JOINT PROJECT OF THE RESEARCH GROUP AT ROMEROHAUS, LUCERNE, AND THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE (UNIVERSITÄRE HOCHSCHULE LUZERN)

“Inculturation between Tradition and Modernity: Contexts--Concepts--Models”

Concept: Anton Peter / Direction: Fritz Frei
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Articles published in language of authors (German, English, French, Spanish)

Collaboration of participants at 2000 IAMS Conference: Philomena N. Mwaura (Nairobi), Katja Heidemanns (Aachen), Robert J. Schreiter (Chicago)

Aims of the Project:
* understanding the actual processes of inculturation. How do they work? Can one recognize basic structures in the processes of inculturation which are generally applicable?
* Finding criteria relevant to inculturation processes. What is actually the Christian identity in the diversity of cultural systems? How does Christian identity relate to the cultural identity of a particular group or people?
* Clarifying the question of whether exterior influences of modernity can or should be controlled or kept in check by certain norms or criteria.

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PROFILE OF EVANGELIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Project of the Chair of Missiology in Cracow, Poland.

Results of the trips and field surveys in 1997, 1998 and 1999 into Central Asia. The republics of Central Asia have become a new mission field.
Goal: Religions in Asia; Perspective of Mission.

Methods: Field research; library studies. Lectures and Seminars.

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HISTORY OF THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

Goal: The goal of this project is to produce a two-volume introductory church history textbook which reflects the global (ecumenical) nature of Christianity at the dawning of the third millennium.

Concept: This global church history is being written by a “community of scholars” from around the world. There are two authors to insure some consistence of style and language (Dale Irvin for Vol. I and Scott Sunquist for Vol. II), but semi-annual working consultations work on the outline and basic content. It is hoped that this process will give a new relevance to church history, especially for young theology students in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In a sense, the non-western center of Christianity will become the main story.

Progress: Volume I is nearly completed. We are looking for professors to “field test” the volume, which covers the years 33 C.E. to 1453 CE, in small classes. We will provide five copies if someone is interested. Volume II is outlined and being written. The fourth consultation took place in Pittsburgh, USA in May of 2000.

Support: Orbis Books and the Luce Foundation.

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“LISTEN FIRST, SPEAK LATER”: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH PROJECT

The aim is to promote broad and varied experimentation with a particular method of ethnography--writing short profiles of cultural values