CHRISTIAN MEDITATION BLOG IN ARGENTINA

We invite you to visit our blog www.meditacioncristianagrupos.blogspot.com

where we have links to many sites of the WCCM in Spanish, Portuguese and English. You also can find information about events in Argentina, and varied resources for personal and group Christian Meditation, for opening new groups, and to new links contact for meditators. The blog has currently 75 followers and more than 8200 visits since July 2010.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA

Magdalena Puebla * mlizarralde33@gmail.com

Father Laurence Freeman will visit Argentina in November. We'll offer a retreat of silence and meditation: "The Stages of Attention: Christian meditation and prayer of the heart" in the Bethany Retreat House, La Falda, Cordoba, from Friday, November 4 to Sunday, November 6.

In addition, the city of Buenos Aires will present Fr. Laurence talk at the University of Salvador: "Different types of poverty: contemplation as silent revolution" on Monday, November 7, 2011, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Psychology, del Salvador University, and the interreligious panel "A Spirituality for Our Time: Interreligious Dialogue" on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at the School of Oriental Studies at the University del Salvador. Will participate in the panel father Laurence Freeman OSB of Catholic Christianity and leading representatives of Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and the psychology of spirituality.

School for Christian Meditation / Argentina. City of Cordoba. Father Sergio Mancini has been appointed to implement, manage and promote the School for Christian Meditation in Argentina. To this end, from the province of Cordoba, where he resides, has formed a team and begin classes as follows: every first Friday of each month - 19:30 to 22:00., Starts on Friday 3 June 2011, with free entry in the parish "The Lord of Miracles and the Miracle Virgin of the City of Cordoba. Reports: escuelademeditacioncristianacba@hotmail.com.

Publication of the WCCM International Newsletter in Spanish: Marina Müller coordinates and organizes this quarterly publication that comes from the world community based in London. To the original's literal translation are added updates to Latin American countries and Spain, thus allowing the flow of communication of news in Spanish speaking countries. Reports: Marina Müller meditación.cristiana.grupos @ gmail.com

Introductory Meditation course according to Christian tradition: the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Psychology at the University del Salvador, began again the Introductory Meditation Course according to Christian tradition, on 23 May. Will continue every Monday from 12.30 to 13.45 for 7 consecutive Mondays. The first meeting was attended by 25 people. After the talk, there was a 30-minute meditation and became a final exchange based on questions from the attendees regarding this form of contemplative prayer.

March 26 was the Day for MC group leaders, "Training and experience to lead a group of MC: combining strategies and experiences of the leaders of groups" which outlined the activities in the Cathedral of Quilmes, the Basilica María Auxiliadora de Almagro, the Sanctuary of Lourdes in Santos Lugares, the San Francisco of Assisi Parish in Tigre, the parish St. Mary of Caballito, NS and N. Ms. Del Milagro Parrish, Cordoba, the parish N. Ms. de la Guardia, Victoria, Mar del Plata, Instituto Peralta Ramos, in a prison in Mendoza, the University del Salvador, in a Cañuelas' parish, preparing for confirmation, in various family houses, each of which some people attend to meditate, both in the city of Buenos Aires and in inner cities, in the Argentine blog, where we incorporate information and training material. The newly created School of Meditation is thought to increase personal training experience and support it with knowledge. It speaks of the need to strengthen both local and international exchanges, since there has long been the School of Meditation at the international level, led by Kim Nataraja, who is required to maintain communication. It aims to open the project to the possibility of being replicated across the country, following the guidelines of the WCCM with input from local initiative. Magdalena Puebla gave a talk on the MC group, its

objectives and its functioning, taking concepts from the book of Paul Harris, C.M. Frequently asked questions.



Some participants of the Day for MC group leaders

As group leaders, we need to know to whom we will integrate into a group that is working, with a preliminary interview where we also do a meditation experience. We feel responsible for the image we give to the Community and other groups or individuals, therefore, we are careful in our explanations and expressions, because we are representing the Community image. In Rosario de Lerma, Salta, March 12, was held a day of meditation with lectures on interreligious dialogue by Magdalena Puebla, national coordinator.

In Buenos Aires, Saturday 5 March, we held a Workshop for Christian Meditation from 10 to 18 hours. Lunch and snacks were shared in an atmosphere of warmth and sharing, which suggested teachings and practiced meditation at several times, clarifying various issues relating to the meditation practice according to the Christian tradition. Magdalena Puebla explained who we are in the WCCM in Argentina, and referred to the importance of silence for the self, and live with the distractions on the path of meditation. Juana Páez gave a talk on the theoretical and practical preparation of the body for stillness, and Marina Müller referred to the history of meditation in the Christian tradition. The participants shared how they began the path of meditation, what are their questions about it, and what they expect from the MC group and their coordinators. At the end of the workshop, all expressed their appreciation for the participation in the meeting. For June 18 is planned another meeting for MC group leaders.

* Magdalena Puebla is National Coordinator of Argentina.

REGIONAL NATIONAL COORDINATORS' MEETING IN BRAZIL From 9

to 11th November 2011, in Rio de Janeiro.

Ana Fonseca, ana.fonseca@umusic.com *

In the meeting will participate National Coordinators and key community members of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, invited by Fr. Laurence, as follows:

"As this year is the 20th anniversary of the World Community and the first full year of our Meditatio program this will be an especially significant reunion. We can, as before, enjoy each others' company as sharers in this great vision. We will assist, inspire and mentor each other as the Spirit leads.

We need also to discuss a new change to the WCCM Constitution which recognizes the evolution of the National Coordinators as a group in the life and governance of the community. We intend to allocate three places on the Guiding Board to National Coordinators and I would like to discuss with you what this means for your region."

*Ana Fonseca is Latin American WCCM's Coordinator

THE WORLD COMMUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN MEDITATION IN MEXICO

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Mexico City: We have a Christian Meditation Center called Calix, where three groups meet regularly. Three years ago we started teaching Christian Meditation in catholic schools in the Mexico City area. There are approximately 1560 children, 5 to 12 years old, meditating three times a week.

Archdiocese of Mexico city: After F. Laurence's visit to the Archdiocese in November 2010, we were asked by the vicar for the laity to elaborate a teaching program for Christian Meditation. We had a first meeting on April 25 2011, where we gave an introduction to christian meditation and meditated with representatives from various parishes. We are invited to participate on the 28 and 29 of May in the Laity Congress.

Other cities in Mexico: We have Christian Meditation groups in Ixtapa, Pachuca, Guadalajara, Cuernavaca, Puebla, San Luis Potosí, Villahermosa, Saltillo, Coahuila and Torreón, where there is a children meditation group in St. Judas Parish.

Internet:We have 4644 current members that receive the Community news.We have 1074 members in a virtual forum that has a good level of information interchange. We also created the "Meditate with a friend" program, that has 406 participants now.

Other Communities. Anglican Community in Cuernavaca: we have been talking with members of the Anglican Community in Cuernavaca, they asked that we give a meditation workshop, which took place on March 11, and they are about to create a meditation group within their parishes.

Retreats: we organized a three day retreat in Cintalapa, Chiapas, May 13 to May 15, 2011.



Participants of the Retreat in Cintalapa

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN MEDIATION COMMUNITY IN PARAGUAY

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We had a half day retreat on Saturday, April 16, in preparation for the Holy Week. The main theme was "forgiveness". Mary Meyer, one meditator, prepared a brief of Fr. Freeman's talks on forgiveness. We watched a power point presentation and then had a moment to meditate. Once again we corroborated the importance of been in silence together and the final sharing. Both things complement each other and bear fruit. We each shared how the subject touched us and our personal experiences with forgiveness. It was a moment of richness and depth.

While organizing this workshop we realized that the group of meditators in Paraguay is becoming strong and we all want to contribute (inviting people, preparing talks, translating, organising the breaks, etc.). We are consolidating as a group that grows in interior life and sense of community. We don't have to let it go to waste.

We are planning organizing another short retreat on June 18th, 2011.



More news: we put Spanish subtitles to three Fr. Freeman's videos, Attention, Martha and Mary and Silence in the city. They can be seen in YouTube.

*Ada Centurion is Paraguay's National Coordinator.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION IN URUGUAY

Teresa Decker, decker26@gmail.com *

Christian meditation has been functioning in Uruguay since 2007 when a small group led by a Brazilian diplomat, Carlos Reis, started meeting once per month in San Alejandro's Parrish with the approval and presence of Fr. Daniel Kervel. Soon we met every Tuesdays.

Another small group started meeting in a private house every Thursdays and lately also on Mondays, where we start with yoga stretching and breathing exercises, after which we meditate for 20 minutes.

Interest is growing slowly and two more groups, always small in number are forming. Uruguayan people are very sceptical, afraid of being cheated, so it will take time for them to realize how much they need meditation in order to cope with this mad world.

*Teresa Decker is Uruguay's National Coordinator

THE SPIRIT BLOWS HIS WIND IN VENEZUELA: JAN-MAY 2011

Antonio Sosa * wccm.venezuela@gmail.com

The community in Venezuela started this year with a special momentum. We organized the first Mini-Retreat of silence and meditation of the year: a whole Saturday morning (7am-1pm) where we gather together in one of our private homes 25 newcomers to Christian Meditation to teach them how to meditate in this tradition, the story of John Main and F. Laurence, the development of the community in the world, and the key role of meditation for the reanimation of our christian life. Usually at the end of the retreat we hold our Caracas coordinators meeting.

We opened the second of two Study Groups linked to two Meditation Groups (Cumbres and La Trinidad), where the group members read texts that helped them deepen their understanding of the Biblical roots of contemplative prayer and the teachings of the Desert Fathers. We also published an article about "Meditation as the Pastoral Practice of Silence" in the weekley newpaper La Iglesia Ahora (The Church Now), the official catholic newspaper in Venezuela. Two of our groups coordinators were interviewed by one of the venezuelan Catholic TV stations.

But the highlight of the season was the realization of a weekend retreat of silence and meditation for 60 people in Mazzarello Retreat House in caracas, led by F. Laurence. The title: When I meditate nothing happens, but my life is transformed. For this visit we also organized a talk By F. Laurence at the Bodai Shin Zen Center in Caracas. The talk: The void of fullness and the fullness of void: the Christian understanding of Meditation. F. Laurence was also interviewed by a catholic radio station and by the most read weekend lifestile magazine Estampas. You may find more details of these activities reported in our blog: www.meditadores.blogspot.com



*Antonio Sosa is Venezuela's National Coordinator.