

Editorial



Antoine DZAMAH
Vice-President de Fondacio

“Christians for the world” this is the way members of Fondacio assert themselves. We have chosen, through our spirituality, to be “the presence of the Gospel”, “leaven in the dough” at the heart of our world. It is through a living relationship with Christ, listening to His Word, that our mission can be accomplished.

The commitment to the poorest, to the most destitute, is one of the five missions of Fondacio. Several thousands of people, members, friends, associates, contribute to this mission through sponsorship as well as through involvement in projects in the field. This mission is embodied in different ways : giving access to schools and educating children, healing the sick, taking the children out of the streets, providing professional training etc.. But, through these concrete actions, Fondacio aims higher and further. It seeks to ensure that these poor people become agents of their own development, it is no good to help indefinitely, the aim is to help them to stand up gradually, to gain their independence, their dignity so that they should be able to work at their

own future. It is an essential dimension of the development and solidarity projects of Fondacio.

The text by ATD Quart-Monde that is proposed in this issue questions us: Where do we stand in relation to this objective? Is it still our line of action or do we risk to fall into assistantship? We must not forget our aim and question our organization, our practices, our criteria continually, for our presence among these people to continue to be the presence of the Gospel.

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A major event for the community

by Hubert de QUERCIZE

Event ...

The meeting of the countries' heads, continents' coordinators and Fondacio's official representatives with the International Council is a premiere to take place between two congresses of the community. The meeting was held last March 18th to 21st at the Ermitage at Versailles, the spiritual center of Fondacio France. The presence and talks of Father Christian Dioré, an ecclesiastical adviser of the community, recently appointed by Cardinal RYLKO, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity had an impact because of the special attention paid by the Church to the path of Fondacio. He calls himself a "companion in otherness."

Four days of prayers, sharing, listening to the Holy Spirit, working in large and small groups, questioning each other and surpassing oneself for a much more important common good confirmed the validity of such an initiative. This was a real evidence

seeing the joy of leaders geographically distant from each other reunited at last and hearing the quality of exchanges in a great freedom of speech and mutual respect.

In his opening speech, Ignacio Rosselot, president of the community emphasized the importance of "going through one step in understanding and resolving the current crisis, listening to the Holy Spirit and preparing the next Congress." He added: "The current crisis is complex. Even if it is analyzed with too little hindsight, we must approach it in order to be more enlightened at the end of the four days. Nobody has all the elements of the analysis and we know that its presentation will only be partial. Let us consider a path. Let the Lord lead us and let us cross a threshold together. Then he asked the participants to think of the necessary changes in the governance of the community.

Prepared for several months, including a proposed reorganization of the Headquarters dispatched to countries

and international team which expressed their comments, criticisms and wishes, the meeting enabled us to speak of all the difficult issues, without taboos and with a desire for truth. Many questions that were controversial have received answers and have favored appeasement.

Mgr Gerard DEFOIS, Emeritus Archbishop of Lille, considered the difficult moments Fondacio's community is having as a sociologist, a pastor and a theologian. He gave the elements necessary to understand and overcome the crisis in Fondacio.

The meeting enabled a renewed trust between the council and the countries' heads. They were greatly aware of being jointly responsible for the future of the community and its unity "our specificity being one community yet diversified."

Gradually a strong support has emerged on the need for adjustments, in accordance with

our texts, of the symbolic place of the headquarters, of its composition and organization serving the community.

Almost unanimously the heads of the countries approved the Council's proposal to decentralize widely the animation of the transverse missions (youngsters, couples, leaders in society, poverty, seniors, training, coaching, ...)

Then the meeting started thinking of preparing the next congress in the synodal process prior to each congress.

"The word has really circulated freely. A vigorous word of the President and his Council. We really gained ground together." one participant said summarizing the work done.



Portrait

The presence of Gabriel Amouzou, head of Fondacio Togo, at the international meeting, was an opportunity to give him the floor to testify on his meeting with Fondacio

My name is Gabriel AMOUZOU Kossi, Kossi because I was born on a Sunday. I am 36 years old. I am married to Christine, and we have three children, Marie-Pierre 10 years old, Jacques 7 and then Jean-Paul 2.

I am a counselor and social worker for youth in Togo and permanent and responsible for Fondacio Togo. With my wife we drive together the mission «Angel» among children of the street and in prison. She is responsible for the daily live of children at the reception center «The House of My Father». She is also a member of Fondacio.

I knew the community in 1999 as a member of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal because Fondacio's members came to conduct training periods, especially Emmanuel Amegblé, on listening, counseling and spiritual.

I attended this training and then I was chosen to become a trainer myself. Being already at the school counselors, I told them my passion for children, what I did with them. Even then, I carried the project of street children and they said you can come to our school to be trained to live up to this important mission that you carry.

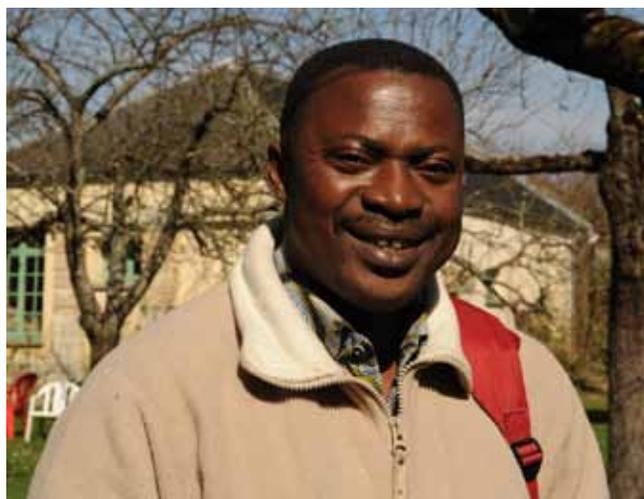
In 2001, I trained at the Fondacio's Training Institute (IFF Afrique) in Togo for 2 years, option Faith and Commitment, because I was looking for how to articulate my faith and my mission to children of the street and in prison. This need led me to enter the community because it gave a human and spiritual formation that fit really with my research.

I prayed that someday I could work with the Lord, work in the world but that such work is also related to my faith.

Frankly falling on members of the community Fondacio, I told myself, that's what I want.

My thirst has been quenched by Fondacio's proposal, that is to say, the primacy of the spiritual that I had a lot in being a member of the Charismatic Renewal, and then transforming the training that I found and finally, an announcement of gospel in another way, not just through words but through concrete actions : There is a sick street kid, I approach him, get him out of the street, give him an education so he can see in me a missionary.

In Africa we look after nearly 30,000 people and it is not nothing. The quality of service we provide interest



Gabriel Kossi AMOUZOU,
Head of Fondacio TOGO

the government. I pilot a project with the government called « Hello 111 » which is to report cases of abuse on children by calling a toll free number. He has asked us to help find abused children. We bring them to the center, feed, dress and send them to school. and, above all, we try to find their parents.

We offer a different service to that provided by NGOs. We pay attention to the person, we take care of the whole man, in all its dimensions, spiritual, physical, psychological.

Fondacio knows how to listen to the existential needs of man today. Fondacio has the tools to answer the cries of the present-day world.

Story

How did I become a fire-breather in Colombia ?

by Maud LILETTE

Maud Lilette spent 6 months in Colombia as a volunteer for Oasis, Fondacio's project we presented in the previous Letter. She speaks of her experience lived on the ground, her meeting with young people from disadvantaged districts in Bogota.

Can you tell us what led you to the choice of spending six months as a volunteer in Colombia?

Since I was a child I wanted to work as a volunteer, giving a bit of my little life for others. Nearing the end of my studies and my entering in the working world, this experience seemed increasingly necessary to build my adult life. So I decided to "cut" my five years studies in an engineering school for food processing and have a year off in order to go.

How were you led to work with Fondacio?

In terms of Fondacio I "fell into when I was little." I did summer camps for couples and families at "la Feclaz", then 14-18 camps. My parents are very much involved in the mission "Couples and families". When I began my research for a project, having had an "overdose" of Fondacio when I was young, I said "anything except Fondacio!". But I did not want to leave for a full year and I wanted to go to Latin America, so I ended up filling a Fondacio's application proposing missions that met my criteria. Fondacio Colombia needed someone, the mission looked interesting, so I said YES!

What about your arrival, what did you discover, what was surprising, what were your potential difficulties?

At my arrival, I had to adapt myself to the language, the culture, but also to the way of working and planning: the way you manage a project however small it is, is not at

all the same in Colombia as in France. It was sometimes confusing and almost frustrating but I learned a lot. First of all you have to adopt or, at least, take into account, in every decisions, the Colombian culture, its approach of time which is different and assume that we will always meet people ready to give us a hand. But it is also to be patient, to observe, to listen, to ask for advice, when we Europeans, would already be three following steps ahead in the project. And at last to be positive: it can be done, and until the last minute believe in the impossible.

It might seem all roses, but in everyday life, it is not really easy to work on projects when you think that only half of them will be achieved or wait for an hour the person in charge to negotiate with bus drivers when we are already late. However it is also very surprising, because we, Europeans, are always astonished when someone offers to help us and gives some of his time freely.



Maud en pleine action !

One of the difficulties I encountered was when young people lied. When I hear a lie, I often feel hurt, deeply betrayed. But this life that young people think up, these poor excuses, have always a meaning. So I learned to accept these lies like the other things they confided to me, to stand back and not to think it was a personal attack. On the contrary, I tried to understand and help these youngsters to accept and dream their own reality.

Working with teenagers is a real treasure. They have their whole life ahead of them and everything is still possible, feasible, conceivable. This gives an energy that can move mountains !

At first I did not know what to do with myself during the day and finally I realized that doing everything with them, first brought me some sign of respect from them but also encouraged them. Then my words of encouragement had not the same value, it was “true, sincere” for them because I had lived the situations with them, I had a “rough” with them. In those moments, I was on “their side” and therefore more accessible than the French girl who lives so far and does not understand everything they say, it brought me closer to them.

What was your mission at Fondacio in Colombia? What was your work with young people?

My mission, far from my studies, was to take part in the implementation of a new solidarity and development project called OASIS in a tough district in Bogotá. This project aims to fight against youth violence.

We welcome young people every day of the week at “Casa Fondacio”, and we offer them activities to avoid them to “hang” in the street.

On Mondays : “*Emprendimiento*”, activities that enable them to project themselves into professional life “team-work”, “which place do I tend to take in a group?”, “Key points for a successful project” and, more simple, Brazilian bracelets, cooking lessons... So I led the workshops and was particularly responsible for cooking workshops.

On Tuesdays : Personal Development for 10-13 years old. I dealt with the group in the afternoon on topics such as “why are there rules,” “I acknowledge my roots,” body’s changes during adolescence. “

On Wednesdays : Personal Development for 14-17 years old. I was in charge of this activity. So I organized workshops to discover oneself. One day it was “my memories,” another day “boys, girls, our differences,” a day to discover one’s “talents” The aim was that these young people should have fun, have a good time, and always leave knowing more about themselves, or with a subject for thought.

On Thursdays : Acrobatic Salsa lesson. Diego, an organizer, gave lessons, and I learnt at the same time as young people.

On Fridays : “*Comparsa*”, which I could translate as “street theater”. Yimmy, another organizer, teaches young people how to stand on stilts (which explains, the name of the group 14-17, “*Ponte en Pié*” “put yourself up on your stilts and in your life”), how to spit fire, dance, beat the drum. But however everything has to be earned and a great physical work is done for each activity. During these days, I took part in all the exercises with the young people. I ran with them, did sit-ups with them, without any “measure of favor.” And I finally mounted on stilts with them,

I did my first steps with them, and I managed to walk perfectly well when we went out together in the steep streets of the district. I learn how to breath fire too and I am very proud of it!

What did you get out of this stay? Did your thinking and acting change in any way?

This mission has been a big step in my life. Now I feel I see things more clearly. Over there I had six months disconnected from “the madness of everyday life” when I never stopped. I had the possibility to settle myself. I met with myself, almost “forced” to “think” to consider what the orientations of my life were, to say “I choose” this because it is important to me and not because the situation is leading to this conclusion. I also feel I approach people more simply. And then I learnt patience, I reached a much higher level of “tolerance” and I know where my limits are. In short, I came back stronger, even if recently I feel quite fragile “emotionally”, I also know that this is a treasure and a strength.

To know more about Oasis project on the web site of Fondacio Columbia : <http://www.fondacio.org.co/>

To find Maud on her blog : <http://m.lillette.blog.free.fr/index.php?>



le groupe des 14-17 ans

Focus on... Solidarity and social programs in France

In order to echo the text proposed in our column “Food for thought” (p 12), we asked Benoit Akkaoui, head of the mission Fondacio France Solidarité / Activ’Présence, to tell us about two specific actions of this mission : work camps and reaching to the homeless.



Work camp d'Arcelat

In our actions regarding people with social problems, our basic premise which is our cornerstone in a Christian anthropology is to believe that beneficiaries, as well as any person, are a face of Christ. They receive the same love as any person. As we have been conceived “in the Father’s image” in each of them there is a sacred part which we have to go on revealing. For the persons we are with is not only a question of “restoring their dignity” it is a question of making them conscious of their own dignity, of the sacred part they carry in them. .

Every summer, we organize work camps which consist in spending 10 days around a common project : some work to do together such as the restoration of a house.

There are as many “beneficiaries” as “members of the welcome team”, we form a team of 16 to 20 people. Most of the beneficiaries are people at odds with social links. Most of the time they are in situations in which they feel useless, they have addictive conducts or they are trying to build themselves again after a difficult episode, like coming out of prison, or of a psychiatric hospital... Those who welcome them are members or friends of Fondacio,

sometimes volunteers or social workers from other structures with whom we work in cooperation.

Everybody is a volunteer on the site. We are simply united by sharing a common project, having a break in the country, in a restoring place; what is proposed is first of all to live an adventure with a group: our 20 years’ experience of work camps have taught us that experiencing a community life is one of the major ingredients for the success of such an action. Once the camp has begun, there is no real difference between beneficiaries and those welcoming them although, of course, the “welcomers” have previously decided which roles they would have (being responsible of the camp, for activities, for the cooking etc.) In a way it is a sort of family life that is taking place.

Every morning, after breakfast, the day begins with a sharing time for about an hour, during which everyone learns to express oneself, to listen to the other about subjects which lead to interiority. The goal is above all that “my word should be heard, that I could hear the word of the other.”: for us it is a question of helping everyone to realize he is a subject, to learn again to say “I”

In a day, there are about 5 hours of work on the site, interrupted by breaks and convivial moments which give place for leisure, activities of daily living as well as festive evenings. A full day of hiking is also planned on Sunday.

Sharing times, working on a project which enables us to reach together an objective and to create something beautiful, living in a

group with its rules, having obligation to respect a time-frame, living in tents, being nearby nature, all these elements act as a catalyst. The persons who accompany beneficiaries regularly say it. We have worked for 20 years in partnership with a Parisian association called “Liberation to the Captives.” This association regularly sends youngsters to take part in work camps with Fondacio. When they

Gilles (beneficiary) : *“Our joint wall-building work helped me to build the steps I will climb during next 20 years to leave darkness and reach enlightenment...”*

Zita (beneficiary) : *“Thanks to you, I experienced a personal feeling that I had forgotten since my African family life : to be myself among others, without guiltiness”. I am not a broken stone anymore, but a corner stone...”*

Sophie (welcome team) : *“.. Discovering one’s heart’s beauty all along work camps suggested to me a constant admiration. Brotherhood, mutual help and assistance, smiles and bearing, allowed each one to be easy with the group and act freely, as well as to trust each other and finally trust oneself...”*



Homeless in the street at Angers

come back, the association leaders and the social workers who daily follow these young people tell us how much their faces are transformed. What happened in 10 days for such a transformation to take place? We think that it is because we felt confident about everyone. It transformed their hearts. I say “they have faces of risen men.”

Of course, 10 days are not enough to enable a lasting transformation to take place. That’s why, after the camps, we see to offer them places and periods so that the work should continue in them, so that others might help them to gather the fruit of this intense period.

Those who are welcomed come from Fondacio, the “Secours Catholique” the association “Liberation to the captives” and this stay is part of a long term companionship.

Sister Emmanuelle once said to a prisoner she was supporting “I might have been in your place if I had had to face your temptations, maybe you’d be in my place if you had been protected like me”. Recognizing we belong to the same humanity enables communication to take place, to find ourselves on the same wave length in the frame of a work camp and this meeting becomes a reference point for those who are welcomed, for the rest of their itinerary.

Above all, we aim at enabling this fraternal relationship to emerge : I take into consideration what the other says, I hear it, I welcome it, what he does has value for me. This acknowledgement of the person is the cutting edge of all the projects of solidarity and integration of Fondacio France. Our job as leaders consists in putting people in contact with others, to enable them to exist in the eyes of others and thereby to contribute to enable them to exist in their own eyes, which is not a small matter. The hardest part of the work is that they should gain self esteem. Thus, I think that these 10 days’ work camps are doing a very good job, because each of us is part of this dynamic.

Another project that is close to our heart is to reach out

to homeless in the streets of Angers. Michel Goyallon, a permanent staff member of Fondacio France has enacted the project in partnership with “le Secours Catholique”. There are 35 youth involved in this project, they are organized into teams that rotate 3 times a week to meet people from the street with a soup or a coffee, soup and coffee are a pretext to start a talk. One might question the purpose of a project like this one. In fact, its purpose is twofold :

First of all it is social in the sense that it creates social link. It is done particularly in building regular relationship over the long term, which enables us to say “next week I’ll come back, will you be here?” and to establish a link, meaning “you are precious in my eyes. “ We are not the Social urgent medical service, the only objective being to create a bond, to enable them to exist in the eyes of another person.

It is also to change the eye of young people on poverty, to make them live human experiences which change the way they look at exclusion. This project is successful insofar that it turns these young people into citizens who have a different eye on poverty, which take it better into account in the perspective of a more fair society. This action does a wonderful job with these young people.

Through solidarity and social insertion projects of Fondacio France, I think that the challenge is really a question of humanizing our looks; As citizens, it seems to me that we do not act the same way in society whether we know the story of a guy from the street, or a migrant . We want to help eliminate prejudices and frights to make it possible to remove made up labels by giving a maximum of young people, members and friends of Fondacio the opportunity to meet people experiencing great precariousness even destitution. In a way it helps to get closer to our fellow creatures. It is our way to contribute to the emergence of a more just, more fraternal world ... and to the advent of the Kingdom !

The work camps in vidéo :

<http://www.dailymotion.com/Fondacio-communication#videoId=xfvux5>

To know more about the Fondacio’s social programs :

International : www.solidaires.fondacio.org

France : www.fondacio.fr



The Council's activity :

Following the meeting of countries and missions' leaders in March, the Council met with leaders of Fondacio Belgium and Fondacio France.

The Council's meeting was held in Belgium, from 16th to 20th May, the agenda included in particular the next Congress, the evolution of the organization at the headquarters and those who are responsible for missions and the Provisional Plan of Action of the second part of the mandate .

The next council will be held from November 21st to 25th .Its objective will be the preparation of the next Congress, in May 2013, and the setting of the synod process.

From May 5th to 20th : Sylvie Barth's visited West Africa (Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo) for the mission Couples and Families.

Arrival of Father Christian Dioré who was appointed assistant priest of Fondacio by the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Belgium

February 12th-13th and April 1st, 2nd, 3rd: Weekend "Young disciples for 17-25 year's old. The topics were : "My emotional life" and "Towards a New Life". These meetings'aim is to provide a way of going into fields deeply, such as spiritual life, knowledge of oneself in relation to others and today's world and of understanding the mystery of Christian faith and its link with our lives.

March 21st : the lecture-debate with Lytta Basset about her latest book "Loving without devouring" had a huge success, in front of a packed room.



May 15th : Last day of the three days of SOLO FORUM on the topic: "Jesus, an active presence that makes our lives human."

Chile

March 12th : 1st Community meeting of the Year. At the end of the summer vacation, we launched our community year. We were happy to be together to pray, sing, share and confide in the Lord our lives and actions, thanking Him in a Eucharist celebrated at the end of the day, knowing that He loves us, He loves our community Fondacio, accompanies us and will always accompany us.

March 20th : Launching Day for the young teenagers' community group. The preparation and animation was done mainly by young people about the meaning of the commitment to Christ, and how to live it in all the sectors of their lives. 35 youth from 13 to 19 years old participated.



April 15, 16 and 17th : Weekend "Living with the Spirit" for teenagers. About thirty youngsters met at the seaside to deepen their relationship and welcome God's love, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, with times for prayer, artistic expression, relaxation, festive moments.

France

March 12 and 13th : Weekend "Living in couples, is it possible?" A real spring sunshine to welcome the 75 participants at the weekend, it was the fifth edition. The variety of the exchanges of these two days is an invitation to get on the move and go step by step with confidence and realism. Finally, these two days were dense, deep and light at the same time, with a good sense of humor .



Here are some echoes of the conclusions drawn at the end of the weekend:

"I leave fully re-inflated! – I had partly lost confidence for walking along in couples, I want to continue - In this area, it's worth it to boost oneself - I have the tools, it is up to me, to us, to build now - A happy couple is a couple who works on his(her) couple and there are means for that - I thank the men who showed their vulnerability."

March 26th- 27th : Week-end "betting for the Gospel" There were about 200 people at the Ermitage. This session which is organized by Fondacio every year invites us to listen to these inward calls, they have always been there,

and we must try to see how to give them life today. The whole pedagogy of these two days aims at supporting this process.

April 18th to 23rd St Pierre Quiberon : Camp for the 12-14 years old “Adventurers of life” a proposal very successful every year. We cannot accept all the youngsters who would like to come because we are booked up. It is an opportunity for a deep experience, full of good will, life, sports, creative workshops, but also full of exchanges, meetings and spiritual moments. It enables us to deal with themes about which the young have questioned us, such as poverty, sufferings, racism, war, self confidence, conversion. It is done by means of experience, through meetings with witnesses who have been in these situations.

Rumania

April 9th-10th : Primavera Adolescentilor (youngsters’ Spring) : an event for youngsters organized by Sibiu Community about Easter’s theme,



with Astra museum and Sibiu’s faculty of orthodox theology as partners : young people learnt how to paint Easter eggs according to tradition. They could also attend lectures and religious services.

April 30th – May 1st : The young members of the association met for Easter at the monastery of Sambata de Sus : in order to enter the spirituality of Easter, to think of the Summer Forum.

Since October : “Dialogues for the faith” it is a meeting of young people from 18 to 25 years old. It takes place in Bucarest every two weeks with various activities to make them aware of the problems of faith : catechism, films, pilgrims.

Togo

February 13th 2011 : Celebration of the priestly golden jubilee of the V.R.F. Pierre Dovi N’DANU-ALIPUI, who accompanies Fondacio Togo, with the community, members and friends. The organization and celebration of this jubilee were lived as an open day on Fondacio during which different political, administrative, religious and traditional authorities were able to discover and appreciate FondacioTogo It was presented globally, with its



activities, and the way covered from the beginning to the present time.

The community is specially dynamic in evangelizing : young people’s forum (147 participants) Youth Camps (300 participants), open days.

This work has born fruit and given birth to two other youth groups, which makes 4 groups for Togo.



April 2nd – 14th : Mission Trip to Cambodia, Vietnam. Upon the invitation of the Vicariate of Phnom Penh, Fondacio Asia Youth Pastoral, which is an initiative of both Fondacio Asia and IFFAsia, sent a mission team to conduct a leadership training program for the vicariate’s youth leaders. After this, the team facilitated a youth camp.

In a dialogue held, Bishop Olivier Schmitthausler, MEP, expressed his joy regarding this new collaboration and will continue to invite Fondacio in support of formation for the lay.



From January 17th to February 15th : The fifth batch of Basic Formation students, in Sabah, East Malaysia, spent a month in mission in collaboration with the 3 Dioceses of Kota Kinabalu, Keningau and Sandakan. This program was part of the students’ socio-pastoral studies. Together with the interns and staff, the students were introduced to a wider context of understanding mission in Asia, within the socio-economic-political and multicultural-religious dimension. It tested the students’ capacity to put to practice all the theories



that they learned during the past eight months.

The mission program was equally beneficial to both IFFAsia students and to the participating Dioceses themselves. It tackled topics on family and youth, media and its influences, Islamization, inter-religious dialogues and Migration. The students and the locals immersed together in the different situations. Students learned how the local Church is responding to these issues, whether effectively or faced with difficulties and challenges.

April-may : Summer Discipleship Program : a series of 5 sessions being held by IFFAsia, through its Laity in Mission Program and the Youth Pastoral Program. Participants to these different programs are members of the Fondacio Asia communities, and graduates and staff of IFFAsia.: “Strategic Pastoral Planning”, “Introduction to the Spirituality of Fondacio” , “Jesus, the Pastor”, “Discernement”, “Training the Trainors for the Youth Ministry”.

June 12 th, Pentecost sunday : Lauching of the school year 2011-2012

The 6th batch of students for Basic Formation program started on May 6th with some preparatory work. The students are coming from Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, China, Mongolia, and the Philippines.

Philippines

April 17th : “Singing for the Missions”, is a fund-raising concert initiated by Fondacio Philippines. Proceeds from this concert will help support the different social development projects of the community in Payatas and in Davao, as well as IFFAsia.

The concert featured the internationally acclaimed, and multi-awarded Hail Mary the Queen Children’s Choir.

Marie François has left us

Those who are Fondacio’s seniors have known Marie François, Alain and Patrick’s sister, a member in 1975, nearly at the beginning of our community, a permanent till 1991. Marie died on Thursday June 9th. She left her mark on our community, in her commitment in the youth and full time involvement missions, in her gift for accompaniment and formation, in her devotion in the setting up of the CIRFA (today FFI Europe) which enabled a lot of young people to find a place of human, spiritual and vocational formation. From that period she will keep sound and unfailing friends. After leaving the community in 1991, in a difficult and painful period, she committed herself for twenty years in the diocese of Poitiers. She brought them her educational abilities and her spiritual experience. Above all, Marie liked meeting people, having contacts and her testifying to her love for God remains vivid among us and on our path.



ZeBible, the other experience ! The printed edition of this Bible for young people has come out !

ZeBible's ambition is to inspire young people to open the Bible, to become familiar with its texts and find benchmarks for their lives.

This project was initiated 7 years ago by Elisabeth Terrien from Fondacio with the French Biblical Alliance and a dozen partners. They have pooled their experience and savoir-faire with young people. 112 biblical scholars and people responsible for youth from all sides of faith (Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical and Orthodox) and from the French-speaking world were asked to write the tools that go with the texts of the Bible.

Owing to an original and innovative pedagogy, thought from social and cultural practices, the challenge was met by this complete edition of the Bible that offers multiple entry points in the text, reading programs, thematic routes in line with the query fields of youth and a multiplicity of reading aids.

An open approach to the Bible, without religious bias where each reader has the opportunity to organize its own path and build its own answers. It was published in May 14th, 2011, 25,000 copies have already been sold.

ZeBible is not just a book, it offers a different experience with a website www.zebible.com and a Facebook page that offer many additional resources such as access to the full Bible text, a monthly magazine with interviews in connection with topicality, the ability to interact with users through the tools of the community Web (discussion forums, personal profiles, internal messaging). A set that favors exchange and active participation and is an appropriate proposal in line with the practices and attitudes of this generation.

Fondacio which is part of the initiators of this project, makes endless initiatives especially in France (www.fondacio.fr), Belgium (www.fondacio.be) but also in Africa.

Many presentations were made in France with different groups of people with responsibilities in Fondacio.

After presenting the project on February 9th to pastoral entities, Christian journalists, Protestant, Evangelical and Orthodox personalities, Fondacio Belgium and the Belgian Bible Society rally in organizing an event in September 2011 .

The leader of Togo Fondacio, Gabriel Amouzou, was trained to use the site www.zebible.com and the youth of Fondacio Togo and the project ANGE have signed up for the contest zebible9.

Fondacio offers members and friends of the community special conditions for the purchase of this book:

- Fondacio members enjoy a special rate
- A "payback" for youth projects will be given to Fondacio in proportion to its contribution to patronage. So there is a strong interest in our participation in the commercial success of this Bible.

Coordination Africa hoped to have 2,000 Bibles. They think they can pay 2000 FCFA / Bible. Here is the opportunity to show our solidarity between our communities and to enable young people in French speaking Africa where Fondacio is present to be able to get it.

Members who wish to buy ZeBible can ask Dominique Glorieux (d.glorieux@fondacio.org).

Fighting exclusion : innering a radical change of perception

In this extract from “Extreme Poverty and World Governance” , proposals paper for the Forum for a New World Governance, Xavier Godinot, head of the Pacific Ocean Department, and Thierry Viard, head of the international dept, both from ATD-Quart-Monde, call our attention to one’s personal and collective quest to change its mind and relation to the poorest and excluded people.

As recent political science studies rightly underline, taking part in a social movement fighting extreme poverty is not confined to protest motivated by self-interest, or to promoting a vision of a fair society. It also entails a life-style choice, experiencing your involvement as a way of working on yourself, facing up to moral issues, expressing untapped creativity, seeking to give the very best of yourself. It is a personal and collective quest and journey as much as an attempt to find a solution to a social problem.

During a speech he gave in New York in December 1983, Joseph Wresinski said: “Eradicating extreme poverty is not simply about handing out dollars or planning development programmes in offices (...) Eliminating extreme poverty requires us to meet men and women face to face. It requires us to look for them in the places they inhabit, not to educate them, but for them to teach us how valid our convictions are, to learn from them who they are and what they expect from us.” Wresinski emphasized the need to counter the approach based on planning with an approach based on researching, on the conviction that destitution is not just a problem stemming from material extreme poverty, but also from social exclusion and contempt. The opposite of social exclusion and contempt is social recognition, which requires a deep-reaching change in the relationship between included and excluded helper and helpee. Jeffrey Sachs does not examine or engage in this question of social recognition. William Easterly showed that it does not only concern relations between individuals, but also between the West and developing countries. If the West



were to acknowledge that it does not hold the solutions that developing countries should adopt, but that they should look for them together, the relations between the two would change drastically. “We should have the humility to recognize that in terms of human rights and democracy, there are no masters; we are all novices who have much to learn and understand (...) The global approach to human rights that takes the low point of extreme poverty as its starting point puts us all on the same level.” Christopher Winship, sociology professor at Harvard University,

defines Wresinski’s innovative ideas thus: “He calls us to understand poverty not just as destitution or oppression but as social isolation. This isolation is created by us all to the degree that we live apart from the poor and fail to understand that their fate is ours.”

If destitution is not simply a problem rooted in material extreme poverty but also in rejection, scorn and social exclusion, then economic, scientific and technical progress is useful but not enough to eradicate it. The fight against extreme poverty does have scientific, economic and political aspects, but it also has cultural and spiritual dimensions, as clearly demonstrated by the anti-slavery fight, non-violent liberation movements led by Mahatma Gandhi and Reverend Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela’s anti-apartheid movement. René Cassin, author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stated that it is “a document that aims to turn us towards helping others. Each person should feel indebted and the guarantor of the rights of other individuals” as part of a process of a «spirituality of human rights» and

responsibilities.

Current sociological and anthropological knowledge shows us that exclusion arises throughout the centuries and in all civilizations. Every society has its share of human beings whose humanity is questioned, for a variety of reasons. Everyone has within them a share of “anthropological cruelty” contained by barriers that are social rather than individual. The fear of disorder, insecurity, impurity, contamination and being cursed focuses on the populations the furthest from established norms, with the consequent attempt to get rid of them in one way or another, including by physical elimination.

Fear is at the root of the processes operating to make evil and social injustice acceptable. This means that the violence, sometimes in its extreme form, imposed on certain categories of people ends up being seen as normal. When neither the fear you feel yourself when confronted with people disfigured by extreme poverty nor their suffering are acknowledged,

the conditions are right for these people to be disqualified and forced to play the role of scapegoat, responsible for the ills society cannot resolve. Long-standing prejudices distinguishing the “deserving poor”, who have to be helped, from the “undeserving poor”, who have to be punished, and encouraging the belief that all societies have a scrapheap help to legitimize the violence meted out to the groups of people disqualified in this way.

On the other hand, an inner recognition of the suffering, fragility and hopes of the people who endure extreme poverty often underpins an alliance with those people, a commitment to take action on their behalf. Meeting and acknowledging the people who are most disfigured by extreme poverty as our equals, in dignity and in law, requires a difficult and ongoing process of soul-searching, made easier if supported by a collective process. This is vital work in ensuring that the rejected receive the recognition they urgently need, because it will give them the strength to forge ahead. Wresinski confirms the urgent need to meet their deep-seated aspirations: “The thing that the most disadvantaged constantly seek is consideration. Anyone who has always received it cannot imagine what it is like to be without it. More important than bread, the way in which others react to you, treat you, respect you is what really counts.” Fabrice Matsima,



who has first-hand experience of exclusion in France, illustrates this point with his beautiful and evocative words: “There are looks which make us wither, which kill us. The look that categorizes us, gives us a label, and it’s hard to peel off. But a positive look keeps us alive, as though we were drinking water from a stream. It irrigates our brain and our whole body. It gives us the strength to forge ahead.” Getting close to the poorest in order to recognize them as your equal entails making a commitment and difficult personal choices.

In order to eradicate extreme poverty, Wresinski suggests seeing people living in poverty not only as our equals, but also as a benchmark for our own progress.

“The message we bear is universal. What really counts is man. The more he is abandoned, scorned, crushed, the more value he has. This message (...) is inscribed in the history of humanity by all the men and women who have illustrated it down through the centuries, by all the peoples who have waited and

still wait for the primacy of man in the world to be fulfilled.” This proposition and its understanding of relations between humans constitutes a real Copernican revolution that overturns the usual vision of such relations. Wresinski thus tells us that the poorest themselves, if we accept them as partners and guides, hold the keys to our personal liberation and progress of our societies. It posits a radical change of perception, transforming the basis of our relationship with the poorest from charity to mutual exchange.

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For a better knowledge of ATD Quart-Monde :
<http://www.atd-quartmonde.org/>

The letter from James

St James's letter puts forward tools to invite us to live in an other way. It invites us to change, in our interpretation of faith as well as in our practice. These instructions are given caring for demand and consistency between faith and deeds, between what we are and what we do, this consistency can be found in a face à face with ourselves and with God and to let ourselves be thoroughly transformed by the meeting with God and the other.

“

2.1. My brothers, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

2 For if a man with gold rings on his fingers and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in,

3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here, please,” while you say to the poor one, “Stand there,” or “Sit at my feet,”

4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs? 2

5 Listen, my beloved brothers. Did not God choose those who are poor 3 in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

6 But you dishonored the poor person. Are not the rich oppressing you? And do they themselves not haul you off to court?

7 Is it not they who blaspheme the noble name that was invoked over you?

8 However, if you fulfill the royal 4 law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

10 For whoever keeps the whole law, but falls short in one particular, has become guilty in respect to all of it.

11 For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not kill.” Even if you do not commit adultery but kill, you have become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak and so act as people who will be judged by the law of freedom. 5

13 For the judgment is merciless to one who has not shown mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day,

16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?

17 So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 Indeed someone might say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

19 You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble.

20 Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar?

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works.

23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called “the friend of God.”

24 See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

25 And in the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by a different route?

26 For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

”

(Saint James's letter chapter 2)

“As believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, you must never treat people in different ways according to their outward appearance.”: you immediately establish a non-distinction between persons in the sight of God, Father, Son and Spirit. This is indeed one of the major point of this chapter of St James’s letter, written around 56. Taking into account this non-distinction is to understand that Jesus Christ, sent by the Father with whom he shares the Spirit, is by no means divided, He loves all men without distinction: the gospel shows the “to the end” of that love which leads him to forgive his own executioners: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

By examining the Scriptures, as James does in his letter, you realize that the God of the Alliance wants salvation for all: He does not distinguish between people.

The only truth culminates in Jesus Christ: God is “Our Father,” the father of many brothers. He is not the father of some privileged, who would be His favorite, rejecting others because not complying with the law. We must then try to understand what the heart of God’s law is. It takes a few simple, known forever, everlasting words: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as you love yourself. And only Jesus of Nazareth, the only son of the Father, will complete this perfect law (Psalm 18 B), by supplementing it: *“Love one another as I have loved you.”* God’s law consists in loving as Christ loves and it is the main article. With regards to this, any human being is the same, with its differences and uniqueness. But he is above all - and nobody ever said that this is easy! - invited to love as Christ loves. Nothing more, nothing less and nothing less than perfectly, that is to say, as God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, loves. This one is poor? The law prompts him to love any other person including the one who has more material resources than him, without hating him, without

coveting his property, without looking at him as an enemy. This one is rich? The law asks him not to like only those who are like him, not to despise those who do not have the same property, to find the right means of sharing. The rich man is a man, a child of the Father, a brother of the only Son, living of the same breath of life. It is the same for the poor. And everyone has the “legal” duty to love one’s neighbor, provided he meets the first term of this contract of alliance: it is not a question of “accepting” one’s poor or rich condition, but to love like a human being who is lovable, worthy of giving and deserving to receive the invisible nature of love, unique wealth because it is destined for everyone, given to each, equally, from God. To borrow the title of the book by Emanuel Levinas, the meaning of life is in the fact of looking at the other as another self and *“oneself as someone else”*

“Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor ... !” Jesus of Nazareth cried out in his Sermon on the Mount. This can only be the ultimate conclusion: one who accepts to bare his heart and look at the naked heart of any other is poor. Because loving is the greatest weakness, because begging for love is the greatest humility. A “rich” like a “poor” are equal before the value of the saving love: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son (...) so that through him the world might be saved. (Jn 3:16-17).

Thierry Bezar





From August 15 to 21 - Madrid, Spain : JM|
info : www.fondacio.fr

From August 22 to 28 : International meeting of the Fondacio's responsables for youth at Angers.

Belgium

July 2 to 8: in Alsace, camp "let's go" for 14-17 years old

Contact: simon-philippe@ccj-fondacio.be

From July 2 to July 9: Mess'Aje: fourth threshold of faith: THE CHURCH

Contact: isabellepirlet@gmail.com

July 20 to 24: Ciney Session "Love and build one's couple"

Contact: couples-familles@fondacio.be
info : www.fondacio.be

Chile

July 12 to 14 at Los Almendros: Workshop: keys for reading the Bible.

Given by Dr. Ariel Alvarez, argentinian theologian and exegete

info : www.fondacio.cl

France

July

From July 11 to 14 - on Quiberon Peninsula: Couple Session "Quiberon"

You wish to react, to post your comments or suggestions, to ask for information

communication@fondacio.org

If you wish to support us (donation, voluntary work),

www.solidaires.fondacio.org

From July 11 to 17 - Le Mourtis, Pyrenees: Teens' Camps "

From July 17 to 23 - Valloire in the Alps: Session "Praying and hiking"

From July 18 to 24 - The Mourtis, Pyrenees: Teens' Camps "Growing gracefully "

From July 19 to 28 - Salvart (near Poitiers): Activ'Présence Camp sites

From July 25 to 31 - Le Mourtis, Pyrenees: Teens' Camps " Growing gracefully"

July 27 to Aug. 4 - at Sappel (Chuzelles les Pins): Activ'Présence Sessions "Choose Life"

July 31 to August 6 - Temple sur Lot, between Toulouse and Bordeaux: Family Session "Lot and Garonne"

August 2011

From August 3 to 10 - at St. Bernard du Touvet: Activ'Présence sessions "Who will show us happiness?"

From August 9 to 18 - Arcelot (near Dijon): Activ'Présence Camp sites

info : www.fondacio.fr

Romania

From July 4 to 8: at Tismana Monastery, summer camps for teenagers "Vara Adolescentilor" (summer youth)

July 25 to 31: Summer Forum in Sambata de Sus monastery: "Tinerete si Speranta - despre Bucurie" (Youth and hope on the theme of joy)

info : www.aoln.ro



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