



TOGETHER: The AICEMEA Newsletter

Association of International Churches in
Europe, the Middle East, and Africa

Winter 2003

As AICEMEA members and friends prepare to gather in Nairobi for our annual conference, we share this association newsletter with you. As always, we welcome contributions to the newsletter from pastors, spouses, and friends of the association. Please forward any news items, announcements, transitions, or other information to us at mpc@rol.ru. Thank you.

- John and Noel Calhoun, Moscow

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Wrap-Up of the AICEMEA 2002 Youth Conference in London

Chris Wighaman, youth director of the International Community Church, Surrey, reflects on the AICEMEA Youth Conference held in London November 21-23.

We give our thanks to Chris for his leadership and for organizing such an inspired conference for our youth. Chris invites feedback from pastors whose youth attended. Please feel free to contact Chris by e-mail at thewildkingdomuk@aol.com.

Chris writes:

“On November 21, 150 students and leaders, represented from 15 different churches and Christian organizations, gathered together for the annual AICEMEA Youth Conference in London, England. The weekend’s theme was ‘The Wild Kingdom’ and students were challenged to understand Matthew 18:3, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’ Through such means as praise and worship, small groups and solo time, students were able to grasp and experience our Father’s love and grace. As one student from Frankfurt said, ‘The music really touched me and the speaker spoke to my heart,’ we are convinced that the Holy Spirit was present and moving. The music was lead by International Community Church youth intern Cheryl Glenn (cherylglen.com), who put together a band of members from ICC, and did a fantastic job. The last minute fill in speaker was Chris Wighaman, who is a youth minister at ICC.

“The conference also had a good balance of what kids like most, Fun! From a photo scavenger hunt throughout London, eating at the Rainforest Cafe, late night coffee houses, and the Improv group, Isaac, students had many chances to laugh, hangout and be their goofy selves. The weekend was such an amazing experience for students. God worked in incredible

ways through our time together and will continue to work in ways we cannot see. There is no better way to sum it up than this student's comment: 'What more can I say. Praise the Lord! He is good!'"

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AICEMEA Web Site Is Back in Business with a New Address

Robert Hunt of Vienna, our web site editor, reports that after having trouble with our old site, "the www.aicemea.net web site is up and running now. The Peace Church congregation in Munich is paying the bills as a contribution to our organization. We'll be managing the re-direct from the old site address, and I'll be getting us registered with the search engines. We owe thanks to Jim Dwyer, who helped get us back on line so quickly."

Indeed, thanks to both Jim and Robert for maintaining our association web site.

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\$\$ From the Financial Front \$\$

Good News!! The personal cheques, wire transfers, bank drafts, etc from all over Europe, the Middle East, and Africa have arrived. Everyone is all 'paid up' for our Kenya Conference! Thank you very much for your assistance in helping with all the financial details.

More Good News!! To date, fourteen of our Association Churches have paid their 2002/2003 dues. This is roughly 50% of our churches. A good beginning! Thank you very much for those who have promptly paid.

Even More Good News!! I know that many more of our Association Churches will be paying their dues in the upcoming weeks. Below is the mailing address for the annual dues, or you could even hand me a cheque in Kenya. Thank you in advance for your leadership in this area.

The annual amount of our dues is US \$250 or whatever your church is able to contribute. The annual dues help cover the cost of Association projects including: start-up grants for our annual Pastor and Spouse's conference, publishing and distributing our Association newsletter and directory, support of the Network for International Congregations which matches potential pastors to international churches, and scholarships for both our youth and adult conferences. Your leadership in educating your Church about the ministry of AICEMEA is greatly appreciated.

Please make your check payable to AICEMEA and mail to:

Troy Bowers
Veltwijcklaan 297
2180 Ekeren
Belgium

If a wire transfer is more convenient for you, simply email me at aipchurch@pandora.be and I will send the needed information.

God's blessings upon your ministry,

Troy Bowers, AICEMEA Treasurer
Antwerp

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AICEMEA Community Transitions

Our newsletter provides the opportunity for AICEMEA members and friends to share news of their personal and professional transitions. As we expect to learn of more transitions during our gathering in Nairobi, we share these submissions with you.

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From Scott Campbell

January 10, 2003

Dear Friends,

I have been away from my computer this week and will likely be away a good part of next week as well. Our beloved 23 year old daughter, Suzanna, died suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday of this week. We are still uncertain of the cause. She left us with two beautiful children to care for, Jesse (5) and Caylum (18 mos). We are still in the midst of preparations for a Saturday service celebrating her life. I send this brief note to apologize for not being able to keep up with responses to letters during this time. I know that some of you have pressing concerns related to your futures and I will do my best to take care of your needs. In the meanwhile, please hold my wife, Lin, and I in your prayers.

Grace and Peace,
Scott Campbell, Network for International Congregations

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Stephen and Rebecca Larson to Leave Geneva

Stephen Larson reports that "Rebecca and I will be leaving Geneva in the near future — in fact Rebecca has already left. We'll be moving to Chicago where Rebecca has been elected to serve as the new Executive Director of the Division for Church in Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

We are thankful that Stephen will join us at our conference in Nairobi.

Below please find excerpts from the press release announcing Rebecca's new appointment. Congratulations!

July 26, 2002

REBECCA LARSON NAMED DIRECTOR FOR ELCA CHURCH IN SOCIETY

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Rev. Dr. Rebecca S. Larson, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, was elected July 23 to a four-year appointment as executive director of the Division for Church in Society (DCS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), effective Oct. 14.

Since 1994 she has served the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as secretary for research and development, Department for World Service, Geneva, Switzerland.

With the LWF Larson has responsibilities in the area of development education, public policy advocacy and disaster response policy development. She has led the federation's education efforts on such topics as poverty, international debt, humanitarian intervention in complex emergencies and HIV/AIDS. Larson coordinated the LWF's involvement in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. She chaired the ICBL steering committee.

"It is a profound and humbling experience for me to be called to work with so many committed and creative people in living out the baptismal calling of our faith through the responsibility given by the church to the Division for Church in Society. I ask for your prayers for the division and myself in the days ahead as we together undergo a time of transition and new beginning," said Larson.

Larson is married to the Rev. Stephen M. Larson, an ELCA pastor who serves the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geneva. They are parents of two adult daughters.

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AICEMEA Member Church Change of Address

At our association business meeting in Nairobi, we will receive all changes to member church worship locations, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and any other pertinent information.

If your church will not be represented at the conference and your church information has changed since last spring, please e-mail that information to mpc@rol.ru.

In the meantime, we share this announcement with you...

The office of the International Evangelical Church in Finland has moved ---finally!

The address and phone details are:

International Evangelical Church in Finland
Ruoholahdenkatu 16
FIN-00180 HELSINKI, Finland
tel.: +358-9-5869770

The email and web page address remain as before. Pastor Timo's mobile phone is the same.

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Together: The AICEMEA Newsletter

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