

# **Report from the Netzwerk Ökumene: Konfessionsverbindende Paare und Familien in Deutschland**

## **Interchurch Families in Germany**

### **Annual conference, 16 – 18 March 2007 in Schwarzenshof (Thüringen)**

Theme: My Faith: How I got here, what I am. Speakers: Bishop Wanke (RC) and Pastor and Frau Hess (Lutheran). Nearly 100 people took part, including about 25 children. Participants were unanimous in finding this a very successful conference. Everybody found the Schwarzenshof Methodist conference centre ideal, and it was decided to hold the 2009 conference there again.

### **Together for Europe: Christian Movements and Communities, Stuttgart, 10 – 12 May 2007**

3000 participants from more than 240 very varied Christian communities and movements came together for this Assembly – ranging from the most committed evangelicals to conservative Catholic communities. Jörg Beyer represented our Network as a member of the organizing committee. Our Network took part in Forum 21 'The Future for Marriage and the Family' through an exhibition arranged by Rosmarie Lauber.

### **German Protestant Kirchentag, Cologne, 6 – 10 June 2007**

At the Kirchentag Convention in Cologne, attended by more than 100,000 people, ecumenism played a big part. Our Network again had an exhibition stand in the so-called 'ecumenical village'. The Network was also involved through a Forum facilitated by Gudrun Steineck: 'It must go further – learning processes in the question of the Eucharist/Lord's Supper'. Rosmarie Lauber and Jörg and Beate Beyer worked alongside, with a discussion group on the theme: 'What God joins together, let no man divide – interchurch families between the lighthouse and the glowing wick'.

### **Methodist Church Conference, 24 June 2007, Böblingen**

Rosmarie Lauber again represented the Network with an exhibition stand.

### **Next Annual Conference, 22 – 24 February 2008**

This will be held in Braunfels bei Wetzlar on the theme: 'Liturgy – Word – Gifts of the Spirit. How important are Forms for my life of faith?'

### **Network Mailing List**

This now contains about 600 addresses of interchurch couples and families as well as others interested in ecumenism. From August 2007 we will be sending a twice-yearly e-mail newsletter to those whose e-mail addresses we have.

**Rudolf Lauber**

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