You may have remembered that we observed "Contour Sunday" last year with the theme "Tourism for Justice, Peace and Creation". The Contour Sunday this year was observed on the 21st of September 2003.

For our theme this year, we have considered, that greatest commandment given by Jesus Christ, "Loving God and Thy Neighbour as Thyself".

The economic crash in 1997, and the subsequent scandals hitting the commercial world, is a concern for all. Conflicts and clashes are real in many of our countries and society. Often these are promoted and propagated in the name of religion. Peace keeping and making has become elusive in our generation. These grave "signs of our time" must challenge us to take stock of what is happening around us.

Today, tourism, and the "movements of peoples* for various reasons are affecting the lives of people. It has had its negative impacts upon our society and communities. If left alone, this industry can create havoc on pristine land and locations, the benefits of which will favour the strong and powerful while neglecting the weaker stakeholders.

The exploitative traits have also revealed the "injustice" elements, as this industry moves from place to place. Human rights and human dignity are the main victims, in the midst of advancement of tourism.

Perhaps, it is in this light, that, we can see the conflict of interests, and for the victims, there is the need to create spaces to voice such exploitative traits in tourism. Since tourism is one of the largest industries and involves the lifestyle of a great majority of the population both within the church and outside, it is important to relook at tourism. Tourism, in which, we have common roots, must challenge us to recognise and respond in a positive way. The journeys of Paul in the New Testament and the pilgrimages in the history of the early church must be counted in our involvement and response to this phenomenon relating to the movement of peoples. After all, the universe of our faith, without physical borders, must draw us in into these phenomena.

So as an ecumenical response, the theme 'Loving God and Loving our Neighbours as Ourselves', is a challenge for the ecumenical fellowship, as we are caught up with this phenomenon of growing tourism in our midst. Taking the lead on the importance of this day, ECOT decided to set aside one Sunday of the year, the Sunday before the World Tourism Day, to remember those communities affected by the impact of tourism. A simply liturgy available on our website www.ecotonline.org is to help churches enter into a positive dialogue with the issue of Tourism.

We are welcoming support to our campaign on this occasion while also taking this opportunity to thank all our network partners who have responded so generously and in prayer to help us continue our work. We encourage you to continue subscribing our quarterly newsletter CONTOURS.

In Solidarity,
The Editorial Team

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**Call for Books**

We have incorporated a new section on book reviews. We request publishers/authors to send us two copies of your publication for review.

We welcome book reviews to send in their review of articles, research papers/publications for the Newsletter of the Ecumenical Coordinating Body of the World Tourism Day, CONTOURS.

Interested scholars and academics may correspond with

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