

# NEWSLETTER OF THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH, C. A.

## INTRODUCTION

INESIN is pleased to present to you its second Newsletter, to be able to share with you the changes that have taken place within the last months and the achievements in our work towards Peace, through the promotion of ecumenical and intercultural respect and dialogue.

## EDITORIAL

### *\*New team, new structure\**

During the year 2006, some brothers and sisters had to leave INESIN's work team. We want to thank them very much for the time we spent together, the beautiful experiences we shared and all the work they did during their stay with us:

- Jairo Arce y Ditra García, Nicaragua
- Amelie Buri, Switzerland
- Reynaú O. Santiago Marroquin, Chiapas

Others new companions joined the team and we would like to welcome them warmly:

- Eliesio and Kirstin Soares, Brazil / USA
- Laurent Gaberell, Switzerland
- Anne Roulet, Switzerland
- Marianne Strub, Switzerland

Eliesio is in charge of the Ecumenical Studies Program while Kirstin and Laurent are working in the Community Development Area (Community Building - Health and Environmental issues). Anne is supporting the work in communication and institutional development and Marianne is in charge of the Gender Studies Program.

There were also changes at the structural level. Ernesto Martin Guerrero Zavala, a protestant pastor, is the new work team coordinator, supported in the executive council by Natanael Navarro, administrator and Pedro Gutierrez, Academic Coordinator.

The responsibilities within the board of directors also changed and are now distributed as follows:

- - Felipe Toussaint, President
- - Martín Guerrero Zavala, Treasurer
- - Natanael Navarro, Secretary

We thank them very much for their commitment and wish them many blessings as they journey with INESIN.



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**ACTIVITIES REPORT**

*\* Community Building\**

- Workshop on emotional impact of Hurricane Stan for children in Mexicalapa (January 2006)
- Visits to rural communities in the “Sierra” region– Pacayal, Monte Ordoñez, Mexicalapa (February 2006)
- Visit to the rural community “Triunfo Agrarista”, Municipio de Uzumacinta (March 2007)
- Environment workshops in secondary schools of rural communities of the “Sierra” region: Mexicalapa, Pacayal, Monte Ordoñez (March 2007)



*\* Ecumenism\**

- Meeting of the Ecumenical Group to Analyze the Reality in Chiapas (GEAR) at INESIN (March 2007)
- Internal workshop to share experiences of Ecumenism (March 2007)
- Participation in conferences organized by the Mayan Intercultural Seminary of San Cristóbal (January and March 2007)



*\* Gender Studies\**

- Welcoming and integration of a new colleague, Marianne Strub, coming from DM – Switzerland to coordinate Gender Studies activities (February 2007)
- Information stand at the International Woman’s Day fair (March 2007)
- Participation to the “Theological Week” held at the Theological Community of Mexico City (March 2007)



*\* Mayan Indian Theology\**

- Workshop in Chenalho (January 2007)
- Fourth session of the Course on Spirituality (January 2007)
- Coordination meeting of Indian Theology (February 2007)
- Fourth session of the Systematization Course (March 2007)
- Participation at the Indian Theology regional meeting in Guatemala (March 2007)
- Strengthening of the Heart workshop for health workers in San Andres (March 2007)



*\* Institutional Strengthening\**

- Welcoming and integrating a new colleague, Anne Roulet, coming from DM – Switzerland to work on communication, institutional strengthening and the House Project (December 2006)
- Various meetings to work out an institutional program (March 2007)

*\* INESIN's House Project\**

- Construction of a wall to close off the back part of the property (October 2006)
- Construction of 4 new bathrooms (December 2006)
- 250 new books and a new computer were bought for the library (Autumn 2006)
- Reception of a 40 person delegation from the Czech Republic (February 2007)



*\* External Relations, Contacts with partner organizations\**



- Martin Guerrero visited partners in Italy and Switzerland (August 2006)
- Nancy Carrasco from DM and Martin Schreiber from UNITE, Switzerland, visited INESIN (January 2007)
- Nicholas King from the Mennonite Central Committee in Mexico visited INESIN (February 2007)
- Encounter meeting in Cuernavaca with representatives from 3 conferences of the United Church of Christ – USA (February 2007)
- Visits to NGO's in San Cristóbal and to a group of woman from the Presbyterian Church to present INESIN and refresh the contact (March 2007)

**BRIEFLY**

A poem written (in Spanish) by the leader of a youth group from Canada, which stayed at INESIN for a week in August 2006:

*Me llevo  
Tus colores, tus sonrisas  
Tus voces, tu sentir  
Tu fuerza, tu creencia  
Y tu testimonio*

*Te dejo  
Mi admiración  
Mi agradecimiento  
Mi aprecio por tu causa  
Mi respeto*

*Espero encontranos  
Nuevamente en nuestros  
Andares, erguidos  
De orgullo y con  
Nuestros corazones  
Llenos de amor.*