

**CEC 12th Assembly  
Trondheim (Norway), 25 June – 2 July 2003  
Partners` Programme  
Hearings in the Core Programme  
Information about the Hearings**

**Hearing 4:**

<b>Title:</b>	Churches as Healing Communities
<b>Responsible Organization/s:</b>	Netherlands Missionary Council (NOW-ALW), in cooperation with the Church and Mission Society (CMS)
<b>Date and Time of the Hearing:</b>	Thursday 26 June 2003, 1500hrs-1630hrs
<b>Languages used:</b>	English
<b>Main Speakers / Presenters:</b>	Tom Marfo
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Christians of the global South take a lead in world mission: One of the remarkable developments of our time is the enormous growth of churches in the Southern hemisphere. Are the European church and its mission offices sufficiently aware of the fact that is once again a non-Western religion? Dynamic expressions of faith and witness are by Christianity the people and communities of the less affluent societies in Africa, Latin-America and Eurasia, who respond to the Gospel in their own ways. As Christians from the South reach out to the ‘post-Christian’ North the wounds of colonialism and exploitation can be healed.</p> <p>The fourth Christian family: In global terms today churches and movements of the Charismatic and Pentecostal tradition attract greater numbers and offer new inspiration and hope to their communities. Today the community of mission must include not only Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant Christians working together but also our Charismatic and Pentecostal sisters and brothers.</p>

### Churches in Mission:

For more than four centuries mission has often been the specialist activity of religious orders and missionary organisations. Today, around the world and especially in the global South, Churches are again taking responsibility for mission. Local congregations and national Churches are sending out their own missionaries and traditional mission agencies can feel as if they are being ignored or rejected. Two networks, 'Seedbed' (internationally) and 'Connect!' (in the UK) are helping to heal this rift and enable Churches and Mission agencies to understand their need for each other and their respective roles in mission.

### Churches of God's pilgrim people:

An exiting question is to what extent the increasing presence of immigrant churches in Europe mirrors the new global realities. What does the missionary presence of these diaspora churches have to say to us? The Ghanaian Tom Marfo, pastor of the 'House of Fellowship' in Amsterdam Southeast, has a liberating ministry among black prostitutes who are victims of inhumane forms of modern slavery in the center of the West. Marfo challenges the churches of our continent: "I believe that the Lord has sent us as Africans to Europe, legally and illegally, to be co-partners with you in the one mission of God; to assist each other in our common calling: that is to create places of healing in the brokenness of our societies".

The Netherlands Missionary Council, in co-operation with the Church and Mission Society (CMS), will present a hearing on Mission with regard to these important challenges.