

ECUMENICAL KIRCHENTAG 2010: INVITATION TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

### **“WANTED: BRINGERS OF HOPE”**

The time has come for the second Ecumenical Kirchentag! People from the whole of Germany and from all over the world will be gathering in Munich from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010, in order to join together in promoting ecumenism, giving it a human face and advancing co-operation between Christians. We are expecting well over 100,000 full-time participants, with the theme “That you may have hope”. Being a Christian today means taking responsibility for our world, furthering community, finding a way of being at home with all the variety of orientations of the present age and to give expression to our faith in our various different Churches. Please come and join in!

— **The Ecumenical Kirchentag in Berlin 2003 already aroused the enthusiasm of many people. But there are many questions remaining, which will need to be picked up again in Munich. This brochure will give you information about you how you can apply to take part and the things that you need to think about.**

You are all invited to get involved – and not just Protestant and Catholic Christians: seeking answers to pressing political questions, joining in controversial debates about the future of our world, taking steps to come closer together through open encounter – celebrating this festival of faith. It will be colourful, looking far beyond our own borders, and thoughtful, full of the joy of life – that’s what the Ecumenical Kirchentag is aiming to be when it takes place in the capital of Bavaria.

But this 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag will only be successful if people are willing to play an active role: you can make a display of your work with a stall in the Agora; you can give a performance of music, theatre or cabaret; you can offer a particular act of worship or make a presentation of your own special church-music project.

Together with our hosts, the Archdiocese of Munich and Friesing and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Bavaria, we are looking forward to your active participation. Help us to make a success-story of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag. Come and be bringers of hope!

### **Forum and Festival in Munich**

**World City with a heart.** Munich doesn’t just stand for the Oktoberfest and the Hofbräu brewery, for the “Victuals Market” and the Schwabing district. The Bavarian Capital is at the same time both a world city and the “Komödienstadt” (“comedy village” : theatre featuring local humour in dialect). Munich has lost none of its cosy “Gemütlichkeit”, despite its 1.3 million inhabitants. It’s not only Munich folk who gather in the idyllic Beer Gardens, the pubs and the English Garden – guests are always warmly welcomed here.

**Cultural variety.** Munich has a very lively arts and culture scene. The theatres in this state capital are among the most renowned stages in the whole of Germany;

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the music scene has everything on offer from classical and jazz to pop music; the museums have top quality collections and exhibitions on show.

**Laptops and Lederhose.** Munich is one of Germany's favourite business centres, which is reflected in the low unemployment rate of 4.4 per cent. In addition, it is one of the biggest student towns in Germany, with around 80,000 studying here.

**Inter-religious dialogue.** There is a huge range of Christian denominations in Munich and ecumenism has been very active for many decades: 19 member churches are currently represented in the Council of Churches. The state capital is also multi-religious: alongside the big new synagogue on the Jakobsplatz which has 9000 members, there is also a smaller Liberal Jewish congregation. In addition there are around 80,000 Muslims living in Munich. At the close of the city's 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in October 2008 a gathering for inter-religious prayer was held in the Marienplatz, involving the five major world religions.

## **The theme**

### **“That you may have hope”**

The second Ecumenical Kirchentag will be a place where we can come together to confess our common Christian faith and to witness to our common hope. It will offer an opportunity to engage in conversations and debates on the basic issues of being Christian.

We are offering this invitation at a time which is identified with deep crisis – financial, political and social, both at home and for the whole world. All the more pressing is the question which will be asked at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag in Munich, as to how a Christian life-style can flourish in the world as well as for the world. From our common responsibility we will seek for forms of common action. We will do this on the basis of our theme text: **“That you may have hope”**.

## **The topics**

### **Shaping the world together**

We Christians want to find a way of shaping the world and establishing signs of hope. The following topics will stand at the heart of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag:

**Acting responsibly – being Christian in the one world**

**Living together – being Christian in an open society**

**Seeking and finding – being Christian alongside a variety of world views**

**Living our faith – being Christian among the variety of churches**

## **The biblical texts**

The biblical texts used in worship, in bible studies and in the daily prayers will be concerned with hope as a word at the heart of the Christian faith. So the biblical texts will make clear that hope must be earthed in the imitation of the passion of God towards the disadvantaged. Fundamental to this commitment by Christians is a trust in the promises of God, which point us to a good future.

Opening Worship: I Peter 1, 3-25

Central Ecumenical Celebration for Ascension Day: Isaiah 57, 14-21

Closing Worship: Luke 1, 46-55

Bible Studies on Thursday: Genesis 9, 8-17

Bible Studies on Friday: Romans 8, 16-25

Bible Studies on Saturday: Matthew 25, 31-46

Ecumenical Kirchentag Psalm: Psalm 121

## **Participating, sharing in the preparations**

The success of the Ecumenical Kirchentag in Berlin 2003 was only achieved through the co-operative work of tens of thousands of people. The same is needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag in Munich, in order to turn it into a forum for dialogue and a festival of faith. All those taking an active role are also Kirchentag participants. They present their own offering and yet also have time to share in experiencing the whole great event. The involvement of these active players is voluntary and unpaid, for the sake of something that is dear to their heart.

**The second Ecumenical Kirchentag provides a space for all kinds of requests, interests and ambitions. It offers a platform for those engaged in action and thus acts as a sounding board for those matters which are of concern to people in the street.**

Whoever gets to have their say at this forum will be taken seriously. This huge event is the achievement of lots of people, who have been preparing their own contribution for months in advance. This process leads on to something quite fascinating: the unique event and experience that is the Ecumenical Kirchentag, in its own time and in its own place.

[www.oekt.de/mitwirken](http://www.oekt.de/mitwirken)

You can participate actively in the spheres of : Agora; music, theatre, cabaret; worship; brassbands or choirs. The precise conditions can be found on the internet at [www.oekt.de/mitwirken](http://www.oekt.de/mitwirken). You can also go there to make your online application. You can also of course apply by post. For this you need to request the written forms straight away, either by e-mail or by sending us the attached coupon.

### **Agora – the Marketplace**

Do you have ideas about how we might be able to change our church, our country, our world? Does the theme “That you may have hope” inspire you to want to present your questions, projects and ideas at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag in Munich? Are you hoping to find like-minded people there and to establish new contacts and groups you can co-operate with? The Agora offers a platform to groups from both church and society where they can present their work creatively. Agora is the Greek word for the public square where the social life of the community happens.

**And so this area of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag will be the space where ideas, projects and the work of groups both large and small will be shared.**

In this way the Agora will help to demonstrate ways of thinking and action which reflect our Christian sense of responsibility. In addition it sees itself as an exchange market for making contacts and offers an opportunity to initiate and present joint projects. Such co-operative ventures will be particularly welcomed where they are in the form of ecumenical mergers or offered by denominationally mixed groups.

Fees for groups on the Agora

Stand Type A (16m<sup>2</sup>)

300 Euro including 8 admission tickets for helpers

Stand Type B (32m<sup>2</sup>)

1,000 Euro, including 12 admission passes for helpers

Stand Type C (60 -120m<sup>2</sup>)

75 Euro per m<sup>2</sup>, including 1 admission pass per 4m<sup>2</sup>

**Closing date for applications: 31st August 2009**

### **Music, Theatre, Cabaret**

Are you active in the spheres of cabaret, drama, music or pantomime, as a DJ or Rapper, or as a performance artist? Are you already engaged in a cultural project that crosses the boundaries of your own church denomination – or do you want to start one up? Do you want to offer an artistic interpretation of the theme “that you may have hope” and to enrich the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag with your personal contribution? Then come and join us! Make use of the Ecumenical Kirchentag as a forum for your own work and as place for joining with others to bring faith and hope into the picture. An open-minded and motivated public is looking forward to your contribution to the programme.

**Closing date for applications: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009**

### **Worship**

Do you use new forms of worship in your local church? Do you want to find a completely new pattern of worship for once, and have you got some imaginative ideas for this? Are you keen on getting involved in discussion about worship? Then send in your application! In Munich we want to see the celebration of a whole variety of different styles of worship, whether prepared ecumenically or denominationally. There will be specially selected individual churches in which a variety of quite

different services of worship will be offered every day. These will form part of an ecumenical Worship Workshop.

This will be a place where innovative, well-proven and tested models will be presented, as a means of developing and extending the involvement of congregations and groups in the formation of worship. However, you can also apply to offer a service of worship outside the context of the worship workshop.

**Closing date for applications: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009**

Fees for participation

Music, theatre, cabaret, worship, church music concerts, brass bands and choirs:

25 Euros per person, plus 17 Euro charge for arranging accommodation if requested, plus 5 Euro for travel pass if required.

### **Concerts of Church Music**

Are you involved in producing church music which offers answers to actual questions of being a Christian in today's world? Is your music an answer to the search for harmony, rhythm and structure? Then come and join in creating the musical sound of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag! Church music is an essential element in all the huge variety of our different forms of worship. We want this important aspect of our Christian life to be seen to be presented also at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag in Munich.

**In this way we will give audible and visible expression to the importance of this contribution to church and society in all its variety.**

So the Ecumenical Kirchentag extends a warm invitation to groups from all over Germany and from beyond our national borders to come along and be involved: children's and youth choirs, church choirs, chamber groups, choristers and instrumental groups. When preparing the content of your concert programme, you need to make clear how this relates to the theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag: "That you may have hope". Contributions should demonstrate the wide variety of church music: lively, imaginative, indebted to tradition and yet open to what is new.

**Closing date for applications: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009**

### **Brass bands and choirs**

Are you a tenor or an alto? Do you play the trombone or the trumpet, the tuba or the horn? Do you make music on your own or in a group? Then you are warmly invited to come and join in! Singing and making music have a special place amongst all the wonderful experiences that make up the German Protestant Kirchentags and Katholikentags – in locations all over the city, accompanying the events and the services of worship, or out in the open air. Here the music is full of life, with freshness and power. If you want to offer your voice to the Ecumenical Kirchentag, then get in touch with your choir leaders at home. Or you can also register as an individual.

**Closing date for applications: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

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Responsible: Rüdiger Runge, Theodor Bolzenius

Edited by: Carolin Meyer

English translation: Sheila Brain

2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Kirchentag Munich 2010 (registered association)

Rundfunkplatz 4, 80335 Munich

Tel: (+49) (0) 89/55 99 97 – 337

Fax: (+49) (0) 89/55 99 97 -333

e-mail: [info@oekt.de](mailto:info@oekt.de)

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