

# The Daily Bread



July 15, 2010

PAYC-NL/02

Newsletter from Dresden Pre-Youth Assembly

## It's a hot topic: Gay with God

by Moses Aboka, ELC Kenya

The youth streamed into the discussion plenary to share their experiences on same sex marriage within their own countries. Within few minutes the room was filled into capacity with participants eager to share their views. The whole idea came up after Moritz from Germany proposed a project of having a Church which doesn't discriminate those who are already discriminated by the society.



Since the Lutheran Church is a diverse communion within the six continents, there were more questions than answers as every participant tried to brief plenary what it means to be involved in same sex partnerships within their respective regions and local countries.

Some posed the questions whether God loves gay people and insisted that homosexuality is an act that shouldn't be tolerated within the Christian faith. Others said that there is no question that God loves

everyone, no matter their sexual orientation.

There were more heated discussions as some delegates wondered why people like to misinterpret the bible verses for their own convenience and in order to support their points, while others wondered how the church can respond to the issue since it is affecting youth who are part and life of the Church. It was evident from the discussions that people were pushing one another to support their views. Some of the question that kept repeating them on the floor was: how should the church respond to same sex relationships without creating conflict?

"The issue of homosexuality shouldn't break our beautiful communion of Lutheran Churches," pleaded Rev. Miika Mika Ahola, a youth delegate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland. Hopefully the youth can lead the way in keeping the communion united.

## Latinoamerica en Dresden

by Martin Diaz, El Salvador

Los jóvenes representantes de las iglesias luteranas de latinoamerica han demostrado como se piensa, se goza y se vive en el continente americano.



Las posiciones unánimes y su espíritu alegre han identificado a esta región durante la Pre-Asamblea de Jóvenes de la Federación Luterana Mundial. Una de las posturas mas claras de los representantes latinoamericanos, es dar un seguimiento real a los acuerdos y avances que se han logrado durante la preparación para la onceava asamblea de la FLM, de esta manera

Para los jóvenes latinoamericanos la pre-asamblea es un espacio muy interesante, pues es un evento

donde existe mucha riqueza cultural y en donde se tocan temas fundamentales para el futuro de nuestras Iglesias. "Nuestra voz se esta escuchando" afirma Hellen Rios al observar uno de los grupos de trabajo en el cual se tocaban temas sociales. **"Hemos demostrado nuestra unidad como región y eso nos enorgullece"**, y nos llama para que luchemos por la integración de todas las regiones.

## Your Saturday Package



Wartburg Castle was founded by Duke Ludwig of Thuringia in 1067 AD. It belonged to the landgraves of Thuringia and once hosted the medieval Minnesinger poets, immortalized by Wagner in *Tannhäuser*.

Most famously, the Wartburg is where Martin Luther hid out as "Knight George" upon his return from the Diet of Worms in 1521. Here he completed his translation of the Bible. During his stay here, he said he "fought the Devil with ink" and is said to have experienced dark periods of depression.

In 1777, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe spent five weeks in the Wartburg Castle translating the Bible into German

Editing

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## **One-on-one with LWF General Secretary Elect, Rev. Martin Junge**

*by Anthony Tucker, Sierra Leone*



***Congratulations on your election to General Secretary of LWF. You accept this appointment at a time in which the church faces so many challenges.***

There has never been a church that has not been confronted with so many challenges. The church has always been challenged with difficult questions and harsh realities and it has been crying to give its voice into those contexts. LWF is in an excellent position in this respect and I hope that together with other ecumenical confessions like WCC, we will be able to bring a voice that gives hope for the many questions which we have to deal today, climate change, poverty, HIV/AIDS and many others.

***The strongest backbone of the communion is the young people. What do you plan for us as young people of the communion?***

I am glad you said that, youth are the backbone. I am not comfortable to hear youth being referred as future because I firmly believe that youth are the present of the church, we see so much energy, and we see much love in what youth bring into the communion. We have the commitment as LWF to youth with our strong concern for the neighbor and particularly for the

suffering neighbor. Things can't go on as it is now. In Curitiba in 1990 we made a strong commitment to youth participation in the life of the communion. We continue to work on these commitments and try to implement them. Youth and women in many of our modern churches are the pillars of the congregations and are keeping them alive in many respects.

***What are your plans for the communion?***

Again, I would like to reiterate that I come in as a General Secretary who listens what the churches encourage as a communion of churches. And for our ongoing spiritual journey it is quite evident that we have some tasks which we have to deal with.

First of all, we are at a stage where the global communion is a reality. Sixty years ago when the LWF was founded, Lutheran churches and the federation were located only in certain parts of the world, now it's a global reality and we have many regional centers with churches confronting their own contexts. At the same time, I think we are recognizing the challenge of communication and facilitating transcontinental dialogue between churches located in various parts of the world. So I think we will have to work towards creating the methodology and the instrument so that we can better be in dialogue.

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**Worship, 820 billion dollars, and not betraying my dreams**

*by Mary Button, USA*

On Monday Bishop Kameeta added to our understanding of Bible study when he asked, "What was so special about the manna God delivered to the Israelites? They could take it and keep moving." In this way, Bishop Kameeta urged

us to persevere, to keep faith, and to always keep moving. By starting the day connecting scripture to our theme, we ground ourselves in scripture.

On Wednesday my group's discussion on the parable of the rich fool stayed with me as I went into my workshop session: "Doing theology contextually." One of the questions we asked during our Bible study was: "Which characteristics of the 'rich fool' can we find in our society and our community today?" Of all of the questions we asked today this particular question took up most of our time. All of us were able to name people in our contexts that we identified as rich fools. In this time of financial crisis, we spent a good deal of time discussing the unequal balance of power at work in this global crisis.

We were able to discuss at length something that Martin Junge, the incoming General Secretary of the LWF, shared during the conversation we were able to have with him last night: while the banks were given an \$820 billion bailout, it would only take \$25 billion to secure access to HIV medications to all Africans living with HIV.

Martin Junge told us, "you are not only the future of the LWF, but the present as well." Martin assured all that we will continue to be the face of the LWF and that soon we will be the ones in positions of power within our communion. The imperative he said was "to not betray our dreams when we get in the right place."

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**Thanks to the media team!**

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