

Taizé, Monday 16 January 2012

Taizé: The meetings begin again

Germany: The Meeting in Berlin, 28 December 2011 – 1 January 2012

Announcement of coming meetings

Bangladesh: On Christmas Day: a great gust of joy

Kenya: Meetings in Nairobi: December 2011

For the diary

Prayer

Taizé: The meetings begin again

The brothers, sisters and volunteers have returned to Taizé after the meeting in Berlin and the welcome started again right away. The youth meetings have begun again with, for example, thirty young adults from the USA, most of them Presbyterians. On Epiphany Sunday, after the celebration of the Eucharist, the brothers and everyone present came out in front of the church to sing for one last time near the crib. The prayers on 12 January, two years after the earthquake in Haiti, were strongly in communion with the people there.

Germany: The Meeting in Berlin, 28 December 2011 – 1 January 2012

All through the Berlin meeting, descriptions and personal accounts by young people were on line day by day. Here is another: "One evening, during the meal distribution, a man came up and asked to speak with the person in charge of ordering the food. He had heard about the meeting and wished to express his support in his own way, through offering a quantity of bread! He recalled how he had been welcomed by Brother Roger during the East Berlin Meeting in 1986. His forty traditional loaves became a true gesture of hospitality. As he was leaving the meal distribution point at the 'Messegelände' he whispered, 'I am a Moslem'... an illustration of the cultural crossroads that is the city of Berlin."

Meditations by Brother Alois

Messages received for the meeting

Photos of the meeting

Letter 2012: Towards a new solidarity

Inge, of the preparation team, comments on the days following the meeting.

Announcement of coming meetings

At the end of the prayer of December 30, Brother Alois announced to the 30,000 young pilgrims gathered in Berlin the next steps in the "pilgrimage of trust on earth".

Geneva : With an international group of young adults, Brother Alois will go to Geneva Friday, March 2, 2012 to visit the World Council of Churches.

Kigali : The third international meeting of young people in Africa will take place in Rwanda, in the city of Kigali, November 14-18, 2012. This meeting will be an opportunity for young people in the Great Lakes region, in East Africa and beyond, to have an experience of communion, sharing, reflection and Christian life.

Rome : The 35th European meeting will be held in Rome from December 28, 2012 to January 2, 2013. In Rome, the European meeting will enable young people to make a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Apostles and to the catacombs and give them the opportunity to pray at St. Peter's Basilica with the Pope.

Istanbul : Immediately after the meeting in Rome, with brothers and young adults from different continents, Brother Alois will travel to Istanbul January 3-6, 2013, to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, and Christians in the city.

Taizé : The "pilgrimage of trust on earth" will look for ways of implementing calls to a new solidarity in the Letter for 2012. A new solidarity that can bring together all who are pilgrims of peace, pilgrims of truth, whether believers or non-believers. A path of three and a half years is proposed to allow young people from all continents to mobilize their energies to mobilize their longings, intuitions and experiences... this searching will be gathered together in a meeting which will be held in Taizé in August 2015.

Other stages of the "pilgrimage of trust on earth" have already been announced:

Ljubljana : On the invitation of the Bishops Conference of Slovenia, a youth meeting for young adults of Central Europe will take place in Ljubljana from 28 April to 1 May 2012.

Chicago : A Taizé meeting will take place in Chicago, USA, from 25 to 28 May 2012 (Memorial Day weekend). Young adults, from 18 to 30 years, from the US and Canada, will take part in the meeting.

Helsinki : On the invitation of Lutheran, Orthodox and Catholic Church communities, a meeting for young adults from the “Nordic region” of Europe will take place from 28 to 30 September 2012 in the Finnish capital-> http://www.taize.fr/en_article12959.html]

Bangladesh: On Christmas Day: a great gust of joy

One of the brothers living in Bangladesh writes: "The mid-day meal for Christmas Day->http://www.taize.fr/en_article13429.html] was festive, although the menu was simple. There were at least 150 of us who sat down together! Thankfully our house is surrounded by a large garden, close to the Brahmaputra River which flows through the town. Among our guests, we had over 50 children and young people with a mental disability whom we know well, accompanied by young volunteers who share their daily life. Most of these children and young disabled people were abandoned at birth by their very poor parents. There was also a good number of very poor children from our two “children’s clubs” situated in two of the disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the town. Some of them live in a little shanty town near the station, or else in the station itself when they have no family.... There were also a good number of Moslem friends, as well as Hindus and Christians from our little community, who were very happy to spend this time together....”

Kenya: Meetings in Nairobi : December 2011

Between 7 and 18 December 2011, 120 young adults – Catholics, Lutherans and Presbyterians from five countries of East Africa – took part in two meetings led by Brothers of Taizé at Mji wa furaha, Nairobi. During the period before Christmas, public transport is saturated. This however did not discourage the participants from setting out to get to Nairobi. The three young people from Bukoba, on the west coast of Lake Victoria, had to spend a night in order to cross the biggest lake in Africa and then a second night in order to reach the Kenyan capital. Those who came from the Democratic Republic of Congo made a stop over at Kigali and then travelled on with the people from Rwanda.

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Meetings and retreats in Nairobi: program for 2012.

For the diary

France: Rennes, Saturday 4 – Sunday 5 February 2012, Ecclesia Campus. National meeting for students: “Ecclesia Campus 2012. Brother Alois and two other brothers will take part.

Tanzania: One of the brothers will be making visits for two weeks starting Saturday 14 January.

Contact: community@taize.fr

Portugal: Two young volunteers from Taizé are at present in Portugal to meet young people and share their experiences. They are visiting schools and parishes in several cities in the centre and the north of the country.

Estonia and Latvia : a brother will be making visits in the two countries from 2 to 13 February.

Contact: community@taize.fr

A brother will be in Hong Kong at the beginning of February. He will take part in a prayer at SS Cosmas and Damian Church, Tuen Wan, Hong Kong, at 8.30 pm, Tuesday 7 February. Contact: community@taize.fr

Spain: 3 to 13 February 2012, two of the brothers of the community will be in the East of Spain for a series of visits and prayers: Valencia, Mallorca, Murcia and Albacete.

Argentina: From Friday 17 to Tuesday 28 February a brother of the community will make visits in several cities]

Prayer

God of goodness, enable us to welcome your merciful love; and may it overflow in our lives, for those whom we meet. We confide particularly to you today the people of Haiti, and those who are engaged in the reconstruction of the country. We thank you for the faith and the perseverance which keep this beloved people standing.