heute“ lautet der Titel der *LWI*-Sonderausgabe (Nr. 10/2008), die aus Anlass des 60. Jahrestages der Unterzeichnung der Allgemeinen Erklärung der Menschenrechte (AEMR) veröffentlicht wurde. Der Jahrestag wurde weltweit am 10. Dezember 2008 begangen.

Einige Beiträge dieser Sonderausgabe wie auch die enthaltenen liturgischen Materialien beleuchten erstaunliche Parallelen zwischen Martin Luthers Ausführungen zur vierten Bitte des Vaterunsers und der Menschenrechtserklärung.

Lien entre la tradition luthérienne et les principes des droits humains

Give Us This Day Our Human Rights (Donne-nous nos droits humains de ce jour) est le titre du no. 10/2008 de *LWI*, publié en vue du 60^e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme (DUDH) et de la Journée mondiale des droits de l'homme, célébrées le 10 décembre.

Son contenu, y compris le matériel liturgique, traite du lien étroit qui existe entre la DUDH et les explications de Martin Luther, au sujet de la quatrième supplique du Notre Père.

Link between Lutheran Tradition and Human Rights Principles

"Give Us This Day Our Human Rights" is the title of *LWI No. 10/2008*, published in anticipation of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and World Human Rights Day, observed on 10 December.

The content, including liturgical material, features the close connection between the UDHR and Martin

Material zum Thema der Vollversammlung: Ernährungssicherheit – Ernährungssouveränität

Die *LWI*-Sonderausgabe mit dem Titel „Gibt es genug für alle? Ernährungssicherheit – Ernährungssouveränität“ liefert Hintergrundinformationen zum Thema der Elften Vollversammlung und illustriert die Notwendigkeit, überall auf der Welt faire Ernährungssysteme zu schaffen. Weiterhin wird aufgezeigt, auf welche Weise sich LutheranerInnen ungerechten Systemen widersetzen und Menschen in Not helfen.

Die AutorInnen der Sonderausgabe aus verschiedenen Teilen der Welt legen ihre Ansichten zu Themen dar wie: Ernährungssicherheit, Ausbildung, Klimawandel, Landrechte und Anwaltschaft.

Die Publikation enthält auch die Gottesdienstmaterialien für den „LWB-Sonntag 2009“ in den vier offiziellen Arbeitssprachen des LWB.

Ressources autour du thème de l'Assemblée : Sécurité et souveraineté alimentaires

Un numéro spécial de *LWI* intitulé, « What Is Enough? Perspectives on Food Security and Sovereignty », offre quelques réflexions sur le thème de la Onzième Assemblée de la FLM « Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain quotidien ». *LWI #5/2009* réunit plusieurs perspectives sur les questions morales et pratiques soulevées par la crise mondiale de la sécurité alimentaire et sur les défis qu'elle entraîne pour les ministères luthériens dans le monde.

Les auteurs expriment leurs opinions sur la sécurité alimentaire, l'éducation, les changements climatiques, les droits fonciers et les campagnes de sensibilisation.

On trouvera dans cette publication le matériel liturgique du *Dimanche de la FLM 2009* dans les quatre langues de la FLM.



Vínculo entre la tradición luterana y los principios de derechos humanos

Give Us This Day Our Human Rights [Danos hoy nuestros derechos humanos] es el título del número *LWI No. 10/2008*, publicado en vísperas del 60^o aniversario de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos y en ocasión del Día Mundial de los Derechos Humanos que se celebra el 10 de diciembre.

El contenido, que incluye material litúrgico, trata del estrecho vínculo que existe entre dicha declaración y la elaboración de Martín Lutero sobre la cuarta petición del Padre Nuestro.

delegation and chair of the Centre for Interreligious Dialogue in Teheran. "The role of religious leaders in facilitating and expediting such interactions and dialogues is of great significance."

The tri-annual Congress is held in the Pyramid of Peace and Accord, designed by British architect Norman Foster in the form of an Egyptian pyramid.

Noko told *Lutheran World Information* (LWI) that the next Congress would be crucial.

"Some degree of dialogue and exchange has started, but it is not enough," he said. "We need next time to have some kind of guidelines on how we talk to each other. Remember these are religious people, with very strong personalities."

He believes the Congress must address the question, "What does dialogue mean if the goal is peace?"



LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko (third from the right) participated in this year's congress and previous ones in 2003 and 2006. © LWF/Anli Serfontein

A contribution by LWI correspondent Anli Serfontein, who attended the Congress in Astana as a member of the LWF delegation.

10 July 2009

Understanding Humanitarian Crises in a Changing World

LWF World Service Director Says Role of Church-Based Organizations Must be Reassessed

MONTREUX, Switzerland/GENEVA (LWI)

The changing contexts of humanitarian crises today provided a common ground for joint reflection on the future of church-based humanitarian and development initiatives at this year's Annual Forum of

the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service (DWS).

"The understanding of humanitarian crises has changed in recent decades," said Rev. Eberhard Hitzler, LWF/DWS director. "Failed states,

recurring drought and climate change have turned disasters from exceptional events to chronic crises. In this context, the role and identity of faith and church-based humanitarian organizations has to be reassessed."

The 2009 Annual Forum, held 4-6 May, in Montreux, Switzerland, brought together over 50 participants from churches and church-based development and humanitarian agencies. Case studies on DWS field program work in various countries offered perspectives on localization and partnership, and the role of the Lutheran communion in humanitarian aid.

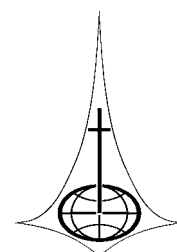
DWS is the internationally recognized humanitarian arm of the LWF, with field programs in 36 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe.



At the Annual Forum in Montreux, LWF/DWS director Rev. Eberhard Hitzler (left) emphasized the need to understand the chronic nature of humanitarian crises today. Participants at this year's meeting included Rev. Dr A. G. Augustine Jeyakumar (middle) from India, who is chairperson of the World Service Standing Committee; on the right is Mr Christer Åkesson, Church of Sweden. © LWF/D.-M. Grötzsch

Localization

Localization is a key element in the DWS strategy, since the engagement



of an international humanitarian and development organization is inherently time-limited. The LWF department works actively toward sustainable local solutions for country programs, transferring them to local ownership wherever circumstances permit.

The Tanzanian program, Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS), was cited as one of the positive examples of transition from a DWS country program to a locally-managed organization. TCRS started providing assistance to refugees in the 1960s as a DWS country program. It gained national non-governmental organization (NGO) status, becoming a DWS associate program in 2006. The program is governed by a national board of trustees, of which the majority of members are appointed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

This allows the program to continue and empowers the church



Mr Mark Lever, TCRS director
© LWF/D.-M. Gröttsch

to share Lutheran values in its diaconal work. "TCRS, under the guidance and leadership of the church, maintains its historical reputation as a major and long-standing partner of the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] in refugee

operations," TCRS director Mr Mark Lever told the forum.

Emergency response was the subject of a case study from Brazil. In November 2008 over 400,000 people lost their homes

after devastating floods covered the Itajaí valley in eastern Brazil. The Lutheran communion raised national and international awareness about the emergency. Through the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession



IECLB synod pastor, Rev. Mariane Beyer Ehrat © LWF/D.-M. Gröttsch

in Brazil (IECLB) it distributed 140 tons of food, clothing, health and hygiene products in the main towns affected. Working through local parishes and congregations, it also reconstructed 200 homes for affected families.

"The churches acted on immediate social assistance, spiritual assistance and personal needs," said IECLB synodal pastor Rev. Mariane Beyer Ehrat. "The state responded to the macro problems—infrastructure, rehabilitation of roads, emergency healthcare and food distribution, as well as restoring water, electricity and telephone services."



DWS Kenya program coordinator, Ms Sofia Malmqvist © LWF/D.-M. Gröttsch

Refugee Camps

Ms Sofia Malmqvist, who coordinates the DWS Kenya Somali

refugee program, gave a presentation on managing refugee camps in partnership with the UN.

The camps receive refugees from Somalia, distribute food and water, and serve as transit centers. They also provide training opportunities within community development, including peace-building and conflict resolution, gender equity and human rights, child development and empowerment, and youth protection and development.

Malmqvist is one of five Church of Sweden workers seconded to DWS field programs in a two-year initiative. "In the various protection and operational management training materials, it is clear there is a need to build effective partnerships," she said, "but projects need their independence."

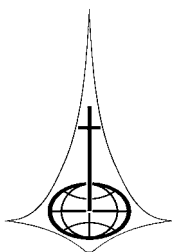
(Ms Tsiry Rakoto from Madagascar, an intern in the LWF Office for Communication Services wrote this article.)



Fifty representatives of churches and church-related development and humanitarian agencies attended the May 2009 meeting. © LWF/D.-M. Gröttsch

31 July 2009

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FEATURE: A Refuge from Domestic Violence

Continued from p. 1

The church explains that the victims often have no means of availing themselves of protective measures. If the abusive men receive summons to appear before the family court or public prosecutor to face charges of domestic violence, the situation often escalates. The men assault and abuse the women all over again. In the more extreme cases, the women lose their lives. Neighbors often do not dare to intervene, acting on the principle: "Do not get involved in a couple's squabbles."

Since many women are isolated, they find it difficult to get assistance. Their children are often used as a means of control and blackmail. The psychological effect of years of violence diminishes the women's self-esteem and drains them of the strength they need to change their lives. In addition, the women remain economically dependent on their abusers.

Psychosocial and Spiritual Care

Vida Plena provides accommodation for three months, which also includes healing programs, psychosocial and spiritual care, legal accompaniment and assistance in devising new life goals



The IELCH shelter currently accommodates 18 children aged between one and 17 years. © IELCH

for the women and children suffering family violence. The refuge is currently home to 12 women and 18 children between the ages of one and 17. The staff includes social workers, a psychologist, an accountant, five kindergarten teachers and a woman pastor.

The IELCH currently has five cooperation agreements with SER-NAM for three women shelters—two within the capital, and one in Concepción, the capital of Region VIII, as well as two contact centers for the prevention of violence. The

church shelter is so far the only organization in the country to have signed an official agreement with the government for this kind of work.

IELCH president Rev. Dr Gloria Rojas attributes this cooperation to government recognition of the church's commitment to defend human rights from its prophetic ministry during the period of Chile's dictatorship.

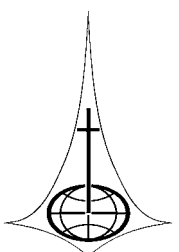
The church is committed to equal rights for men and women, and opposes discrimination, she stresses. "In a society debating women's abilities and the defense of equal opportunity, this stance is highly valued," according to Rojas. She also cites the practical, firm dedication of the church to diaconal work, which is a response to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Here words and actions are closely intertwined, she adds.

"Violence against women is a sin," states Rev. Dr Elaine G. Neuenfeldt, secretary for Women in Church and Society at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Overcoming it requires a holistic, collective effort, she says, emphasizing that the church is called to be a safe place for women living and suffering in violent relations.

As a global communion, the LWF calls for affirmative policies for women and for missional, diaconal and pro-



Music helps many children and youth to deal with the trauma associated with violence at family level. © IELCH



phetic commitment in public life. "The experience in Chile is a sign of how the church can interact in a proactive way with public policies," adds Neuenfeldt.

This article is in the continuing LWI features' series on the topic "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread," the theme of the LWF Eleventh Assembly, to

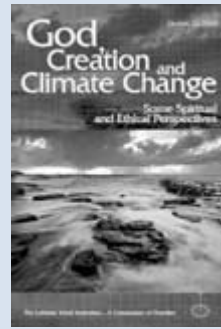
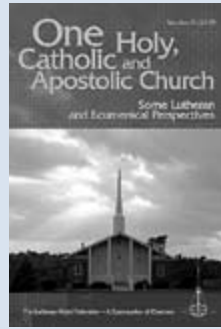
be held from 20 to 27 July 2010 in Stuttgart, Germany.

26 August 2009

New Publications to Further Ongoing LWF Theological work

The book, *One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church* offers some perspectives on how Lutheran churches, within an ecumenical horizon, understand and live out the marks of the church from the Nicene Creed. Produced in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) *Studies* series (Studies 01/2009), the publication brings together papers from the first of two consultations organized by the Department for Theology and Studies (DTS) as part of a study program on ecclesiology. The first consultation was held near Geneva in June 2008, and the second will be held in Münster, Germany in June 2010.

For further information on this program, please contact Rev. Dr Martin L. Sinaga, DTS study secretary for Theology and the Church, at: msi@lutheranworld.org



God, Creation and Climate Change, also produced in the LWF *Studies* series highlights some spiritual and ethical perspectives from Christian and other backgrounds that can motivate and guide various ways of responding to the increasingly pervasive, urgent challenges evoked by climate change.

The publication (Studies 02/2009) is part of an ongoing focus in which many LWF members churches and field programs of the Department for World Service are already involved. It is intended to enrich these discussions in many settings in anticipation of the July 2010 LWF Eleventh Assembly.

Contact DTS director, Rev. Dr Karen Bloomquist at: kbl@lutheranworld.org

Reflections on Interfaith Perspectives for Economic Life

"Interfaith Perspectives for Economic Life" is the topic covered in the latest pamphlet of the LWF/DTS *Thinking it over ...* series of theological reflections on timely challenges facing churches of the Lutheran communion.

The online booklet points out that the prescription for "healing" this crisis has concentrated mostly on the large corporations and other major players in the global market who have applied approaches that overlook the many ways

in which common people have been coping and surviving for long. What other kinds of wisdom can be found in Luther and in other faith traditions that suggest a different orientation for economic life?

Read more about this topic and previous ones at: www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/Dts/DTS-Thinking_it_over.html

Regional Lutheran Bishops Lead HIV Testing Initiative

Lutheran church leaders from Southern Africa recently demonstrated their commitment to promoting HIV and AIDS awareness by being tested for the virus.

Bishops from the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) member churches agreed to the presence of AIDS counselors to conduct voluntary counseling and testing at LUCSA's Theological Seminar and Council Meeting in early July at Kempton Park, near Johannesburg, South Africa.

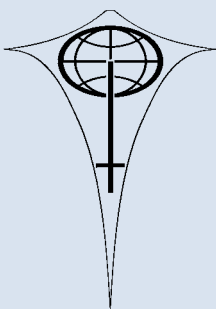
"It is important that everyone get tested because, for us to beat HIV, we need to know our status," said Rt Rev. Dr Ambrose Moyo, LUCSA's outgoing executive director. Newly-elected executive director Presiding Bishop Dr Johannes Ramashapa of the Evan-

gelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) said he considered the voluntary counseling and testing as "good news."

On the churches' commitment to fighting the AIDS epidemic, Ramashapa said, "We do embrace people living with HIV and AIDS. As church leaders, we are doing our best to break the stigma surrounding the disease by encouraging all people to know their status through getting tested."

LUCSA is one of the three sub-regional bodies of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Africa. It represents 17 Lutheran churches in 10 Southern African countries, including 13 LWF member churches.

(By Daisy Dube, LUCSA communications officer)



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The Lutheran World Federation
150, route de Ferney
P.O. Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Tel. +41/22-791 61 11
Fax +41/22-791 66 30
E-mail info@lutheranworld.org
www.lutheranworld.org