

Dear EMYC members,

I am writing to remind you of next year's CinA project in Germany and to give you some more information about it.

Our CinA project will take place from July 18th to 27th 2005. Again, we will meet at Schwarzenshof, which is our church centre in the so called "green heart of Germany" in the federal state of Thüringen, near cities like Jena, Erfurt or Weimar. Schwarzenshof is a beautiful and idyllic place where you find the forest almost in front of your doorstep, where you enjoy a wonderful view into the Saale valley, where you can use the extensive grounds for sports, games, campfires, water fights... where you have got not only horses but, since this year, also a llama... Schwarzenshof is a very important and special place for our Methodist church especially because of the many youth camps and meetings that have been taking place up to today and where generations of people have discovered God together and have gained important experience for their lives.

Such a huge estate with its various facilities also means a lot of work that has to be done around the year by the caretaker and the administrator of the house alone. That is why they are always happy to host a CinA project that helps them with their work during ten days in the summer. There have been several CinA projects already at Schwarzenshof, e.g. to renovate one of the houses of accommodation, to work in the garden, in the forest, to paint walls and as we have done last year, to start with the building/renovation of a chapel. At the moment, I cannot say for sure what exactly we will have to do next year, but one thing is definitely for sure: there will be enough work in the houses and grounds for us! With Mr Fuchs, the caretaker of Schwarzenshof, we have got someone who is very experienced in the organization and instruction of working groups of different kinds and demands, so that everybody can take part, no matter how strong, practical or skilled he or she is.

In addition, CinA is not only a work project, but also a cultural exchange. Thus, we expect youth and young people aged 16 to 26 years from different European countries. It would be good if you are a group of 3 to 6 people from your country, although you are also welcome to come just by yourself. A group could also include one group leader who is over 26 years old. All in all, we are planning to have a group of about 10 Germans and 20 people from other European countries. My experience is that every CinA project is different and special in its own way, because each year the participants come from different countries and thus bring their own unique experiences, backgrounds and cultures with them. During CinA, we want to share our different "worlds" together, learn what makes out the life in the other countries, talk about the situation of our congregations, but also discover in this variety the unity that we have as Christians in our common belief in God. Our activities will be bible study in various creative ways, morning/noon/evening prayers in different places, trips, cultural evenings where you can introduce your country to the group, sports, games, campfires, barbecues, horse riding and much more... Languages will be English and German (with translation during bible studies...), so it would be good if the participants can communicate in one of the languages, although we have experienced that also people with little language skills are able to participate fully. And in addition, there is always the possibility to teach your own language to the others...

The costs for the CinA project are 90€ for Western Europeans and 50€ for Eastern Europeans. Everything is included in this price except for travel costs. However, if you have problems to raise all the money for travel costs, you could also contact me about this and we can try to get financial support.

If you are interested to send a group from your country to CinA or to take part in it yourself, it would be good if you get in contact with me via email now, even if there still seems to be a lot of time until next year. As we have to organize the whole group it is very helpful for me to know who is interested at all in the project and trying to invite people, even if you do not know yet in detail who you will send and how big the group will be.

Enclosed, you will find a short description of next year's CinA and an application form, which you should use to invite people and to register for the camp.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me about it.

With kind regards,

Kristin Dittrich