

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 77
MICHAELMAS 2017

Australia and New Zealand

no message

Austria/Czech Republic/Hungary

As announced in the previous issue, the merging of three countries into a new region is now becoming a reality. W. Giezendanner, given his experience in driving changes like these, has been commissioned for some two to three years to support and oversee this merging of three regions. We are very happy about the introduction of A. Bozóki as of 9/10. September to the congregation of Budapest/Hungary; in the Advent, Malcolm Allsop will be sent to the congregation in Vienna.

Christine Jost, Herbert Bitzner

Bavaria

Nothing new to report.

Dorothea Humérez

Central Germany

With a joyous celebration the community room in Kleinmachnow was consecrated at St. John's day. It is located on the ground floor of the new building adjacent to the chapel which also contains apartments on the ground floor as well as on the two upper floors. The community room was urgently needed as the chapel is quite small and has no adjoining rooms.

Albrecht Schwenk

Eastern Europe

no message

Japan

no message

Great Britain-Ireland

no message

Netherlands and Belgium

The brochure, which the Circle of Seven developed and which was available at the International Whitsun Conference, was taken home to their own congregation by many a visitor. We decided to translate this brochure, which was available in English and German, into Dutch. The brochure in this region can now be even more widely distributed and hopefully used in the discussions in our communities about the process of strengthening the Christian community.

In this Michaelmas edition something about our two Michael churches: The Michael church in Rotterdam has plans for a renovation. The church building is located next to a shopping center. The shopping center has expansion plans too. Mutual adjustments for the renovations are to be dis-

cussed. The Michael Church in Eindhoven is hosting a Michaelmas Conference every year. The theme this year is about the mission of humans in our time to unite and create balance.

We are constantly working on the development of our new website. In addition to a part for members, there are six so-called ‘landing pages’, where people arrive directly through specific search terms. For these pages we have defined the following target groups: 1. people who are in search of rituals; 2. people with life questions; 3. parents with educational questions; 4. people who are familiar with anthroposophy and who seek religious deepening; 5. people who feel their end is near and their relatives; 6. people who are religiously interested and want to know more about the Christian community. We hope the new website will be completed in a year.

Ellis Booij

North-America

no message

Northern Germany

For the fourth time, the region invited contributors of all congregations to the annual seminar at Haus Rothfos on Lake Mözen near Bad Segeberg. In the most glorious spring weather, 55 participants, including 13 children, met from Ascension Day until Sunday, under the motto “may earth not be lost to heaven”. After the daily act of consecration of man and a common morning circle with many cheerful songs and a French fairy tale for all age groups, study groups were available for the adults: reflections on the Ascension Epistle; talks about the act of consecration of man and “Christ, Spirit of the Earth”. The children were well taken care of during the study group times. In the afternoon activities such as eurythmy, singing, painting, “relaxation through the feet” as well as canoeing were offered. Some of the participants had been partaking in our past annual seminars meetings; however many are already looking forward to the next meeting in this beautifully situated house with a good kitchen and friendly staff.

Rudolf Kreutz, Dietrich Peters

Northern Countries

no message

Romania

no message

South America

no message

Southern Africa

On September 17th the Johannesburg community had a festive gathering to say farewell to Rev. Malcolm Allsop and his wife Christine. Sadly, they will be required to leave the country this month due to the expiry of their visas after four years. They brought a new breath of life into areas of the community life, which had gone into hibernation; particularly with their artistic talents. They will be joining the Vienna community shortly.

On September 24th the first ever Priest Ordination in English on the African continent will be celebrated in Johannesburg. It has been a long process to reach this milestone and it will be a highlight with many guests from southern Africa and Europe. Michael Merle from the KwaZulu Natal community will be ordained. All the southern African communities are at present also engaging in processes in which their trustee bodies and community forums are taking a critical and sober look at ‘where we are at’ and how our impulse can be deepened and strengthened.

Reingard Knausenberger

South-West Germany

In this region, we had to celebrate the act of consecration of man for the last time at two locations this summer: in Baden-Baden and in Scheidegg. Whilst in Baden-Baden this is due to a termination of the lease and the congregation is now in contact with the Waldorf school in Rastatt in search of a new location. Scheidegg, however, will cease to exist as a community.

The work of the Christian community in **Baden-Baden** began 70 years ago through the founding priest Erwin Lang, who was based in Karlsruhe. In the course of many fates, the congregation finally found the rooms on Fremersbergstraße 40 years ago and was also looked after by Christoph Klemp from Karlsruhe. Priests from Karlsruhe and some guest priests made a continuous and varied community life possible. The community consisted of a consistent group of people. For a long time, the question arose as to whether a new growth impulse would be created more easily by the proximity to younger families with children. Now fate has given a final impulse to leaving the old rooms.

On Sunday, July 16, 2017, the last act of consecration of man took place in the old room – a very painful experience for those present. At the same time, however, the view could be directed to the future: The “physical body” of the space must be abandoned, but the life stream of the community will find a new home! Driven by Johannes Beurle, the “future workshop” impulse emerged, which at first explored all potential new spaces. Finally, a teacher of the Rastatter Waldorf School joined in and the possibility arose to temporarily provide a place for the homeless congregation. However, just like in the very beginnings of the Christian Community’s existence, the room with the altar will have to be prepared each time the act of consecration of man is to take place. This feels like a new birthing process. All further steps will now be taken by the congregation, and it remains to be seen where the angel of the congregation is going to find a new home.

The “Haus zur Höhe” in **Scheidegg** had been acquired through an impulse by Michael de Ruyter and his wife in the 1950s and used as a holiday place for priests and active members of the Christian Community. In the summer of 1954 the holiday enterprise was established and on 2.9.1956 a chapel was furnished in the garage of the administrator’s house. It was consecrated by Lenker Robert Goebel. For over six decades, many priests and other guests stayed at the holiday place to relax. By 1981 over 60 priests and 200 other recreation seekers had been there. For several years the occupancy of the facilities dropped more and more and other ways to fill the empty beds have been unsuccessful. The impulse of Michael de Ruyter began to die. Since the death of Siegfried Schwiersch in 2012 the act of consecration of man was no longer celebrated there. In spite of several attempts to bring this place and the impulse of de Ruyter back to life, the aforementioned development continued. Further adding to the complications was the fact that the responsible administration took place far away in Düsseldorf. In the end, the attempt by the south-west German synod to take the responsibility failed to be successful as well.

As a consequence it was agreed on to sell this property by a vote of the Executive Committee and to transfer the funds to the Foundation (international Christian Community). Although this contradicts the ideal of removing as much land as possible from the “market” and its speculations, the current trend in the Christian community does not seem to be “immobile” ...

On July 20, 2017, the last act of consecration of man ceremony took place with a small circle of people: Friends from Wangen had come and to represent the loyal user couple Koch from Leipzig. During this last celebration, the space ordination was mentioned, connecting the earthly space as a special one into the four cardinal points, to which the four elements, earth, water, air, and fire, connect to the essential bodies of man: earth-body, life-body, sensation-body and ego. With melancholic sentiments we released the impulse of de Ruyter into the spiritual world hoping that it might find new possibilities of realization with other people. As the last “act”, the walls were scraped off in order to release the blessing of the area.

Hellmut Voigt

West-Germany

no message

Switzerland/Southwest Europe

Nothing new to report.

Christine Jost

Wuerttemberg

Financially supported by the building fond of the region the community in Schwäbisch Hall was able to acquire a property from the New Apostolic Church. With comparatively little effort, the rooms can be adapted to our needs. Parking spaces and a large garden behind the house are also included. The confirmation group has already “taken possession” of the house and was allowed to spend a first seminar there. The whole community will probably be able to move into the building within the first half of 2018.

During the refurbishment of the sanctuary in the community of Stuttgart-Mitte, work is progressing slightly delayed. Mr. Katz, who was sent to Möhringen up to now, will be working in Silbenbuch from September onwards. In the regional administration, personal and structural changes will challenge us in the autumn. During Michaelmas, the traditional meeting will take place, only this time it will be held in the community of Möhringen. The theme is: *1917 – Today? Our apocalyptic presence*. More information at michaelitagung.de

Martin Merckens

Körperschaftsverband (KV)

Do you already know the Kasseler Treffen? – Of course you do! Every year the flyers are available in your congregation: Interesting and exciting topics are waiting for you to attend this meeting and get a ticket to Kassel.

– So, you've never been there? – Then how about giving it a try this year? You can expect stimulating, multifaceted topics, interesting discussions with people from all regions of the Christian Community in Germany, a look beyond the borders of one's own congregation and region and last but not least: good food!

Kassel meeting on 4 and 5 November 2017

Do you know?

Destiny is shaped by us

the angels of the congregations, of wars, of peace, of the earth, and of the word

This is the theme and we cordially invite you to join us. So do not hesitate. Register. Come to Kassel. We are impatiently waiting for you!

Dorothea Humérez

Verband der Sozialwerke

no message

Haus auf dem Berge

no message

Publishers

no message

Haus Freudenberg

In contrast to the congregations of the Christian community, Haus Freudenberg occupies a very special and unique space in the life of the Christian community:

- The seminar offers reaches all congregations in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, many anthroposophical institutes, and, by advertising in Info3 and Goetheanum, other interested individuals.
- The participants form a temporary congregation and report finding it easier to open up more freely than in their own congregations.
- Cross – congregational encounters take place and
- people are brought closer to the Christian Community by means of an interesting topic.

- It is repeatedly described how the topic of a seminar or course connects people to The Act of Consecration of Man and how one is suddenly able to consciously hear what one has never heard before.
- Some people are learning about The Act of Consecration of Man for the first time.
- The human being as a whole is reached and addressed through sharing: accommodation, common meals, coursework, The Acts of Consecration of Man, evening entertainment, individual talks.
- For a first encounter with the Christian Community only a low threshold is to overcome.
- A space is given for the spiritual on earth; a place where people can connect with their origin and their true humanity is cultivated and preserved in the name of Christ.
- Haus Freudenbergs is a place where christian substance is formed.

Haus Freudenbergs, just like the Christian Community as a whole, is faced with crisis heavy times. The fact that Haus Freudenbergs is writing “black numbers” in this situation suggests a solid foundation. The initiated path of careful changes seems to be going in the right direction for a successful future of Haus Freudenbergs. This fills us with courage and confidence to continue.

Jutta und Dietmar Reisch

Seminaries/Stuttgart

On the day I write these lines, the full study enterprise has not yet begun. However two groups of students are already at work:

- The students, who have completed their second year of study are preparing themselves during a three week course for their internships in different congregations between Stuttgart-Sillenbuch and Melbourne.
- For the new students a two-week Greek Intensive Course is offered, which is also frequented by some older semesters.

Two training events have already been completed: a course for teachers of religion with Mrs. T. Nechytailo, a language training week for priests with Mrs. S. Jelgersma.

In order to carry out these courses, endowments are available to us, making the participation extremely affordable. We are positive such events will take on a larger scale in future provided word gets around. The in February newly ordained priests will meet here on Sunday to share their first experiences as priests in their respective congregations. For the new academic year, we expect very small groups of participants.

- Nine participants have registered for the first year of study; two more are being considered.
- In the second year of study we expect five participants after some back and forth.
- Twelve personalities will partake in the preparatory course.

The summer season also had a special impact because of the fact that a student from Romania, Gheorghe Aur, had to undergo a cancer treatment and we experienced the ups and downs during the course of the treatment. On 15 September, Gheorghe died peacefully in the Tübingen Medical Clinic after his father and brother from Romania had arrived the day before and were able to speak with him. His body is laid out in the seminary (which he called his real home) until the blessing ceremony, then transferred to Romania for burial.

Georg Dreißig

Seminars/Hamburg

Our new study year opened on the 11th of September with the introduction into ancient Greek by Elsbeth Weymann for the full-time study group. The participants of the “Studium für Berufstätige”

start their second study year on September 29th with a weekend course for human studies with Dr. Irion.

Unlike previous year, during which we observed the coexistence of the two now established study forms at the Hamburg Seminar more as a phenomenon, a pilot project, interactions between the different courses will be a feature in the new year. The new concept of the full-time course, which will be shaped by eight students from different groups and other guests from individual modules, will be characterized by a transfer of methodological approaches that we developed based on our positive experiences in the “Studium für Berufstätige”. In modules of about four weeks each, the participants, each at their own individual level of learning, run through a first stimulating course, individualized journeys of learning, encounters with guests and designing their own project work and presenting it in front of their fellow students just before the final advanced course. The projects are then reflected by the seminar leaders and the student in conclusion.

In the “Studium für Berufstätige” two changes mark the end of the first year: One student has decided to end his studies, another has switched to full-time studies, so the group will continue with 17 students. In preparation for the third year of training, intended as full-time training, our concept will be formulated in a more concrete way during the course of the next few months incorporating past and current experiences with full-time courses. The pleasing number of students in the “Studium für Berufstätige” and the effects of the relocation to our new venue begin to show positive effects financially but we still need help to compensate for the remaining deficit.

Ulrich Meier

Translated by Michaela Cramer – many thanks to her!

