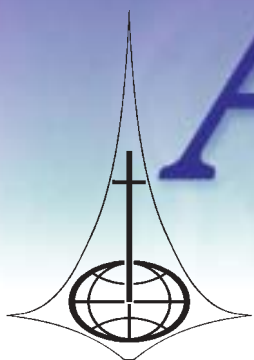


"For the Healing of the World" Assembly UPDATE



.....
Issue 3 — May 2003

Assembly Host Church National Bishop Welcomes You to Winnipeg

Dear Assembly Participants,

I am delighted to welcome you to Winnipeg on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC).

Winnipeg is at the geographic center of this huge country and one of the oldest Lutheran settlements in western Canada. Many refugees and immigrants from Europe landed here, then migrated to other provinces where they started Lutheran congregations.

It is a great privilege for us to host such an interna-



National Bishop Raymond L. Schultz.
© ELCIC

tional assembly of delegates, guests and visitors. We will be more than rewarded for our work by the richness and variety of the experience that you will bring to us.

Hundreds of volunteers and visitors from all parts of Canada will be among you to make you feel at home and respond to your needs. We look forward to telling you about this country and our church's life within it. We look forward to hosting you at

worship and prayer, to being your stewards, tour guides and friends in Christ.

Membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is very important to the ELCIC. In communion with other churches, we are able to experience the breadth of God's church in the world and participate in initiatives that we cannot launch on our own.

The LWF Tenth Assembly theme "For the Healing of the World," offers us a powerful opportunity to play a pastoral role in the world's affairs. I write to you against a background of war in Iraq and the use of force as a political strategy. In contrast, our communion will address the ways in which we express peaceful ways to support one another and the creation that God so loves.

I am extremely grateful for your partnership and look forward to your coming with great hope.

Grace and peace to you all,

Raymond L. Schultz
ELCIC* National Bishop

*The ELCIC has 188,654 members. It joined the LWF in 1986.

Bishop Margot Käsmann: Our World Seeks Orientation and is Crying out to be Healed

Bishop Dr Margot Käsmann, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (ELCH), Germany, sees the LWF Tenth Assembly as an important opportunity "to verify our common roots in the Christian faith and our Lutheran tradition." The 44-year-old bishop will be the keynote speaker at the Assembly in Winnipeg. "I am looking forward to the Assembly," she says. It is a "great honor, but also a great responsibility" to be one of the main speakers. "I hope I will be up to it," she told *Assembly Update*.



Bishop Dr Margot Käsmann.
© ELCH

As the keynote speaker focusing on the Assembly theme, "For the Healing of the World," the Hanover bishop notes that "Our world seeks orientation and the world torn by war and injustice seeks healing. The Lutheran churches should raise their VOICES FROM



Prints of the LWF Tenth Assembly poster and a postcard are available, free of charge, from the LWF Office for Communication Services. Bulk orders above five will be charged an administration fee of CHF 1.00 per poster and CHF 0.50 per card, plus postage.

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Sharing in the Gift of 'Full Communion' at the LWF Assembly

On 6 July 2001 in Waterloo, Ontario, the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) and Canada's largest Lutheran body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) formally adopted *The*

didn't begin in Canada. It began with churches in Europe and in the process of beginning these talks in Canada we began with some documents that had already been formulated in Porvoo and elsewhere. Then we developed a kind of made-in-Canada process.

The most unique part of how it was approached among us is that after a series of meetings in which we came to some common agreements on issues, it was determined by our two churches that we were ready to move into—I wouldn't call it an experimental relationship—but it was interim sharing of the Eucharist where we began to have a life together and to take a look at how that was working out.

And in the course of that we discovered that it wasn't necessary for us to come to very many agreements in order to know we had a future together, that we could trust each other and work together and that then we would begin with a mutual process for approaching the developments as they have arisen since then.

I think it's working very well, and the reason I think it's working is because there is the opportunity to make responses based on situations that arise. The most obvious example that comes to mind is that our two churches are exchanging clergy so that clergy of each denomination are serving congregations in the other. But also, in many kinds of local events happening at the grassroots. At the national level, we are preparing for the [LWF Tenth] Assembly and members of the

Anglican church sit on our planning committees and are very much partners in the preparation of that. And Archbishop Peers will be one of the honored guests at the Assembly.

Peers: What Bishop Schultz says about the particularly Canadian way we've approached things and are approaching them is very important. There were a number of decisions that were taken. One of them was that if we want to encourage local initiative and local getting to know each other, the leadership had to give some encouraging signals and do some modeling. So at least once a year, for about eight years now, the bishops of each church have their own meetings at the same time and in the same place and some common time together discussing issues, not just Anglican-Lutheran issues. It means that within your first year as bishop you are not only going to meet every bishop of your own tradition, you are going to meet every bishop of the other tradition.

Assembly Update: Archbishop Peers, what sort of a role would you like to see the Anglican Church play in the LWF Assembly?

Peers: I'm certainly delighted to hear that the Diocese of Rupertsland, and the Anglican Church in Winnipeg are taking a significant role in the organizing and the planning. I think that many people here would have the sense that a worldwide event is taking place in this city and in this diocese.

Waterloo Declaration, hailed as a major step forward in expressing the visible unity of the Church.

The relationship of full communion is not a merger of the two churches. It affirms their mutual recognition of each other's orders of worship, sacraments, and ordained ministries while each national church maintains its distinct identity, structures and governance.

For *Assembly Update No. 3*, the ELCIC National Bishop Raymond Schultz and ACC Primate, Archbishop Michael Peers spoke with former *Toronto Star* religion editor, Michael McAteer, about their churches' experience with the gift of full communion.

(Excerpts from the interview follow:)

Assembly Update: Perhaps you could give us a brief history of how this came about. How it all started? How the idea was promoted? How is it working?

Schultz: The coming together in full communion



National Bishop Raymond Schultz (left) and Archbishop Michael Peers (right) in dialogue with Michael McAteer about various issues including church unity. © ELCIC

LWF Assembly—An Opportunity to Share Gifts from the Communion

What would an LWF Assembly be without the many gifts and contributions from the communion of Lutheran churches that bring such a multicultural event to life?

Yet it is not just a matter of material gifts. Every participant makes his or her own special contribution to the Assembly—in the plenary discussions, talks in the village groups, by offer-

ing a smile, extending a hand or lending a sympathetic ear. Contributions are made in varied ways and every gift, every small contribution is a part of the whole picture, helping to give the Assembly its very special features.

Assembly Update would like to introduce some of these gifts and give a glimpse of those essential

elements of an assembly—from the participation in the market of possibilities, to the energetic assistance of the many volunteers and, of course, to the material support.

It is an invitation to all participants to set out for Winnipeg with open eyes and to discover the gifts we share with one another at the Assembly.

A Gift from the Mount of Olives

Each year, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH), located on the Mount of Olives, East Jerusalem, receives a special gift. Oil pressed from fruits of the 800 olive trees on the property is used on patients or as income to offset AVH's operational costs.

Olive oil from the AVH will be used at two healing services during the LWF Tenth Assembly. For the anointing, a minister will dip his or her thumb in oil and make the sign of the cross on the fore-

head of each person who has come forward for this gesture of healing.

The AVH is operated by the LWF through its Department for World Service (DWS) program in Jerusalem. In 2000 LWF/DWS-Jerusalem began a project to produce bottled olive oil for sale to AVH visitors. The bottles are made from hand-blown glass in Hebron, and the olive oil is produced in a press in Beit Jala near Bethlehem. The income from some 130 bottles



© LWF/R.Hinz

of olive oil sold in the first year was enough to cover expenses and make a small donation to the LWF for the hospital.

A second project started in 2001 focuses on the need to continue planting new olive trees on the property. For a specific donation, individuals, churches or organizations could have a tree planted on the Mount of Olives, with a commemorative plaque stating the donor's wishes.

A third project launched in 2002 provides individuals, churches or organizations with an opportunity to donate a gallon of olive oil toward AVH patients' needs. The hospital primarily uses the oil on many local dishes served to patients. In Palestine olive oil is a gift of life and health.



Since 2000, proceeds from the Beit Jala-produced olive oil are contributing to the Augusta Victoria Hospital finances.
© LWF/H.Putsman

Healing, Becoming Whole, Being Healed— Sharing Experiences

What experiences can you or your church contribute to the theme of healing at the LWF Assembly? Or would you just like to listen and learn from others about their experience of healing? The market of possibilities planned for Friday

evening, July 25, will be a good opportunity for this.

By April 15, the Geneva secretariat had received proposals from all the regions for this evening of exchanging experiences. The proposals illustrate the broad scope of

the healing theme. Whether it be health, relationships, conflicts, the environment, death or loss—the need for healing is great, but so is the wealth of experience in the Lutheran communion.

Bangladeshi Women Bring Rainbow Colors to the Assembly

Left: For many Bangladeshi women, the production of silk is an important source of income. © ELCA

Right: Pulling strands of silk thread off cocoons is one of the first steps in the production process. © ELCA



zation in northwestern Bangladesh. It employs a large number of women in sericulture—silk production—giving them an opportunity to earn an income to support their families.

The process begins in villages, where many women work together to cultivate mulberry trees. Worms are fed the mulberry leaves and raised to a cocoon stage. In 2001, a total of 15,000 mulberry plants were grown in homesteads and 40,000 cocoons were produced. Around 300 women were trained in cocoon rearing, while more continued working in the silk factories within RDRS working areas.

One of these women, Fulfuli Rani, works two hours daily in the shade of the overhang of her house, a carefully crafted building made of mud and thatch roof. She pulls naturally golden strands of silk thread off cocoons in a boiling pot of water and winds them onto a reel. Rani says, “Without the silk worm production, I would have to leave the village and go somewhere else, maybe the city to earn some money for my family. Now I do not have to.”

In Bangladesh, most people’s livelihoods are linked to the rice harvest. When the rice is growing, or when families do not have enough to eat or sell as a result of the frequent floods or droughts in this land with many rivers, people are in danger of going hungry.

But the silk worm provides an alternative. Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), an associate program of the LWF/DWS, is the largest non-governmental organi-

While her life in this challenging part of the world is not as smooth as silk, her work brings hope to the family. “I want to improve my family and the lives of my children. I want my children to go to school and receive a proper education.”

Through the RDRS, Bangladeshi women will be bringing a special gift to the Assembly in Winnipeg. Silk scarves in the seven rainbow colors, and arrayed with the LWF Tenth Assembly logo, will be offered to Assembly delegates. The women’s interwoven golden silk strands are a special gift of the Lutheran communion.



Some 500 Volunteers Expected at LWF Tenth Assembly

Host Church Lauds "Enthusiastic, Energetic and Faithful Sharing of Gifts"

A key element of the preparations for the LWF Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg is the recruitment and management of the many volunteers who will be present to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

By the end of March, more than 300 volunteers had completed the application form indicating their availability, language capability and work area preferences. Two thirds of the registered volunteers are from the ELCIC, the Assembly host church; the other third is split between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Anglican Church of Canada. It is expected that approximately 500 volunteers will be registered prior to the opening of the Assembly, including a corps of 100 youth to assist in the July 27 Sunday celebration event.

The ELCIC began the first of two volunteer orientation programs on April 3. It was a light-hearted focus on the history of previous assemblies, cul-



*ELCIC staff display the LWF Tenth Assembly bib that will be sported by volunteers in Winnipeg.
© ELCIC*

tural sensitivity issues, protocol tips and how to be "Ready for Work." At the orientation, volunteers were invited to signal their commitment by signing a poster displaying the Volunteer Mission Statement:

"To work as a volunteer team in an open, friendly, helpful and warm spirit, reflecting the love of Christ, to all who participate in the Tenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation."

Commenting on the signing-up process so far, Ms Rhonda Lorch, ELCIC Director of Administration said, "The commitment of time and talent by our volunteers has been astounding. The Assembly will benefit from the enthusiastic, energetic and faithful sharing of gifts."

A second orientation will be offered on July 20 for volunteers from outside the local area.

During the Assembly, volunteers will sport a bright yellow event bib and name badge holder so that they will be clearly visible to all.



The LWF Tenth Assembly logo is available in an animated format on CD-ROM. Orders can be placed with the LWF Office for Communication Services. An administration fee of CHF 3.00 per disc will be charged, plus postage.
© LWF/affox

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On-line with Support from Lutherans in the USA



Since August 2002 the LWF Assembly web site has provided all necessary information about the Assembly in its four official working languages: English, French, German and Spanish. This project was made possible with support from the ELCA communication department.

The first plans for an Assembly web site began shortly after the June 2000 decision to hold the global LWF event in Winnipeg. In September 2001 staff from the LWF and ELCA discussed an initial proposal in the latter's office in Chicago. Visions and plans soon became a reality.

In May 2002 ELCA web manager Rex Paisley visited Geneva for a week and to-

gether with the LWF staff, developed an appealing and easy-to-use web site. A few weeks later it went online in the four languages—English, German, French and Spanish. Since then new pages, documents and information are made available on-line almost every week. The LWF Office for Communication Services provides content for the Assembly web site and ensures that it is up-to-date, while their counterparts in Chicago deal with the technical issues related to hosting the site in North America.

Why not take a look? www.lwf-assembly.org

The ELCA has some 5.1 million members and has been an LWF member church since 1988.

Marking Your Presence with an Inuit Structure

The inukshuk or “image of the human spirit” is an Inuit—an Aboriginal cultural group inhabiting enclaves in coastal areas of Canada—structure built to guide travelers, marking where others have been



and where it is safe to go. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada offers this inukshuk as a symbol of your presence at the LWF Tenth Assembly.

*The Inukshuk, traditionally used as an orientation image for the Inuit, will be offered in Winnipeg as a sign of security and well being.
© Robin Karpan*

A Good Idea “Made in Italy”

Everyone distributes ballpoint pens – small companies, global players and also church organizations. So it comes as no surprise that they are left lying around everywhere and also break easily. Dean Jürgen Astfalk of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (ELKI) can tell a quite different story.

Every year the Italian church has ballpoint pens made especially for its synod members. They are unique in that they have two windows displaying six short messages. The ballpoint pen has become very popular with ELKI synod members, Astfalk has observed, and so very few tend to be thrown away or lost.

Enthusiastic about this idea, the LWF Area Secretary

for Europe, Rev. Dr. Andreas Wöhle took back a proposal to Geneva that a special pen be developed for the Tenth Assembly. The Italian church has had 3,000 such pens made for the global LWF gathering in Winnipeg this summer, with the aim to give each church delegate a pen.

A white window in the pen's deep blue surface has six display options—the Assembly theme, “For the Healing of the World” in four languages, English, French, German and Spanish; the event and venue; and date. The Assembly logo is imprinted on a broad, white clasp just below the base, which like the narrower writing point is gray in color.



Astfalk hopes that this support from Italy will contribute to communicating the positive aspects of the Assembly in Winnipeg at congregational level, and that the delegates will regard it as a pleasant memento of Winnipeg.

The ELKI has around 7,000 members, and joined the LWF in 1949.

The idea to produce pens came from Italy. It is hoped that these ball points will win the hearts of Assembly delegates in Winnipeg.

© LWF/H. Putsman

Refugees Share Their Skills with the Lutheran Communion

When Burundians fled civil war in their country nine years ago, they had to leave everything behind. Everything, that is, except their skills.

These traditional Burundian baskets are woven by refugee women in the camps run by the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS), the country program of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service, based in western Tanzania.

In various shapes and sizes, the baskets are made from the used plastic sacks in which the refugees' food rations are delivered. This work not only makes a small contribution to a cleaner environment; it also helps to supplement their income, and



gives them hope for the future.

The TCRS cares for 140,000 Burundian refugees, overseeing their basic food, shelter, and sanitation needs. In addition, the program supports secondary education,

and peace and reconciliation activities throughout the camps and in the host community. The baskets will be used during worship at the LWF Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg.

Crafted from used food sacks, these baskets made by Burundian refugees in Tanzania, embody a people's hope and optimism.

© LWF/TCRS

Slovenian Women Light Up Assembly Worship with Their Handicraft



Above: A group of women from Murska Sobota, northeastern Slovenia, put final touches on one of the candles made for the LWF Assembly. Their artwork "Illuminated" Easter worship services in Winnipeg and Geneva.
© Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia

Right: The candle used in the Ecumenical Center Chapel.
© LWF/H.Putsman

One of the main features at worship services during the LWF Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg will be large candles bearing the LWF Tenth Assembly logo. These will be lit during worship in the various congregations, as a symbol of God's moving spirit among people.

The candles represent a much-valued tradition of handicraft workshops from the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia. Organized by a dynamic group of women at congregations or wider parish levels, the workshops have a two-fold aim. They serve as a social point for

congregation members as well as a market and exhibition stall for items that generate income for the church's regular or specialized work.

For the last five years, such workshops have been a central aspect for a group of women in Murska Sobota, northeastern Slovenia. Though a small community, it has been strengthened by the women's activities in parish work including sharing the various skills that they are endowed with.

One such talent is to decorate candles of all shapes and sizes. Murska Sobota's women were enthusiastic about contributing their gifts to the LWF Tenth Assembly. As a one-time project, they decorated ten large ceremonial candles with the LWF Tenth Assembly logo. With support from other churches, nine of these candles were shipped to Winnipeg so that they could be lit in congregations during Easter worship services and in the weeks prior to

the Assembly. In this way, the Assembly already casts its light on the congregations that will be hosting delegates and other participants from the global Lutheran communion this summer.

Prior to the Assembly, one of the candles will be lit in the Ecumenical Center Chapel in Geneva, where the LWF is based. Staff members will bring it to Winnipeg.

During the Assembly, the candles will be "en-lightening" the services celebrated by a world-wide communion in Winnipeg, after which they will be returned to the congregations for use. The candles will be a lasting, tangible memory of the LWF

gathering, of shared hopes and joint prayers, connecting people all over the world, from Slovenia to Winnipeg.

The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia has around 20,000 members, and joined the LWF in 1952.



A Special Contribution from the Regions— Crying Out for Healing

A very special contribution from the regions to the Assembly will be the cries for healing that have been collected from churches there. "Participants will be bringing a lot of concerns for healing to the Assembly," says LWF Tenth Assembly content coordinator, Rev. Dr. Karen Bloomquist. "We need to be able to hear and learn from one another and to communi-

cate across the boundaries that usually separate us."

The cries will be shared from the Assembly floor and will relate to the theme of the day:

- Heal our divisions
- Liberate from bondage
- Rectify injustices
- Empower us to act
- Fulfill your promises, O God
- O God, the healer, liberator, savior of the world
- Forgive and heal
- Reorder power

Wear an LWF Assembly Logo Pin, Support Zimbabwean Women's Handiwork

Either Elisabeth Lunga or Margaret Majo painted these ornamental pins made from a bottle cap. They met in the early 1990s in a home economics course organized by a social worker in Zimbabwe's capital Harare. An instructor noticed the women's artistic talent and encouraged them to start decorating bottle tops.



They wash each cap, apply several layers of paint, including the base and background color, paint the artwork, apply varnish, and attach the pins to the bottle tops—their full-time occupation!

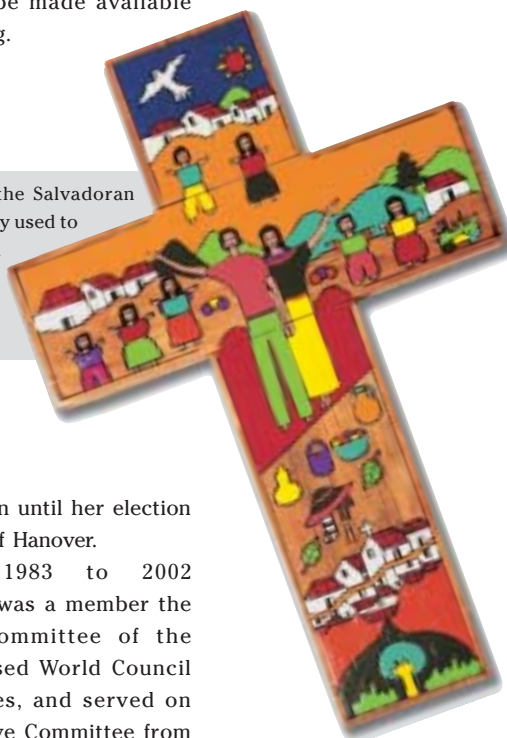
These ornamental pins are a symbol of partnerships in the Lutheran communion that are aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty through sustainable development—from rural agricultural projects to small businesses in urban areas. The women's work is supported by Zimbabwe's Lutheran Development Service (LDS), a recently localized operation of the LWF Department for World Service. The LDS now operates as a related organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ). The ELCZ has 110,000 members. It joined the LWF in 1963.

Similar pins in different colors bearing the LWF Tenth Assembly logo are currently being distributed throughout the communion. They will be made available in Winnipeg.

These pins imprinted with the LWF Tenth Assembly logo represent a special sign of "Healing for the World." © LWF/K.Richter

These pins imprinted with the LWF Tenth Assembly logo represent a special sign of "Healing for the World." © LWF/K.Richter

This multicolored wooden cross is a gift from the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod. Salvadoran crosses are traditionally used to tell short stories about poverty, war and hunger, and at the same time talk about belief in God and hope for change. The cross will be a feature of worship at the Assembly. © Salvadoran Lutheran Synod



Bishop Margot Kässmann

See page 1

VOICES FROM Winnipeg on both issues," she stresses.

Elected bishop of the Hanover church in 1999, Kässmann is currently the second of three women bishops in Germany. After studying theology in Tübingen, Edinburgh, Göttingen and Marburg, she became an assistant pastor in Wolfhagen in 1983. After completing her theology degree

she was ordained in 1985 and together with her husband, served in the Frielendorf parish. In 1989 she earned her doctorate from Bochum's Ruhr University on the topic "Poverty and Wealth – A Challenge to Church Unity." From 1990 to 1992 she coordinated the development service of the Evangelical Church in Kurhessen-Waldeck, and worked as a conference director at the Protestant Academy of Hofgeismar, 1992–94. She was appointed general secretary of the German Protestant Kirchentag in Fulda in 1994, and served in

this position until her election as bishop of Hanover.

From 1983 to 2002 Kässmann was a member the Central Committee of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches, and served on its Executive Committee from 1991 to 1998. Kässmann and her husband have four daughters.

The Hanover church has just below 3.3 million members and is the largest Lutheran church in Germany. It was one of the founding members of the LWF in Lund, Sweden, in 1947.

Participating in an LWF Assembly for the First Time

Papua New Guinea Bishop Kigasung:
“The Assembly Was Very Special to Me”



Bishop Dr. Wesley Kigasung.
© Lutheran Church of
Australia/W.Zweck

For Papua New Guinea Bishop Wesley Kigasung, the excitement about attending a world Assembly for the first time in one's life presents mixed feelings. Kigasung, 52, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG), was 46 years-old when he participated for the first time, in a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly. Seven months after the 1997 LWF Ninth Assembly in Hong Kong, China, he was elected bishop of his church. Kigasung, who will be a delegate to the 2003 LWF Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, spoke to *Assembly Update* about his expectations and experiences at the last Assembly:

“What will we see there; who will we meet; what kind of atmosphere are we going to experience; will we find

our way around the place and not get lost; what are we expected to do as delegates and how much is expected of us. Then there are the concerns about the main issues to be discussed at the assembly and whether the delegates will be able to comprehend everything said and discussed.

As a young theologian attending an LWF Assembly for the first time, those were the type of questions in my mind as I went to Hong Kong, China for the LWF Ninth Assembly. But I must say that I was impressed with the way I was able to find my way around the Assembly venue, between meeting places, eating places, hotels, and so on—with much ease and I experienced less fear of being lost. I was able to follow all the proceedings, discussions and de-

bates with no problem. I was even surprised that I was able to participate in the worship service and also had the opportunity to contribute to an issue on the Assembly floor.

The Assembly to me was very special in the way it brought people of different races, nationalities and languages together as a communion of believers and Christian witnesses. The expression of life in worship and culture and studies brought together the different dimensions of human life and experiences which were so rich and powerful.”

The ELC-PNG is one of the two LWF member churches in Papua New Guinea. It has 815,000 members, and joined the LWF in 1976.

Assembly Briefs

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The Assembly Office has overall responsibility for coordinating preparations for the Assembly.

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Assembly Web Site

www.lwf-assembly.org

The Assembly Web site offers practical information including:

- **Categories of Participation** such as delegates, advisors and visitors.
- **A Brief History** of previous assemblies.

- **How to attend as a Visitor** either full-time or for a few days.
- **How to Volunteer** for the Assembly.
- **News and Media** with news releases from the Pre-Assembly Consultations.
- **The Assembly Study Book and Assembly Updates** in format for downloading.
- **Assembly Worship and the Assembly Songbook**

Bavarian Pastor Julia Helmke: In Hong Kong Everything was New and Exciting

Everything was new and exciting - so says Rev. Julia Helmke, describing her experiences as a youth delegate of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria at the 1997 LWF Ninth Assembly in Hong Kong, China. Currently a pastor in Munich, Germany, Julia, 33, will be one of the delegates representing her church at the Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg. She talked about her first LWF Assembly experience with *Assembly Update* editors.

In the run-up to the LWF Ninth Assembly, Rev. Julia Helmke was confronted with a host of important questions. How could she represent her church, what forms of active participation were foreseen? And, above all, what would be expected of her as a youth delegate?

Helmke began to gather experience during the preparatory youth conference, at-

tended by around 120 young Lutherans from all over the world. "We 'rehearsed' the Assembly with committees and plenary meetings, we discussed the topics, we got acquainted—at every meal, at late-night sessions on the final resolution, at crisis sessions, dancing, in the interpersonal ups and downs," she recalls.

The worship services were wonderful points of rest and an indescribable source of strength during the Assembly. It was very inspiring to sing and pray together, meet at the Lord's Table, and hear the Word of God in many languages and interpretations. She is still enthusiastic about this opportunity to meet with Lutherans from all over the world. The concept of worldwide communion began to become clearer.

Her motto for the forthcoming Assembly—To be open-minded and look for-

ward to the event in a relaxed way. She advises newcomers in particular, not to be intimidated and shy of people who act as though they know everything and seem to treat the global gathering as only a matter of daily routine or an inner group for church policy-makers. An assembly, she notes, is too unique and valuable for every individual. And she encourages every participant to speak up and ask questions even in a language that they do not speak fluently.

Helmke is convinced that "attending an assembly is an honor, a gift, a mission and a time filled to the brim with God's presence."



Rev. Julia Helmke.
© U. Fruechtnicht

- **Ordering information** for Assembly documents.

- **Links** to Tourism Winnipeg, hotels, etc.

Registration Update

Participants have already submitted their initial registration forms and have been sent travel and visa information. A final mailing in late-May includes the draft Assembly Agenda and the Assembly Handbook.

The LWF Report, "From Hong Kong to Winnipeg 1997-2003," will be posted in a separate mailing.

Assembly Documents

All participants, including full-time visitors, pay a registration fee of USD 150 and receive the Assembly documents.

Additional copies may be ordered for a cost by contacting:

**The Lutheran World Federation
Office for Finance and Administration**
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Switzerland

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Pre-Assembly Youth Conference

The Pre-Assembly Youth Conference for youth delegates and stewards will be held 12-18 July 2003 at Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Information is available at:

www.lutheranworld.org/Youth/PAYC.html

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Winnipeg Convention Centre

The Assembly plenary sessions and registration take place in the Winnipeg Convention Centre (www.wcc.mb.ca) which is also the location for the Assembly offices.

The Center opened in 1975 with three levels of over 160,000 square feet (almost 15,000 square meters) of meeting and exhibition space. The Assembly will use the en-

tire convention center facility plus meeting rooms in the adjoining Delta Winnipeg Hotel.



© Winnipeg Convention Centre



City of Winnipeg

With 671,000 inhabitants, Winnipeg enjoys a rich population mix, with people from all corners of the world coming to make the city their new home. With more than 50,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit people, Winnipeg has the largest Aboriginal community of any city in Canada. Scottish settlers arrived in 1811, followed by English and French Canadians after the province of Manitoba joined the Canadian confederation

in 1870, and then large numbers of Ukrainian, Icelandic and German immigrants.

Since the 1960's, immigration from Europe has given way to immigration from Central and South America, Asia and Africa. Winnipeg's rich diversity is celebrated annually during two weeks of *Folklorama* when pavilions throughout the city offer the food, music and dance that express Canada's cultural mosaic and heritage.