

RELIGIONS – SOURCES OF PEACE

The Mission Synod of mission 21, protestant mission basel, is meeting for the second time since the founding of mission 21. It is the highest judicatory body of mission 21 and determines the goals, the content of the work and the planning for the next three years. The 45 delegates are elected by the Continental Assemblies in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe in conjunction with the four supporting associations. The Mission Synod 2007 is taking place in Bern at the invitation of the Reformed Church of Bern-Jura-Solothurn. The international delegates will have the chance to experience the life of the Church in connection with the year of remembrance of the Anabaptists 2007. We are very thankful for this invitation as it gives a special emphasis on the topic of mission 21's next campaign „Religions – Sources for Peace.“ With this campaign mission 21 offers us the chance to see and experience just how it is to be an international learning community which orients itself towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ and at the same time is open to encounters and the search for sources of peace.

Dear interested and involved church members, you are all cordially invited to the General Assembly, the workshops and especially to the evening lecture on Friday.

Madeleine Strub-Jaccoud

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Director



CONNECTING CHURCHES AND PARISHES ON FOUR CONTINENTS IN PROCLAMATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE

mission 21, protestant mission basel, sends out messages of hope in the name of the Gospel to 18 countries, in partnership with 66 partner churches and organisations. Worldwide, mission 21 promotes about 100 projects to combat poverty, to promote health, to strengthen the position of women, to resolve conflicts without violence and to train men and women in the areas of church and theology. In Switzerland, mission 21 organises encounters, creates opportunities for sharing and enables research in the area of tension: mission vs. development and cooperation. mission 21 is a consolidation of the Basel Mission, the Moravian Mission, the Evangelical Mission in the Kwango and the South Africa Mission.

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MISSION SYNOD

JUNE 20 TO JUNE 24 2007
IN BERN, SWITZERLAND



Reformierte Kirchen
Bern-Jura-Solothurn
Églises réformées
Berne-Jura-Soleure





HIGHLIGHTS

FOUR WORKSHOPS WITH INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Thursday, June 21, 2007, 9:30–12:30h and 14–18h

In Bürenpark, 10/12 Bürenstrasse, Bern, Switzerland
Would you like to discuss with people from Africa, Asia and Latin America about how they are combating HIV and AIDS? Or would you like to learn from them what life is like as Christian minority in Indonesia or in northern Nigeria? Perhaps you have been asking yourself for some time how a mission spreads its message and what „international learning community“ means? The four workshops – „Join Hands Against AIDS,“ „Religions – Sources of Peace,“ „Mission impossible? – Communication and Marketing in Mission“, and „An International Learning Community“ offers you an opportunity to answer these questions.



EVENING LECTURE WITH MIDDLE EAST EXPERT ARNOLD HOTTINGER

Friday, June 22, 2007, 19h

In Bürenpark, 10/12 Bürenstrasse, Bern

Experts on inter-religious topics will give lectures and enter into discussions about the potential religions have for being sources of peace. Middle East expert Arnold Hottinger and Mohamad Nur Kholis Setiawan, Director of the „Dialogue Centre“ at the Islamic State University (UIN) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and other interesting guests will join us for this evening.

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE AND „MARKET OF OPPORTUNITIES“

Sunday, June 24, 2007, 10h

In and around the Minster of Bern

The delegates of mission 21 and many guests will be participating in this international worship, followed by a festival with the „Market of Opportunities“.



ON THE TOPIC OF „RELIGIONS – SOURCES OF PEACE“

Can we boldly claim that religions are sources of peace or do they, on the contrary, lead to discord and violence? The work that mission 21 has done over the period of many years demonstrates that in Indonesia, for example, steps towards peace across religious barriers are truly possible. Every day, many partner churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America make a contribution towards peace and justice. Our annual campaign 2007–2008 „Religions – Sources of Peace“ will make it possible to see and experience the churches' involvement and the inter-cultural training that mission 21 is carrying out.



PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007, OPENING CEREMONIES IN EMMENTAL

18:30h Opening Worship in Lützelflüh. This service takes place in the context of the year of remembrance of the Anabaptists 2007.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007, PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

9:30h Bible study by African delegates, words of welcome
Introduction to the workshops which take place simultaneously
14:00h Resumption of the workshops (coffee break 16:00h to 16:15h)

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2007, GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EVENING LECTURE

9:30h Bible study by Asian delegates, General Assembly
Annual report, financial report 2006, budget 2007, financial plan
14:00h General assembly, reports from the Continental Assemblies, matters placed on the agenda by the Continental Assemblies in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America

STARTING AT 19:00H EVENING LECTURE „RELIGIONS – SOURCES OF PEACE“

19:00h Aperitif with thematic impressions and words of welcome
20:10h Lecture „Religions – sources of peace“ by Middle East expert Arnold Hottinger
20:40h Talks on inter-religious work in Indonesia by M. Nur Kholis Setiawan, Director of the „Dialogue Centre“ at the Islamic State University (UIN) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and Rev. Supriatno, President of the GKP in Bandung, Indonesia.
After the discussion, the House of the Religions in Bern will present itself, Regula Mader, Senator of Berne.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2007, CONCLUSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9:30h Bible study by Latin American delegates
Mission Synod negotiations: Business strategy, Elections
Afternoon Opportunity for an inter-cultural tour of Bern

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007, WORSHIP AND MARKET

10:00h International worship in the Minster of Bern
Noon Festival on the Minster Square with the Market of Opportunities, music and culinary surprises from all over the world

„Not the religions but the communities define themselves as religious or pseudo-religious. The topic, Religions – Sources of Peace' is important to me because time and again we meet people who believe that religions are to blame for all bad things that happen.“

Arnold Hottinger,
Middle East expert