

# REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

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## EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

### NO. 79 EASTER 2018

#### Australia and New Zealand

no message

#### Bavaria

no message

#### Austria/Czechia/Hungary

Nothing new to report.

Christine Jost

#### Central Germany

Albrecht Schwenk celebrated his 70th birthday and has now stepped down as lenker for the region Germany-Central. At the general lenker's-conference Andreas von Wehren (Berlin-Wilmersdorf) was co-opted as his successor. To allow a smooth transition Albrecht Schwenk will continue to take responsibilities for the congregation in the Hessen region (except Kassel) until June 2019.

Vicke von Behr

#### Eastern Europe

no message

#### Japan

no message

#### Great Britain-Ireland

There will be a number of priests' moves in 2018. Peter Holmann, who has been working in South Africa since his Ordination, has been sent to Edinburgh, where he will join Paul Newton. Edinburgh will also be taking on the visits to Loch Arthur, which Ben van Lieshout has been holding for many years, first from Botton and then from Holywood. Peter will be inducted in Edinburgh on St John's Day. We are hoping that this strengthening of priests' numbers in Edinburgh will have benefits for all of our work in Scotland.

Willem Boonstoppel, who has been working in Forest Row since his Ordination in 2016, will take up a sending to Aberdeen at the end of August. Luke Barr, who was sent to Aberdeen following his Ordination in 2014, will replace him in Forest Row.

In Stroud, we are interviewing builders to find out who will build our wonderful new church. Although the cost of the project has increased through inflation and other factors that only come up in the detailed design phase, we are confident that we will be able to finance the building.

The Proseminar course that we started with three students has come to an end after it became clear that the step into full time training would not be the right thing for any of them at this time.

Tom Ravetz

### **The Netherlands and Belgium**

In the autumn of 2017 a new initiative was launched to further youth work in the region. We are setting up a network where each congregation is listed. Through this networking new initiatives can be presented and then be worked on in smaller groups.

We are very pleased that our holiday-camps are flourishing. The flow of children and young people to the camps is very encouraging. This new initiative took its origin from the believe that besides the camps the Christian Community can make a significant contribution to our everyday lives. Even in the past youth work has always been an important aspect of the work of the Christian Community. At times the youth movement was more active than at others, carried by a group of enthusiastic youths who worked on specific initiatives and delighted in the personal encounters. Although the interest in the movement could dwindle after a while the ideals lived on. The wish to contribute to the future is foremost in these young peoples' mind. But without the older generation the youth movement would not be able to reach its goal. In the near future we are concentrating on the following two projects:

1. International Youth Festival in Cologne. We are encouraging young people to attend and offer transport facilities.
2. The event is geared for young people between 18 to 35 years of age.

Ellis Booi

### **North-Germany**

At the regional synod in November 2017 two lenkers were introduced to the North German region. In accord with our Constitution of the Foundation the merger of congregations constitutes a region to which a lenker as regional responsible priest has been sent. Following this the regional council revised the existing constitution so that in future the district of the Körperschaftsverband North Germany can be split into two regions namely: **North Germany** (Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and affiliates Rostock/Schwerin/Greifswald) and **Northwest Germany** (Niedersachsen, Bremen and affiliates Bielefeld and Schloss Hamborn). The amended constitution was adopted by the regional council which will from now on be known as Körperschaftsversammlung Gesamt-Norddeutschland.

Within the priesthood of the North German region the following changes took place: Mrs Kabailaite is relocating from Erlangen to Kiel/Rendsburg and Mrs Hattenhauer from Blankenese to Hamburg. From the newly ordained priests Mrs Waizenegger has been assigned to Blankenese and Mrs Wolber to Rostock. Mrs Matschinsky was sent to Volksdorf. Mrs Alexi from Harburg will take leave of absence for an extended period of time.

The congregation in Ottersberg has completed the annexe to their chapel which serves as a prayer room for laying-out. 90% of the building costs have already been paid for through donations. Since 2017 the building in Mittelweg 13, Hamburg, which used to be the home of the Hamburg Priest seminary, has – after refurbishment – been let to an Anthroposophical Therapy Group Practice. The premises will be officially opened on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 with a festive act.

Thomas Nayda

### **North-America**

no message

### **Northern Countries**

no message

### **Romania**

no message

### **South America**

no message

### **Southern Africa**

Last year this region lived very much in anticipation of our first Ordination which took place in Johannesburg on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Michael Merle, a South African, was ordained. In February we started with the first of six modules which we plan to hold during the course of this year, with the aim of introducing locally based priest training. Since 2011 we tentatively approached this in the

region. For the first five years we visited well known universities in the South of the country to offer courses; those where places were involvement with the Christian Community or Anthroposophy did not exist.

Then our focus shifted to the training of our priesthood candidate and his preparation for Ordination. We have now established a permanent facility in Johannesburg and prepared a curriculum for the coming year with the aim of furthering the understanding of Anthroposophy and the Christian Community. We started the course with 15 participants, mainly from the Johannesburg area, but also a few from further afield as far as Botswana and Ruanda.

We hope that we have planted a seed which will continue to grow and will gradually draw people from this continent towards the impulse of a renewal of the sacraments through Anthroposophy.

Reingard Knausenberger

### **South-West Germany**

Since the autumn of 2017 a new impulse for change has come to fruition in the region of Saar-Pfalz-Mosel which comprises the congregations of Saarbrücken, Zweibrücken and the affiliate congregations in Kaiserslautern, Neustadt/Weinstraße and Trier. This development went even further in the spring of 2018 with the official sending of Rev Daniel Schietzel to this new alliance. With this step taken a new kind of sending was introduced: The area of responsibility no longer lies with just one altar but extends to several. This allows for greater flexibility in responding to the needs of the various congregations. As a consequence of this new kind of sending, representatives of the participating congregations have formed a management group which is responsible to secure a regular income for the priest. This again is a new impulse.

In the weeks leading up to Easter two candidates from this year's ordination group will take up their placements in our region: Jakob Besuch in Überlingen and Kristina Parow in Mannheim. With this a renewing and rejuvenation process continues and it is hoped that the initial adjustment period will allow for valuable experiences for the future and that an organic transition and handing over of responsibilities can be achieved.

In Überlingen in particular we could witness how a newly ordained priest, Patrizia Gagliano, gained a great deal of self-confidence within a year and is now ready to face a new task. During the Easter Season she will be joining the congregation in Erlangen. We wish her strength, enthusiasm and patience!

Hellmut Voigt

### **West-Germany**

no message

### **Switzerland/Southwest Europe**

#### **Portugal**

Work in Lissabon is beginning to consolidate, ably attended to, for some time now, by Sabine Hecker from Munich. Three times per annum lively, in-depth weekends are arranged with The Act of Consecration of Man, the Service for Children, lectures, conversations and artistic activities. The carrying group meets regularly once a month in varying numbers. By now it is possible to start the service punctual! Regular contributions are received but travel expenses for the priest are subsidised by the Swiss Land association. Accommodation, room rental etc. are borne locally. So far, the supporting friends have not yet consciously taken the step to become members of the Christian Community but a fair number is seriously considering membership. Recently a first contact to the congregation in Madrid was established. At the moment the idea of hosting regular summer conferences, like in Italy or Spain, is not considered paramount.

## **Spain**

The congregation in Madrid is growing and changing through new members and friends. There are initial musings regarding a re-location from the northern suburb to nearer the city centre of Madrid. However, for the time being the rented building is very suitable. Once a month intense long weekends are taking place in Barcelona and Alicante. The congregation in Alicante has rented a shop and by refurbishing the place other activities can also take place. Children and youth work, which started many years ago, is still alive and special summer events draw young people from all over Spain. In Barcelona the search is on to find a permanent space; there might be the possibility that the room which we are at present renting on a monthly basis at the therapy centre, could become available long term.

The political, cultural and economic situation in the Spanish region, particularly Catalonia, is causing grave concern. In many different ways efforts are made to work toward constructive ideas; at our last Spanish conference, for once during winter, many anew thoughts were expressed.

## **Italy**

Interest in the work of the Christian Community is growing and from many parts of the country requests for more information and lectures are coming in, including young families.

A number of affiliate congregations are regularly visited – either monthly or several times a year. Unfortunately, it is still not possible to carry the work in the country solely through our own contributions. A big donation from an Italian member, which was originally geared for the acquisition of a room where to hold the service, allowed us to balance the deficit for a number of years. This source is now almost depleted and there is the danger that we might have to give up the rented rooms at the Congregation in Bologna and revert to the state of ‘pioneering spirit’ in order to guarantee a regular income for the priests. Being very central Bologna has been a meeting place for many workshops and activities for the whole of Italy. We are hoping that intense efforts and contacts throughout Italy will avert the looming scenario.

## **France**

During Advent a big celebration took place for the consecration of our new church in Colmar which will also provide varied new impulses to the congregation. Since the sending of a new French priest a year ago we are planning to re-structure the priestly activities within the congregations and our affiliates by exchanging two priests between Paris and Alsace.

After renovations and refurbishments, the chapel in Paris looks very beautiful. Chatou, with its big wooden structure is part of the Paris congregation and is regularly visited. The Francophile members in Belgium have re-orientated themselves anew toward Antwerp where at regular intervals the service is held in French. For the time being visits to Pau have been discontinued. The annual summer gathering in France is an important link particularly for those members and friends who live far away from any congregation.

## **Switzerland**

On our property in Geneva the erection of a house with community rooms is imminent, however a few issues still need clarification. In Lausanne a shop has undergone a conversion and was taken possession of through a cooperative building project. New contacts are being established with the neighbourhood. Both congregations are being cared for by two priests which allows for new impulses to come to fruition.

In Tessin a lively group of young families is active to rebuild the congregation from where originally the work in Italy sprang. In Locarno/Minusio the service is held twice a year in German and twice in Italian. There are still open questions about the future. The predominantly German speaking congregation in the bilingual town of Biel has strengthened their connection to Berne as the priests from that congregation are looking after Biel. Besides activities within the congregation a service is held alternatively on Saturday or Sunday twice a month.

Amongst the smaller German-Swiss congregations Schaffhausen has again its own resident priest which was welcomed with joy and hope for the future. In contrast in Lucerne the numbers of members and financial contributors have shrunk. With the retirement of the present priest in 2019 changes are foreseen, probably in connection with a bigger congregation. Lenzburg (Aargau) is a strong and independent congregation. In Chur a second priest emeritus is assisting in the care for the congregations in Graubünden (Chur and Engadin); as a matter of fact, in many places we do depend on the assistance by retired priests to relieve colleagues where required.

In our four big congregations in Switzerland activities are diverse and emphasis is placed on various objectives: In Basle, the biggest congregation, the focus is on youth work but also on lectures and study groups; in Zurich, where presently only two priests are working, many a possibility lie dormant, although a range of amenities and initiatives are on offer in the vicinity. Questions about economic and social issues and contacts are dealt with in an innovative way. Last year Berne experienced a strengthening through the sending of a new priest, which brought some rejuvenation and changes with it. In St. Gallen the conversion and renovation work on the building are almost complete; what remains is the project of re-designing the space for the service. Annually in autumn the priests of the region meet for their synod and in between amongst themselves in the various countries.

Michael Bruhn

### **Wuerttemberg**

In Stuttgart the priests' ordinations took place in the newly refurbished space with more light, a much better acoustic and a beautiful symmetry around the altar with fresh colours. On March 4<sup>th</sup> Joseb Gumberidze was ordained in Tiflis; until the summer he will temporarily assist in the congregation in Sillenbuch.

Our regional administration continues to be in a state of transition and restructuring. The building fund and the administration are in good hands but we are still looking for somebody to take on the role of coordinator. This will only be a part-time position and an important pre-requisite is proficiency in DATEV and a commitment to cooperate with regional and national bodies in the furthering and improvement of the administrative section of the Christian Community.

Martin Merckens

### **Körperschaftsverband (KV)**

no message

### **Seminars/Hamburg**

no message

### **Treuhandverwaltung**

no message

### **Verband der Sozialwerke**

no message

### **Publishers**

no message

### **Haus auf dem Berge**

no message

### **Haus Freudenberg**

We can look back over a successful year with positive results. During the past year 492 people from the Christian Community were able to participate in 25 events of which 15 were courses related to the Priest Seminary programme; there were also a get-together for families, three children/youth camps plus six in-house conferences. This equals 46% of all guests of Haus Freudenberg. Under our statutes we also arranged a further ten events e.g. school trips, orchestra rehearsal retreats and conferences by charitable organisations.

In order to make the above-mentioned events a viable option extra income needs to be generated. During 2017 we managed to achieve this by arranging a further nine events for visiting groups, through rental income by our employees, through the sale of beverages, postcards and books and

through our own electric power generating system and thanks to our sponsor “Bürger vermögen viel”.

However, we do still rely on subsidies from the Movement of The Christian Community and the Bavaria region. We are also recipients from the Tessin Trust and benefit from about 100 donations by individuals to keep Haus Freudenberg afloat. In 2017 donations and subsidies made up 21% of our total income. The house registered 3 799 guest accommodations which is 123 bookings more than 2016.

Jutta und Dietmar Reisch

### **Seminaries/Stuttgart**

The Ordinations now lie behind us with deep and life-changing experiences and several exciting moments. Middle of February ten individuals were ordained and at the beginning of March one candidate in Georgia. All eleven newly-ordained priests will now leave the seminary to take up their placements and work in the different congregations.

End of February an event called ‘Bildungsart’ took place on the Campus-A site with the theme “Menschenrechte, Menschenwürde” (Human-rights, Human-dignity) and with contributions from the different training sections in form of lectures, workshops and performances. Students from the first and second year were shining with a presentation of a special kind plus follow up discussion.

This week in the mornings our second year students will be sitting in at the Steiner School, Uhländshöhe, which means that breakfast will be a very quiet affair; there are also still a number of students bedridden as a flu epidemic did not bypass the seminary. Two of our seminarists are expecting and we share in their joy. This varied and intense trimester will come to its conclusion at the end of next week.

Regarding the seminary management: Mrs Boerman has agreed to stay on the management team for another year.

Monika Boerman

### **The Sozialwerk in Berlin**

*Ruhrstr. 11, 10709 Berlin* offers a very special place of recuperation: There is a small holiday house in **31195 Lamspringe, Hellegrund 11**.

Years ago a little holiday house was bequeathed to our Sozialwerk for “members and priests of the congregation in need of recuperation” in the hamlet Lamspringe, in a very charming relaxing countryside of the Vorharz. Lamspringe is situated in the county Hildesheim in the southern Lower Saxony, it is an officially approved place of recuperation near the Heber, and it is member of the region Leinebergland. In the neighbourhood are Goslar, the old diocesan town Hildesheim, the saline steam and mud baths Bad Salzdetfurth, Bad Gandersheim the town of St Roswitha, and Alfels/Leine, all of them with rich cultural offers. An excursion into the Harz nearby is worthwhile in every season of the year.



Lamspringe is not far from the motorway A7 (exit at Bockenem or Rhüden/-Harz), the major roads B 3, B 64 and B 243. The nearest stations are Bodenburg, Freden/Leine, Bad Gandersheim and Hildesheim, where you'll have Intercity connections. The holiday house is a little

Harz), the major roads B 3, B 64 and B 243. The nearest stations are Bodenburg, Freden/Leine, Bad Gandersheim and Hildesheim, where you'll have Intercity connections. The holiday house is a little

distance outside of the village. You do your shopping in the little town; walking there takes approximately half an hour, going by car only few minutes.

Directly around the holiday house there is a superb wood of beeches, which invites you with its tidy paths to go for a walk. The garden, 600 m<sup>2</sup> big, can be used as playground, grill place or to bask in the sun, but as a working place for amateur gardeners as well. The little house with a living area of about 60 m<sup>2</sup> has a fully equipped kitchen, bathroom, a large living room with a balcony and a panoramic view into an enchanting countryside, a children's room with a step-ladder bed and a bedroom for the parents. A heating system for off-peak electricity and a burner for all kinds of combustibles provides warmth.

The entire house is comfortably furnished. For your own requirements you may bring with you



bedclothes, terry towelling, and tea towels. To cover the running costs we ask for € 45 per day; at your departure we would like you to do a final cleaning, which can be dropped by paying € 25. If we succeeded in arousing your interest and you want to spend your holidays there, you may contact Mrs. Petra Wilms by phone 030/213 24 08 or e-mail [petra-wilms@t-online.de](mailto:petra-wilms@t-online.de).

*Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!*

*End*