

## Swiss students reading Dr. Maggay's 'Transforming Society'

We're a group of five to six students from Basel University in Switzerland meeting once a month to read and discuss Dr. Melba Maggay's 'Transforming Society' and other literature to do with the church and social justice. All current or former members of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship group of our university and studying different subjects such as medicine, law, history and cultural anthropology, we're passionate about social justice and are concerned about the role of us as Christians within our society. Sharing this concern, we decided to start a discussion group, eager to learn of Dr. Maggay's experiences as a social activist in the Philippines and seeing how the concepts she develops about the role of the church within politics might apply to Swiss society.

Living in a rich country such as Switzerland, (as yet) with no strikingly visible gap between rich and poor, having grown up with all the privileges a peaceful country offers, it can be difficult to see 'Lazarus sitting at the gate'. The political, economical and judicial structures are that complex that it may seem impossible to in the first place get a grasp of how things work in our society, let alone to see where the structures are unjust and oppressing to others in any way.

Yet we realize it is our responsibility as Christians to constantly question the decisions that are taken in politics and economics and to strive to reveal the 'greater good for the greater number'-thinking in our society which indeed might benefit our economy but which might not always be beneficial to our integrity.

Coming together as a group of students and discussing these issues we find ourselves inspired and encouraged by what we read in 'Transforming Society', realizing we're part of a global church that works together for God's Kingdom. These meetings serve as a basis on which we start developing and exchanging our own ideas of how we as Christians could creatively engage in our society.

