

**19th Meeting of the European Network Church on the Move
Kirche im Aufbruch – Eglise et Libertés – Iglesia por la Libertad**

The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, 2 Butcher Row, Limehouse, LONDON E14 8DS

Report from the 3rd World Forum Theology and Liberation of Belèm

21-25 January 2009

Vittorio Bellavite

Forum organisation.

The place was in the Congress Center of Belèm, which is the most important town of Amazonia (with Manaus) , state of Parà, Brasil. The Forum permanent Segretariat has the bureau at Catholic University of Porto Alegre. The main important association which support the Forum are : EATWOT (Ecumenical Association of the Third World Theologians), Amerindia (theologians of Latinamerica), SOTER (Society of Theology and religious Studies) and others.

The previous forums of Thelogy and Liberation were in Porto Alegre (2005) and in Nairobi (2007) . Mauro and I, with Hugo Castelli, Evaristo Villar, Josè Maria Vigil, J.J. Tamayo we were present also in Nairobi

(see EURONEWS 28 p 52 <http://www.european-catholic-people.eu/euronews28sb.pdf> et EURONEWS 31 p 87 <http://www.european-catholic-people.eu/euronews31eng.pdf>) .

About 1000 were the participants of this Forum.

The most numerous participants were naturally from Latin America but also from Europe, Africa, Asia and Northamerica. The Forum was well organised for place, accomodations, conferences, seminars and so on.

The Forum was ecumenical (with protestants ...) and was the occasion for internal meeting of many catholic organisations like jesuites, dominicans, combonians...In the Forum we have had the possibility to visit the wonderful neighbourhood (water and trees...) and also a dump .

Subject of Forum

The subject of Forum was “Water,Earth, Theology-for another possible World”. The thematic keys were : Religions, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue ; Cultures, ethnic groups and theology , Politics, economy and theology ,Human rights, democracy and theology ; Peace, alternatives to violence and theology , Sacred texts and theology , Ecology, corporeity and theology; Gender, feminisms and theology , Option for the poor and theology , Art, communication and theology; New technologies and theology

The main conferences was organised about ecological problems in relationship with spirituality. Every day “Ritual” (water, earth,body ...) begins the meeting. They were very interesting (the same for final celebration). The indigeneous people were very present . They have a strong relationship with the nature (they speak of PACHA MAMA, the “earth mother”).

The only critical remarks, from us, were the pricipal attention for ecological questions and less attention for theology. You see in the web <www.wftl.org> the detailedd programm and the main speakers (Leonardo Boff, Marina Silva....) but the website is not update.

Our Seminar

We have organised the seminar about the 50th anniversary of Vatican II (you can read in attach) Thirty persons are present from these countries : Brasil, Italy, Switzerland, Germany,

Norway, Spain, Mexico, Colombia. We have spoken about our program decided in Strasbourg last may, like representatives of IMWAC and EN/RE (see EURONEWS 31 p 51 <http://www.european-catholic-people.eu/euronews31eng.pdf>). In the discussion we have listened agreement about our proposals. We have consigned to all participants the text about the main catholic organisations proconcil (see in attach, send me remarks about this text). For Imwac we have consigned a long text with all our most important documents about international catholic questions.

Contacts, relationships

We have had a good relationship with the true promoter of Forum Luis Carlos Susin, Sergio Torres and Agenor Brighenti and contact with many others (Josè Comblin, Leonardo Boff, Miguel Concia, Socorro Martinez). Juan Josè Tamayo, present in the Forum, agree completely with our proposals (Hugo and Raquel can speak with him about).

Presentation of the seminar

ON THE FIFTHIETH ANNIVERSARY OF VATICAN II COUNCIL'S CONVOCATION.

On the 25th January 1959, fifty years ago, Pope John XXIII called the Vatican II Council.

With inspired intuition he thought the Christians' mission in the world should be more rooted in the Gospel, both in what Evangelisation is concerned or in the practice of peace rooted on justice.

The Sovereign Pontiff gave start to a period of sweeping reform in the Catholic Church hinged on the following points:

- A fundamental importance of the Bible as the liberating Word of the God of life;
- Recovery of Church's community dimension;
- Dialogue with different cultures and religions;
- A new brotherly relation with other Churches;
- Proposal for a Church of the poors.

Today the participants to the Third Mondial Forum of Liberation Theology, celebrate this event as the Christianity's history core and they share the expetaction of many Christians of different creeds, of other religions' people and of many people of good will so that the project of renewal, started with the Council, be raised again with strength and with a new conviction.

Belèm, Brazil, 25th January 2009