

INTERCHURCH FAMILIES: ISSUES AND REFLECTIONS (IFIR) is an email newsletter compiled once or twice each year. It goes to those who send an email to ray.temmerman@shaw.ca asking to be added to the IFIR list. Those who want to unsubscribe can do the same. Ray Temmerman is responsible for the international Interchurch Families website. You can find the latest version of the IFIR, and older ones, at www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/index.shtm.

IFIR is intended for interchurch families (usually where one partner is Roman Catholic and the other a Christian of another communion) and all concerned for their welfare. It continues the work of the Interchurch Families journal, published by the British Association of Interchurch Families (1993-2004) and the email newsletter Issues, Reflections, News (2004-5). Articles and resources are placed directly on the website and the letter draws attention to the new material. The editor, Ruth Reardon, can be contacted by email to aifreardon@talk21.com For international news and reports collected together by Melanie Finch go to: www.interchurchfamilies.org/intl/index.shtm

IARCCUM reports

In the year 2000 the primates and bishops of the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion who met at Mississauga, Toronto decided to harvest the fruits of forty years of theological dialogue. Besides setting out the theological consensus reached, they intended to translate the degree of spiritual communion that had been achieved into visible and practical outcomes.

A new Commission was set up to prepare a Joint Declaration of Agreement, and to initiate practical ways of acting together in unity and mission: the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission (IARCCUM).

Our first short study in this number of IFIR looks at how this process has affected, or could affect, interchurch families, comparing what was said about them at Mississauga with what appears in the IARCCUM Report of 2007, and a possible follow-up.

The Third European Ecumenical Assembly Sibiu, Romania, 4-9 September 2007

Following the Rome Gathering of Interchurch Families in 2003, Pastor Jean-Baptiste Lipp of the Swiss association organised a visit by the European members of the Interchurch Families International Network (IFIN) to the headquarters of the Council of European Catholic Episcopal Conferences (CCEE) at St Gallen. Amongst other things we discussed with the General Secretary Mgr Aldo Giordano how interchurch families might participate in the Sibiu Assembly. Later we visited CEC (the Conference of European Churches – Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant) in Geneva. (As national groups we had been in the *agora* at Graz, the Second European Ecumenical Assembly in 1997, but there were to be no general invitations to an *agora* at Sibiu, a smaller gathering mainly of church delegations.)

We were delighted to be invited to send 12 representatives of the European IFIN network as delegates to Sibiu. Unlike the church delegations we belonged, as it were, to both CCEE and CEC, the two organising bodies (although our preliminary correspondence had been with CCEE, so at registration we went in through the CCEE door).

The double belonging caused some confusion – the two English delegates were assigned to different hotels by CCEE and CEC. Because of pressure on space their places at both were taken by others – so for part of the Assembly they were put into one of the central top hotels with church leaders and dignitaries!

We include in this IFIR four presentations given at the interchurch families' hearing at Sibiu.

New on the website:

- **IARCCUM an interchurch family view**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir07-200710iarccum.pdf
- **Ten creative years: 1959-1970**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir07-200710beaupère.pdf
- **A history of the English AIF**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir07-200710reardon.pdf
- **Loving the universal church**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir07-200710lipp.pdf
- **Are interchurch families domestic churches?**
www.interchurchfamilies.org/ifir/2007/ifir07-200710knieps.pdf