



## DESMOND TUTU COMING TO CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Sunday December 13th is world bell-ringing day

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will attend the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December. Among other things he will hand over a petition from thousands of people around the world demanding that world leaders remember their promises to the poor of the world and agree to:

- Reduce global CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050
- Significantly increase financing for the poorest countries to enable them to adapt to climate change
- Give the poorest countries easier access to new and viable technology

As a culmination of the campaign Countdown to CO2penhagen organized in Denmark by DanChurchAid, Archbishop Tutu will hand over the petition to a UN representative, who will present it to the conference. The lunchtime event on Sunday December 13, to be held in Copenhagen City Square, will also include music by a popular Danish band.

### Tutu's presence a tremendous boost

A long-time friend of Denmark and DanChurchAid, Tutu will then attend the follow-on service in the cathedral, which Queen Margrethe will also attend together with other international church dignitaries and UN representatives, a service at which the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, will preach the sermon. "Desmond Tutu's presence will be a tremendous boost," says DanChurchAid general secretary, Henrik Stubkjaer. "It will place extra focus on the effects of global warming on the poorest nations. Time and again he has shown that we must take the side of the poor and hungry."

On December 13 the bells of not only the cathedral but of churches all over Denmark will ring 350 times to remind the Danes of the need to cut CO2 emissions to 350 parts per million (ppm). The conference then has another week to make the necessary decisions.

### Tutu the singer

Supporting the campaign Tutu himself says: "Climate change is a reality. Life depends on a sustainable environment. With no world, there can only be nothing – no birds, no animals, no trees, no us. That's why getting involved in 350.org is so important – it's an effective way to take action to turn around the climate crisis."

Meanwhile at the instigation of former UN Secretary, General Kofi Annan, Tutu has lent his voice to a re-recording of Beds 'r Burning, a 1980s song by the Australian band Midnight Oil which also features 54 other world personalities including Senegalese star Youssou N'dour, Irish singer/composer Bob Geldorf, British pop group Duran Duran and heavy metal band Scorpions.

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## IN SEARCH OF LUTHER'S KEY

Pastor plays the Devil in 2-hour role-play for confirmation classes



*The sick are carried out of the threatened monastery. Photo: Edward Broadbridge*

On a Friday in late September 640 young confirmands went in search of 'Luther's Key' in the woods around Fussing Manor near Randers. They also met the Devil, played by Pastor Peter Viuff of North Borup, who together with 18 other pastors and 100 volunteers from the South

Randers deanery brought the Reformation to life for the medieval pilgrims. Coach-loads of youngsters donned pilgrim costumes and in the autumn sunshine set out on an educational adventure.

The originator of the role-play, Kristian Dreino from Juelsminde, says, "I want them to experience the difference between Catholicism and Lutheranism, while trying to remain objective about the transition in Denmark from the one to the other. For example, when the confirmands – in groups of 15 – arrive at the monastery with a view to dissolving it, they must carry the sick out to the wayside and leave them to beg. At each stop there is a task, and if the pilgrims fail to perform it they are 'punished' with a blindfold or a handcuff and have to make their way to a healer to be cured.

### Role-play is a very tangible way of teaching!

"We dress them as pilgrims and they progress through the 2-hour assignment collecting cards with a code that makes up a key. On the way they meet various characters from those days and words such as 'indulgences', 'purgatory' and 'holy springs' as well as coming face to face with plague victims. When they have solved a task they collect a piece of card with part of a key on it, and when they put all the cards together, they realize that Luther's key is in fact: 'The Word.'"

Pastor Lisbeth Damgren from Kristrup Kirke was delighted at the experience for all concerned. "Everyone co-operated, all the churches in the deanery, and not least the youngsters who stood or fell as a group. Role-play is a very tangible way of teaching!"

## MORE IMMIGRANTS IN CHURCH JOBS

A diversity of cultures as a strength rather than a weakness

Taking into consideration the Danish legal and language demands before a pastor can be ordained in the Danish Lutheran Church, it is perhaps surprising that there are now 13 pastors in Denmark whose roots are outside the country. Although pastoral appointments are still few and far between, more immigrants are finding work in churches around the country, not least as vergers. Fluency in the Danish language and culture is the paramount requirement.

### They felt an ownership for what they were doing.

Birthe Munck-Fairwood, leader of the church's Inter-Cultural Centre in Copenhagen, tells *The Christian Daily* that Christian immigrants can be divided into two: "There is a group of immigrants for whom Christianity means a lot and who therefore want to be employed by the church. And there is another group, often well-educated in their homeland, who find it more difficult to get a job that matches their expectations."

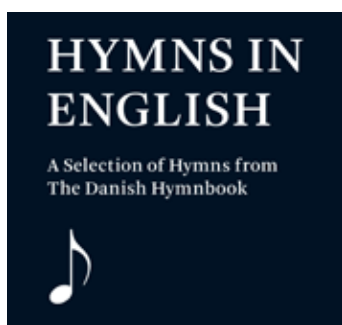
### We need people from outside

A recent case in question is that of Pastor Alfonso Waco from Angola, who has a fully qualifying Danish ordination and has applied for over 200 pastorates without yet being even short-listed. On the other hand, Kamelesh Biswas, who is of Indian origin, works as an inter-cultural parish catechist in Kolding and feels he is making a difference simply by his presence: "Denmark is becoming increasingly multi-cultural and we need people from outside with different angles on the church, also in relation to other immigrants who go to church."

### A 4-hour service in Madagascar

At a meeting with immigrant pastors of all denominations Bishop of Haderslev Niels Henrik Arendt recently pointed to the diversity of religions and cultures in their original countries as compared with the predominantly Lutheran mono-cultural Denmark. "There is much for us to learn", he said, "not least in our forms of worship, where we take it more or less for granted that it is the pastor and a few staff who shoulder responsibility. Last autumn I visited a Lutheran church in Madagascar where the service lasted 4 hours - because the whole congregation was involved all the time. They felt an ownership for what they were doing – and in Madagascar a new Lutheran church is opening every week. One of the reasons for this astonishing growth is precisely the congregation taking responsibility for itself and its worship."

## DANISH HYMNS IN ENGLISH



*Hymns in English, published in November.*

In November The Danish Bible Society in conjunction with the Council on International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark is publishing a selection of 58 hymns from The Danish Hymnbook plus the rituals from the order of worship

translated into English. The new hymn translations have been undertaken by the co-editor of Church News from Denmark, Edward Broadbridge, in conjunction with John Nicholson, both of British origin but with 40 years residency in Denmark behind them.

“They’ve been the toughest translations of my life,” says Edward Broadbridge. “They had to be singable to the Danish tunes, with the same metres and rhyme-schemes. They had to be poetically effective, immediately understandable and theologically justified. That’s quite a tall order!”

The publishers are responding to an increasing need among English-speaking visitors to Denmark, but they also hope that Hymns in English will appeal to the many Danes living abroad with English-speaking partners. The book will also be available in time for the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December, when a number of church services will be held in English.

“It will be interesting to hear half the congregation singing in Danish and the other half in English,” says the translator. “Cacophony or euphony? Only time will tell!”

## BRORSON’S CHURCH AFTER POLICE ACTION

The religious and political repercussions continue after the police removal of failed Iraqi asylum-seekers from Brorson’s Church in Copenhagen, where they had taken shelter for two months. A number of them have since been forcibly deported back to Iraq, which has agreed to accept them. In September the pastor of the church, Per Ramsdal, expressed his open support for failed asylum-seekers, a number of whom have spent years in Denmark due partly to the slowness of the system and partly to their unwillingness to accept a rejection.

### A reconsecration of the church?

In the police action considerable damage was done to the church altar and organ; repairs are estimated to cost

\$40-50,000. And in a break with normal practice the police released their own video-film to defend their action. This too then ran into considerable criticism on the principle that the path was now open for the police to manipulate public opinion via the media.

The whole fracas has caused some leading church people to call for a reconsecration of the church, but this has been rejected by the newly-appointed bishop of Copenhagen, Peter Skov-Jakobsen. “Throughout the actions of both asylum-seekers and police the church has been open,” he says. “The holiness of a church rests on the word being preached and the sacraments being administered; it is not damaged by people just being there, whatever the way they behave.”

## News in brief from church life in Denmark

**Re-cycling cash.** Together with DanChurchAid the parish council of Munkebo on Funen recently ran a sponsored cycle trip that raised a record \$40,000 to help make villages in Africa self-sufficient. Participants ranged from a well-trimmed cycling team to a wheelchair team, all of whom had the option of a 130km, 65km or a 25km route. Alternatively, there were 4 exercise bikes indoors. These were manned (or rather ‘womanned’) by 4 ladies with an average age of 76¾.

**More girls study theology.** Two-thirds of the new theology students at the universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus are women, and since a degree in theology is a requirement for a pastorate in the Danish Lutheran Church, the figures will have a knock-on effect on future pastoral recruitment. In 1976 the figure was 20%. Henning Kjaer Thomsen, Principal of Aarhus Pastoral Seminary, predicts that the pastoral role will become more of a caring, mother figure than an authority on the Bible and church tradition.

**Christian TV stations protest.** The Danish Radio and TV board recently handed out 220 new national and regional transmission licences to TV Stations broadcasting non-commercial TV over the digital net from November 1st. The four stations linked to the Danish Lutheran Church have been limited to regional TV and have protested that “it is precisely the applications that mention a Christian view of life that have been dismissed”. They will have to wait until 2013 before the next franchises are awarded.

## THE DANISH CHURCH IN SYDNEY

From 1915 until his retirement in 1960 at the age of 80, Pastor Ligaard held together the Danish church in Australia, first in Brisbane and then in Sydney. It was uphill all the way until 1988, when an anonymous donation and support from The Danish Church Abroad secured a church and pastorate, which finally moved to its present location in Pennant Hills in 2002. The current pastor, Jesper Engholm, arrived in 2005.

“I actually serve 3 churches,” he tells *Church News*, “in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, with a potential of 10,000 Danes. This includes permanent residents, contract visitors and tourists.

Once a month I’m in Melbourne and 4 times a year I’m in Brisbane. Our services are in Danish and follow the Danish ritual, but for those who want to learn it we also offer Danish classes at 3 levels. Our congregation in Sydney has 180 member families, whose donations help to finance the church. Both the residents and the visitors see the church as a meeting-place, a specifically Danish fellowship, where they can also reminisce about TV series ‘Matador’ or debate Denmark’s chances of qualifying for the World Cup. In the middle of winter we were as many as 100 to celebrate St. Hans with gløgg and apple slices. And within the past year we have joined together with the Danish Club in Sydney for a day of muddy football!”

As with all Danish churches abroad, finances are tight, but the breakthrough for the church in Sydney came with Queen Margrethe’s visit in 1987, after which the church received support from among others Mærsk Line and SAS. “It was as if her presence helped to bring things together for us,” says Pastor Engholm. “And we’re equally grateful to Prince Frederik, who officially named our church ‘Frederikskirken’ on his visit to Australia last week. And as if that isn’t enough, we also had the Thisted Church Boys’ and Men’s Choir to sing for us,” says Pastor Engholm.

The church’s website is at [www.danishchurch.org.au](http://www.danishchurch.org.au)



*Pastor Engholm thanks Crown Prince Frederik.*



*Crown Prince Frederik names the Church. Thisted Boys’ and Men’s Choir sang at the event.*

### Please send us your feedback

We would like to hear your opinion about Church News from Denmark - whether favourable or critical. Reactions are welcome by e-mail:

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