

Thursday 26 July (17.00) – Thursday 2 August (12.00) 2007

Openness and trust between generations

To work well, democracy needs grounding in a living, lively active civil society. The quality of civil society in its turn depends on individuals who think beyond their own immediate interests and take responsibility for the whole.

This whole embraces both past and future, young and old. Where communication between generations is poor, the young are handicapped by insufficient knowledge of the past. And the old will be forced into premature passivity by insufficient understanding of a rapidly changing world.

Learning from each other between generations can be difficult, not least where societies go through the transition from dictatorship to democracy, or from being relatively homogeneous to becoming multicultural.

The Caux center can house well over 300 people. We look forward to welcoming participants with different ethnic, religious and political backgrounds, from both eastern and western Europe and other continents. Many parents will bring their children. With a view to the future, the friendships formed between the very young can be a cement holding nations together.

This meeting in Caux is an opportunity to take on a big task together: helping to make the world a safer and better place to live in. Prejudices and misunderstandings about other age, ethnic or national groups often change in the atmosphere of openness characterizing these conferences.

The themes will include:

- ◆ What are the values we build our lives on and how do we pass them on to new generations?
- ◆ What gives us security, a sense of belonging and direction in a rapidly-changing environment?
- ◆ Conflicts are an inevitable part of life. How do we deal with them? The role of repentance.
- ◆ How can relationships and hurts be healed? The role of forgiveness.
- ◆ Resisting outside pressure and manipulation by political or commercial interests. How to preserve independence and integrity?
- ◆ How to strengthen civil society, including awareness of our environmental responsibilities and the needs of far-away peoples?

As important as the chance to meet together, is the space provided for everyone to be apart: to listen in silence to the signals from our conscience or, for those who have a religious faith, from God. This can be a source of inner change, perspective and direction.

Please reply to:
CAUX - *Initiatives of Change*
P.O. Box 4419
CH-6002 Lucerne
Tél. +41 (0)41 / 310 12 61
Fax +41 (0)41 / 311 22 14

confsec@caux.ch
www.caux.ch/

From 28 June 2007:
Case postale 36
Rue du Panorama
CH-1824 Caux / VD
Tél. +41 (0)21 / 962 91 11
Fax +41 (0)21 / 962 93 55

This is how we see our days together:

Mornings: We will start the day in silence before breakfast. The main plenary meeting will take place at 09.30. The first part of the meeting we'll all be together. During the second part of the meeting and the discussions in the community groups that follow, we will offer an alternative programme for children.

Afternoons: After lunch we have time for sport and recreation; we will arrange soccer and volleyball, and other games. We might even have a Cauxlympics!

After tea we will offer concurrent workshops and seminars. The workshops will be an opportunity for grownups and children to do activities together.

Evenings: We hope to have some good entertainment, and we'll have to come up with some of it ourselves. So, if you play an instrument, know a good joke or have a trained tiger, bring your instrument, joke and tigers.

Extra note to all parents with kids!

For those with children, this conference is a good opportunity to introduce them to an international fellowship, and for them to become friends. We hope to have enough time together with our children – at the same time making sure we all get the time we need on our own, to think our own thoughts.

In order to tackle the linguistic challenges – especially for the children – it would be a help to know as early as possible that you are coming and the languages your children speak.

Extra note to teenagers!

We need you and your contribution to make this conference complete.

We hope to offer you an interesting, fun and inspiring time, and we promise to give you enough time with your friends, and without your parents !

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

January 2007