

# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

North American Newsletter • Volume 7, Number 1

## Easter - Ascension - Whitsun 1999



from Dürers Little Passion



### MARRIAGE AT EASTER

Marriage as an institution is widely questioned now-a-days, either verbally by discussing its merits and disadvantages or through accepting non-marital status as equal with marriage. It has become difficult to focus on what marriage is, what it is supposed to be or what it could be. Still, many people, young and older, marry with a dim feeling for its significance, thinking it better to be married but not quite knowing why. For some there is a potent tradition with huge celebrations but not too much to come af-

ter that. Marriages then easily break apart, often with great disappointment, because they were not well founded, had little to go on, or had no chance to become real life-communities.

In our Christian Community (as to-day in quite a few other churches) we put the emphasis on taking enough time, lots of time, to prepare a marriage properly and thus to build a first foundation on which it later can rest and grow - or maybe we should say we prepare the garden in which it later can grow. This garden is needed to plant that little seedling, a flower pot is not enough - it needs to be the garden of life,

to find a firm hold in life, and up, being pulled by the sun and finding at the same time its orientation in the light of the world.

Marriage belongs to the whole of humanity being centered with its roots in the earth, the center of humanity, and being able to grow into the widths of the world, the circumference of the Divine World.

In our Christian Community the Sacrament of Marriage is found entirely in the context of Easter, the festival of rising and the Risen One which is introduced by and cannot exist without the festival of Passiontide. At Passiontide we put our roots down into that darkness below, which as humanity we all have in common and through which we can find a proper hold in life. Suffering teaches us to be grounded. At Easter we learn how to grow on this ground and how to overcome the darkness in which we are rooted, through HIM who overcame death.

Therefore, our Sacrament of Marriage always happens at an inner Easter; it is celebrated in the light of the Risen One, with a picture of HIM on the table in front of the couple and their witnesses, also with the red color of Easter at the vestments of priest and server. Thus any marriage consecrated at the altar, that is before the Divine World, happens in the light of HIS Rising; we receive HIS Sun of Rising into our Community of Life so that the power of overcoming can ever be present to help that seedling grow. Marriage is an Easter Sacrament whenever in the course of the year we receive it.

Werner Grimm, *Vancouver*

## WELCOME !

With great joy we look back, from the South, to our first continental encounter, 1995 in Kimberton, Pennsylvania. We were received in the warmest possible way - and I do not refer to the hot weather! Ever since, there has been an awareness in the congregations in Lima and Buenos Aires (and also in Madrid!) of our fellow congregations in North America, whereas many of our original cultural prejudices against 'the North Americans' have melted into thin air - like snow in the hot sun of Kimberton, New York, Boston, Washington and the other centers vis-

ited, with all their beautiful people, that is, with you.

We are very happy that you from the USA and Canada will now be visiting us in the South, and we invite you most cordially to undertake the journey! This big physical movement will hopefully bring about an even greater soul-movement, helping all of us to live more consciously within the American continent as a whole. Whereas the actual political and economical movements within the Americas look for quite other things than humanity, we will have the opportunity to enhance human links in a personal and concrete way - and within these, foster the ideal of helping Christ to live among us, and to work ever more in the earth, our earth, through us.

In the last North American Newsletter, Richard Dancey has expressed his hope that all North American congregations be represented. From South America we expect, apart from our hosts in Lima itself, the biggest group to come from Buenos Aires (40 to 50 persons), and also a group from Cali (Colombia). We hope that many Brazilians will participate, too, not only from the mother congregations in Sao Paulo but also from the striving affiliated groups of Rio de Janeiro, Botucatu, Florianopolis and Curitiba. Thus throughout the conference we will be accompanied by a 'Brazilian Buzz': whereas the two 'official' languages will be English and Spanish, and everything will be translated in one direction or the other, at the same time there will always be a translation into Portuguese.

We are awaiting your arrival with great expectations!

Martin de Gans

*Lenker for South America, Buenos Aires*

**LIMA - JULY 23-29, 1999  
CONFERENCE OF  
THE AMERICAS OF  
THE CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY**

# LIMA - JULY 23-29, 1999

## CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS

To open roads we must start out on a quest, just as the pioneers did some 500 years ago, leaving the old world behind. They sensed something more beyond the known horizon. They perceived already something new, and going in search of it they discovered our Americas. Thus they changed the course of history. We are at the frontier of the millennium. Can we sense a new world beyond? Do we have senses adequate to perceive it, the courage to search for it?

Day to day we are witnesses of great events which already, from this new world, break into our



personal life and that of the whole of humanity. Our senses are on the one hand so overstimulated and weary and, on the other hand, underdeveloped that we hardly feel the presence of this new world towards which we should be going. However, we are called upon to be pioneers of the next age, leaving security and comfort behind, trusting in our intuition without prejudice, but also without ignoring the actual world, our neighbor, or ourselves. In order to meet the challenge it is necessary to awaken our senses in every 'sense' of the world. And 'in this sense', between the millennia, the Congress of the Americas of The Christian Community - Lima 99 - wishes to be a port from which we can sail *Opening Roads to the New World - The Senses Unbound at the Frontier*.

Main talks developing the theme of the Congress will be given each morning by two persons, a priest and an artist. [...] Prof. Douglas Sloan and Dr. Michaela Glöckler will each present a special lecture.

Workshops will take place twice a day. Participants will stay together for all workshop sessions so that themes can be delved into profoundly by sharing both in conversations and artistic activities. [...] Lothar Reubke, priest and musician, will lead us each morning into a deeper hearing before the Act of Consecration of Man and will work with all participants in a chorus to sing in the Central Plaza on Peru's Independence Day.

We hope to send out the final program with more detail in February. We invite your community to prepare some artistic activity, typical of your country or area, and to share it with us all. Please let us know of your contribution beforehand so that we can program all with anticipation[...].

With warmest greetings and 'Hasta pronto',  
*The Organizing Committee*

**Contact:** Comunidad de Cristianos - Lima 99  
Plaza el Ovalo de San Isidro 250, Lima 27 - Peru  
Phone (011-51-1) 422-1030 or 421-5632  
Fax:011-51-1-442-9703  
E-mail:comcrlim@yahoo.com

Program and Inscription Forms for the Congress are available at our congregations.

An itinerary has been developed for those wanting to visit the ancient sites.

## ITINERARY

### LIMA - CUSCO, PERU

Everyone will arrive in Lima on the morning of July 16. I am hoping that friends will come on flights from New York and San Francisco, but also from Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro, etc. We will gather at the Aero Peru counter and fly over the Andes mountains in a small jet. The adjustment from sea level (Lima) to 15,000 (?) feet often takes some time and

cocoa tea, so we will take it easy in Cusco on the first day. There will be more than one hotel accommodation to allow for varying economic parameters, but we will gather at night to get to know one another, listen to some leading thoughts for our time together, and perhaps play some music (I hope to contact some local musicians to join us for at least one evening).

On the 17th we will visit some of the sacred cities in and around Cusco. Cusco is considered the center of a great medicine wheel with many temple-like locations to be found on the high hills surrounding the city. On the 18th we will visit the colorful marketplace at Pizac, where valuable crafts can be acquired at amazing prices. Then we will drive on through the Sacred Valley with dramatic views of the wide fields and terraced hills leading to the Andes in the distance. A rural Inn will accommodate us for the next two nights as we visit more sacred sites leading up to Machu Picchu.

On the 20th we will catch the train which follows the Urubamba River to the base of Machu Picchu. Some of us will settle in the town below while others, who can afford it, will stay up at the site. All of us will eventually take the bus up the many switchbacks on the road dedicated to my grandfather, Hiram Bingham, who, in 1911, paid 50 cents to be led by a peasant boy up the treacherous slope to the *Lost City of the Incas*. Our guide, Ubaldo Quispe Esquivias is a veteran of 12 years of archeological work at Machu Picchu, as well as a seasoned guide with a devotional attitude and a background in traditional Quechuan healing practices. He will arrange to take us onto the site after hours if possible.

On the morning of the 22nd we will catch the train back to Cusco for our last festive evening in the city before returning to Lima on the 23rd for the conference. Relatives or friends who do not plan to attend the conference would have the option of visiting Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, and on to a desert resort with flights over the famous Nazca lines, otherworldly images drawn on a mammoth scale and preserved on the driest land in the world.

COST: At this time Waldorf Travel (800-328-7266: ask for Walter Rice) has found round trip fares

from San Francisco and New York City for under \$500, but these must be reserved quickly, otherwise this cost can increase dramatically. In addition, we have worked to cut the tour price to approximately \$1000 including travel arrangements, accommodations, guides and entrance fees, as well as some meals and musicians if possible. This is a popular time to visit this area and it is important to reserve rooms as soon as possible. A brochure will be forthcoming with exact prices. All arrangements, including reservations will be handled by Waldorf Travel.

Ben Bingham, *Kimberton*

## **JUNE 1999 STUDY COURSE IN STUTTGART**

The Priest Seminary in Stuttgart, Germany, has again extended an invitation to young people, ages 18-28, to attend a three week Study Course. All courses are given in English.

Last year, twenty North Americans and six South Africans attended with much enthusiasm.

The Seminary offers free room and board. The dates are June 7th-26th. If you are interested or know someone interested, please contact Gisela Wielki at 309 West 74th Street, New York, NY 10023, Phone (212) 362-7204.

## **CELEBRATING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA**

With the conference 'Christ and the Future', December 11th-13th, 1998, we celebrated the birthday of The Christian Community in North America, fifty years ago in New York City. Talks gave perspective to our understanding of Christian renewal, and reminiscence brought to mind instrumental individuals

and memorable occurrences.

The conference commenced on Friday evening with a performance by friends of the New York congregation of Rev. Lothar Reubke's choral composition *Il Cantico di Frate Sole*. In his sermon afterwards, Rev. Richard Dancy expounded on our spiritual homelessness and beggared longing in the world today, concluding that our homeward-bound journey towards the Omega in the Lord must be freely undertaken, and that those on the way are 'co-worshippers and co-founders' in a time still only at the beginning of the Christian era. On Saturday morning, in his talk 'Faith in the Path', Rev. Erk Ludwig emphasized the Divine confidence in the human being sent down to earth and the privileged mission in our times of the free human being to return to the Spirit the earth transformed.

Rev. Werner Grimm, a pioneer of the Movement in North America, speaking of The Christian Community as a gift of the Divine World, offered insights of sustaining comfort and encouragement. The festival of fifty is essentially Pentecostal and signifies the time of awakened consciousness out of which everyone so disposed might ever more come to realize the fruition of the sacraments for the earth and for the heavens. Christ's 'once and for all deed' underlies the ideal paradigm of human biography embodied in The Act of Consecration of Man, and we may trust that the higher life of community in sacramental devotion over time 'trues the Christ destiny' as each one's own in service.

In an afternoon exchange of recollections, friends and members drew on their memory of anecdotes in affectionately remembering those who contributed over the years. On Saturday night Mr. Robert Brock dramatically recited *The Apocalypse of John*. His presentation powerfully evoked the pervasive underlying tone of keen urgency that we read with clear-eyed discernment the signs from heaven. Mr. Brock's authoritative voicing brought home the great symbolic complexity that oracularly speaks of far-reaching admonitions and fulfillments. The book's staggering breadth and intricate coherence came forth in hearing its sequential unfolding, and cumulatively a sense of Divinely inspired summons emerged in the text that has been so crucial to The Christian Com-

munity.

On Sunday Rev. Gisela Wielki, addressing children and adults alike, told how we can redress the law on earth by which all things grow old by cultivating the seed potential of deeds that issue from the holy child in the manger. Following, the children enacted the Bethlehem scene, while singing and ringing bells. To end the conference in looking forward, a bell was passed and rung from person to person up to the count of fifty, and all applauded the nine year old boy who swung the final toll.

Michael Vode, *New York City*

## RESPONSE

I am writing these words after attending two weekend gatherings (in October and December) marking the 50th anniversary of the work of The Christian Community on this continent.

As I reflected on the meetings, I have come to see what a real need in me they spoke to. How often in my thinking about Christianity I find myself somewhere between a far-distant historical event on the one hand and a redemption to be achieved in a far-distant future on the other. The present is a rush of passing days, overshadowed by the fear surrounding the millennium's end.

Yet here was an antidote. Here were examples of ways to look around us and in the fabric of our every day living dare to see the imprint of Christian meaning. To dare to imagine, for instance, that in the very steel and concrete grid of New York's streets we can also discover the sign of the cross. Here was the idea that if we can do that we change our own approach to the world: and the realisation that in doing this we can begin some small transformation. The Way was spoken of, leading not only from the present to the future, but from the future through the shadows of fear back to this very day and place.

The time spent around such thoughts left me with a feeling that I can cherish. It is what I want to call Hope. It is Hope I learned about. For that, my thanks.

Christa Macbeth, *New York City*

## A 'PENTECOSTAL' YEAR IN NORTH AMERICA

At Advent 1948 the regular work of The Christian Community in North America began in New York City. In the past year, 1998, we have celebrated this event of the 50th anniversary. Because of the sheer expanse of the continent we had decided on a spread-out celebration through three anniversary conferences. These took place moving across the country from West to East, contrary to the actual development of centers from East to West, thus showing the spiritual movement versus the outer, historical one.

We began in April, just after Easter, in Sacramento with the theme 'Resurrection Now', which brought together a small group of people showing that they took this step seriously. It was Eastertime and we were able to bring to our consciousness, by looking into the Easter reports of the fourfold Gospel, that resurrection since Christ's deed always begins in the here and now and that it leads to that final 'Pentecostal' step of waking up to the knowledge of what it is all about. After all, when Christ's disciples had come together on that Fiftieth Day after His resurrection, they suddenly and almost mysteriously became aware of why everything had happened, where they were now and where to go from there. They were being sent out as Apostles to make known what they knew.

In the summer on Labor Day weekend we gathered for the second conference, to make a second step towards the actual foundation time. This time it was at a place called 'Bridgewater' just about halfway between Toronto and Ottawa, also close enough for centers west of Toronto or Montreal further east. 'Bridgewater', actually the name of the conference center, speaks for itself. With our theme 'Courage for Renewal' we wanted to show that after fifty years we might be able to muster the courage needed to bridge the water of life. Just as many people as the center could hold came together from near and far, even from Detroit in the West and Boston and New Brunswick in the East. Before we all said good-bye the courageous thought was uttered: to have such a gathering again in 1999. As long as the aspect of 're-

newal' is not forgotten, this will certainly prove to be a good undertaking.

The third step, at the actual date of the original beginning, December 11-13, took place in that house in New York City which has been a home to our work all these fifty years. Lots of things have happened there and one could feel both the accumulated substance and struggle to make ever new steps into the future. 'Christ and the Future' was the theme this time. The Evening Sermon on Friday as well as the talks on Saturday and Sunday dealt in different ways with the future which through Christ can and does reach right into our present. We need not to tarry or hesitate to make those steps forward; future begins where we are when we actively and rhythmically follow our religious life. The children participating on the Sunday also represented a part of that future.

All in all, our three conferences slowly moving from West to East and toward the actual time of our beginning at Advent were a 'Pentecostal' event. At each time we tried to lift into our consciousness a certain knowledge about our Christian Community and its mission in this world, as Christ's disciples on the fiftieth day after His resurrection were blessed with the knowledge about His deed which they had missed before but which now enabled them to go out and tell others what they had understood.

Werner Grimm, *Vancouver*

**Summer Camp** has provided many meaningful experiences, as shown in these 'LETTERS FROM CAMP':

Dear Mom, I am having a good time. I got poison ivy. Love,

Dear Mom and dad, It just stopped raining here and good thing it did because all the rodes are floded and the lake is to. outside my cabin there is a big potel about a foot and 3 feet long (splash). Love,

Dear Mom, I'm having a real nice time at camp. I snuk out the first knight. Do I have to send any more letters? Love,  
Dear Mom and Dad, dear Cat, sheep, fish, fleas ...

Dear Mom, Nothing has happened to me yet. Two days ago I went to a ravine and I napped on a tree over the stream.

For contributions to the camp scholarship fund, please make check payable to The Christian Community Camp, 309 West 74th Street, New York, NY 10023.

## CONFIRMATIONS

<b>April 11</b>	<b>Chicago, Eugene</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Denver, Devon</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Detroit, New York, Sacramento</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Boston, Great Barrington, Los Angeles, Vancouver</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Toronto, Washington DC</b>

## CAMPS AND HIKES

**WEST COAST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN**, Camp Tamarack in the High Sierra of California, June 30-July 17. Contact Rev. Everett Moraine, 3516 Eisenhower Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826, Phone (916) 366-9545.

**A BACKPACKING TRIP** in the High Sierra of California is planned for July 18-24. Contact Rev. Everett Moraine (as above).

**A WEST COAST FAMILY CAMP** is scheduled for the second half of August. Contact Rev. Everett Moraine (as above).

**HEIMDAHL BY CANOE** will have its 7th trip for 6-9 Graders on the French River, Ontario, somewhere in the beginning of August. Contact Rev. Peter Skaller in Housatonic, MA, at (413) 274-6032.

**EAST COAST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SUMMER CAMP** for boys and girls, ages 8-13, August 5-21, 1999: at the Kittatinny Mountain Scout Reservation in Branchville, NJ. For information contact Rev. Gisela Wielki at (212) 362-7204 - also if you are interested in a position as Lifeguard or Camp Nurse.

## YOUTH CONFERENCES

**WEST COAST YOUTH CONFERENCE**, August 15-19. For information contact Rev. Sanford Miller in Sacramento at (916) 362-4330.

**EAST COAST YOUTH CONFERENCE**, August 23-29, at the Kittatinny Mountain Scout Reservation in Branchville, NJ. For information contact Rev. Erk Ludwig at (212) 877-3577.

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIMA - JULY 23-29, 1999 - CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS** See pages 2 and following in this issue!

### BROCHURES AVAILABLE

‘The Challenge of Transformation’ - Resurrection in Life and Death, by Arie Boogert. At your congregation, or at \$ 5.00 plus mailing from Joseph Brunn, 2180 South Madison St, Denver, CO 80210, Phone (303) 377-3126.

‘Prepare the Way’ - The Act of Consecration of Man as a Path of Christian Renewal. Lectures given at the Christian Community Inter-American Conference, 1995. At your congregation, or at \$ 5.00 from Melissa Kay, 906 Divisadero St, San Francisco, CA 94115, Phone (415) 928-1715, Fax (415) 334-0115.

‘On Dying and Death’ - A Perspective offered out of The Christian Community by Arie Boogert.  
- Prayers and Verses by Rudolf Steiner and Others  
At your congregation, or at \$ 5.00 and \$1.50 respectively from Joseph Brunn, 2180 South Madison St, Denver, CO 80210, Phone (303) 377-3126.

**THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA,  
AS OF FEBRUARY, 1999**

**CONGREGATIONS AND THEIR ADDRESSES**

**Boston USA** (781) 643-7770  
366 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02445  
Rev. Arie Boogert, Rev. Susan Lowndes

**Chicago USA** (773) 989-8558  
2135 West Wilson, Chicago IL 60625  
Rev. Robert Patterson, Rev. Oliver Steinrueck

**Denver USA** (303) 758-7553  
2180 South Madison Street, Denver, CO 80210  
Contact Dona Totten (303) 733-9908 or contact  
Rev. Robert Patterson in Chicago, (773) 334-7677

**Detroit USA** (810) 546-3611  
1320 Camden at Wanda, Ferndale, MI 48220  
Rev. Hartmut Junge (313) 823-5315

**Los Angeles USA** (818) 762-2251  
11030 LaMaida Street, North Hollywood, CA 91601  
Rev. Cynthia Hinds, Rev. James Hinds

**New York USA** (212) 877-3577 or 362-7204  
309 West 74th Street, New York, NY 10023  
Rev. Erk Ludwig, Rev. Gisela Wielki

**Philadelphia USA** (610) 647-6869  
212 Old Lancaster Road, Devon, PA 19333  
Rev. Richard Dancy, Rev. Franziska Steinrueck

**Sacramento USA** (916) 362-4330 or 366-9545  
3506 Eisenhower Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826  
Rev. Sanford Miller, Rev. Everett Moraine

**San Francisco USA** (415) 928-1715  
906 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94115  
Contact Melissa Kay (415) 469-0705,  
or contact the Sacramento priests

**Toronto CANADA** (416) 224-2011  
1766 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario M5M 3Y9  
Rev. Susan Locey

**Vancouver CANADA** (604) 988-4038  
5050 East Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 1B6  
Rev. Werner Grimm

**Western Massachusetts USA** (413) 274-6032  
The Granary, 37 Rosseter St., Great Barrington, MA  
Rev. Peter Skaller, P.O. 658, 1070 Main Street, Housatonic, MA  
01236

**GROUPS AFFILIATED WITH CONGREGATIONS**

(\* Not now regularly visited by a priest)

\* **Albuquerque, New Mexico USA**  
Contact Nancy FryeWeaver (505) 265-2719

\* **Austin, Texas USA**  
Contact Patricia Daunt-Grogan (512) 858-4506

\* **Boulder, Colorado USA**  
Contact Claudia Lainson (303) 661-0927

**Burlington, Vermont USA**  
Contact Bill Warnock (802) 862-7001 (Or contact Western  
Massachusetts)

**Camphill Minnesota USA** Contact Chicago

**Camphill Ontario CANADA**  
Contact Edi Holzer (705) 424-2409 (Or contact Toronto)

**Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA**  
Contact (919) 967-5672 Mindy Kash or (919) 933-6496  
Margaret Heath (Or contact Philadelphia)

**Copake Camphill Village, New York USA**  
Contact Western Massachusetts

\* **Dallas, Texas USA** Contact Linda Kemp (214) 238-0610

**Durham Area, Ontario CANADA**  
Contact Fritz Stutzki (519) 369-6011 (Or contact Toronto)

**East Troy, Wisconsin USA** Contact Chicago

**Edmonton, Alberta CANADA** Contact Vancouver

**Eugene, Oregon USA**  
Contact Jo Forkish (503) 686-3204 (Or contact Sacramento)

**Kimberton Hills, Pennsylvania USA** Contact Philadelphia

**London, Ontario CANADA**  
Contact (519) 433-0090 Carol Lewis (Or contact Detroit)

**Meadow Vista California USA** Contact Sacramento

**Minneapolis, Minnesota USA** Contact Chicago

**Montreal, Quebec CANADA**  
Contact Erika Keipert (514) 691-2093 (Or contact Western  
Massachusetts)

**New Hampshire (Southern) USA** Contact Boston

**Northampton, Massachusetts USA**  
Contact (413) 665-0985 Sandra Littell (Or contact Western  
Massachusetts)

**Ottawa, Ontario CANADA**  
Contact Pieter Doef (613) 269-4967 (Or contact Toronto)

**Santa Cruz, California USA**  
Contact (408) 423-4025, Bruce Bischof

(Or contact Sacramento)

**Santa Rosa, California USA**  
Contact (707) 542-2304, Elizabeth Hecht

(Or contact Sacramento)

**Spring Valley, New York USA** Contact New York

**Washington DC, USA** Contact Philadelphia

Please send letters and literary contributions to Arie  
Boogert, 20 Lake Street, Arlington, MA 02474-8526,  
Due date for the next issue is August 15, 1999

Do you want to receive the text of your  
North American Newsletter by e-mail?  
Contact Alex Murchison at  
amur@anthroposophical.society.ca