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Easter 2006

Dear colleagues,

Easter greetings and blessings to all of you!

Easter in Germany is a time of several days of celebrating with families and friends the re-surrection of life. Paul Tillich would say: the re-union with vitality and unity of life in the midst of separation from self, other and world. Where separation is most visible also re-connection is strongest. Grace is experienced as the coming together of life with life, the reconciliation of self with self, the acceptance of that which has been disconnected or devalued. Thus transformation from disconnection to trust and courage is possible.

Since world war II, Easter in Germany is also the time for demonstration for peace, and people gather in major cities to march for peace and protest against war. This year again, there are marches against preparations for new war activities in the Middle East and for peaceful resolutions of conflicts.

I hope that these greetings find you in good health and I want to share a few news in the development of our intercultural and international work.

In February, I visited the Just Therapy team in Wellington, New Zealand and Jim Biddle, our Maori member of the coordinating committee. The Maori values of belonging, freedom and respect of the sacredness of life were experienced in our encounters during a burial ceremony, in the family centre of Lower Hutt (they presented in Bangalore/India, and Dresden last year), and in their work with families and research. They have achieved astonishing influence on the government and laws by developing research according to the diverse traditions of Maori, Samoan, and European background systems and publishing data regarding minority/majority groups in New Zealand. I hope we can learn more from their work in future congresses, one of which might be held in New Zealand.

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Also I was able to visit with The Korean Professional Psychotherapy Institute who have arranged the First Tricultural Networking Forum of Sister institutes in Korea, Hong Kong and Nanjing/China in Seoul in February 2006 dealing with traditions of Confucianism and Psychotherapy.

In May, there will be a meeting of Health Care Chaplains of Europe in Portugal.

The German Association of Pastoral Psychology will deal with Intercultural Competence for the first time.

And in July there will be continental conferences in Brazil and Nigeria, Africa.

SIPCC will have a study trip to Brazil in May and their yearly conference in September in Hamburg regarding Mission and PCC.

If you have any news for ICPCC members or wish to publish articles on our website, please, feel free to send them to Klaus Temme or Steve Voytovich.

The program for our next world congress in Poland will be finalised after the meeting of the preparation group in Poland in May.

Some colleagues have agreed to be on the financial committee of ICPCC and we thank them for helping us in our work.

Wishing you good experiences in your life and work, and good times of rest and re-connection to yourself and others, happy Easter!

yours  
Ursula Riedel-Pfäfflin

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