

## **An Opportunity for a Cross-cultural Mission Experience in South Africa**

We are in the process of planning a cross-cultural trip to South Africa, probably to take place in late July and August next year (2004). We will spend approximately two weeks in the area of Cape Town (University of Stellenbosch, Youth Centre of the Lutheran Church) and two weeks in Pietermaritzburg (University of Natal, Lutheran School of Theology). As you know, many changes have taken place since the end of the Apartheid system that would make such a trip theologically and politically interesting.

Our aims would be:

- To learn about the situation of the church in South Africa
- To learn about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- To learn about the work of Lutheran and other churches in a multicultural setting
- To learn about life in South Africa by staying with African host families
- To learn more of African Traditional Religions
- To learn about the life of the congregations and to participate in worship

All in all, we think, South Africa offers a unique opportunity “for students to encounter a very pluralistic and diverse world as the context for ministry so that they might better learn essential interpretative skills for confessing the Christian Faith and engaging in Christian mission.”

The school of theology in Pietermaritzburg recommends that we come during August, since most of the students and staff are away in January or in June/July. Though all these proposals are still tentative, it would be good for us to know how many students might be interested so that we can concretize our plans. If you have some interest, please contact one of us, and we would then arrange for a first meeting of the group in May.

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