

# NEWSLETTER CEC-MASVIDAL

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## News

**SETEC-Masvidal:** From our Theological Seminar we have launched the 'Volunteer Course' through our online platform, which provides the training needed for users of the Net.Masvidal missionary network, and that is also available to anyone who wants to have training in this area: (<http://www.setecmasvidal.org/voluntariado.html>)

**ACEMU 2018:** Between May 4th and 6th, the 'National Encounter of Ecumenism' was held in Zaragoza, promoted by the Missionaries of the Unit (<http://centroecumenico.org>) from Madrid, where our missionary participated, within a great variety of denominations and origins.



**New ministry:** We have started a social, pastoral and missionary care center in Sabiñánigo (Huesca), with the presence of a lodge with daily service for people with financial difficulties, offering school support, helping immigrants, giving hot meals, gathering and distributing food and clothes... It also lets scheduling to visit patients and the elderly, having a meeting place to talk with a coffee or praying for some time. ([brief radio interview](#))

**El Cenacle:** You can now book your subscription to the most international and influential devocionary in the world -on paper or digital-, now in Catalan. The first edition will be January 2019: (<http://elcenacle.org>)

## About the attention center in Sabiñánigo, now open

We start a fundraising campaign to provide the center with resources dedicated to social care, mainly weekly shopping baskets (food).

Triodos Bank NV S.E.

Holder: Comunitat Ecumènica Cristiana Jaume Masvidal

IBAN: ES63 1491 0001 21 3000089467



(click on the logo)

## LING-LING!

Perhaps some reader of these lines -if not the oldest ones- to see the headboard of this writing will have remembered a missional publication published in our country in the middle of last century with that same title.

The magazine "Ling-ling!", which wanted to imitate the sound of the bell with its title, was a "childish illustrated children's" book, humble but worthy, founded by the Franciscan missionary Andreu Berengueres, ordained priest in China where he remained for fifteen years and he founded the Women's Auxiliaries of the Franciscan Missions. The purpose of this magazine was twofold: to reveal the interest in missions among children and to collect funds for their work.

In spite of the past few years, I remember the publication -in which I collaborated as a child with some drawings- and the headboard of the magazine: a bell that, stretched out of five children of all races, was a "little Chinese", a "little black ", a "little Indian"... announced with its ling, ling! the joy of bringing the Gospel to every corner of the earth.

If I am talking about this magazine today, it is not, however, any kind of longing for the past time, but to show the importance that the mission has had and have -or should have- among us.

The Mission is a constitutional brand of Christianity. Our religion is -fundamentally- missionary since the obligation to spread the Gospel finds it at the base of our faith: "Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you.", as we read in Matthew 28, 19-20.

Perhaps it should be added here that Protestantism -for historical and theological motives- was not very interested, in its origins, for missionary work, although this radically changed with the "Awakening" of the eighteenth century and the creation of the different Missionary Societies that have helped to spread the Gospel all over the world.

Today, however, once the doctrinal controversies have been overcome, the missions must ensure a sincere ecumenism far from our ecclesiastical divisions -very incomprehensible in "lands of mission"- and our Eurocentrism which, due to its relations with colonialism, has damaged the evangelical message.

The world of missions has changed a lot in relatively little time and the problems that appeared in the pages of "Ling-ling!" of my childhood, we can hardly compare it with the problems of today: environment, terrorism, migrations, bioethical problems, globalization, evolution of customs, AIDS, wild materialism, danger of Islam... without forgetting the usual problems: poverty, violence, injustice and so many others.

Our world is becoming increasingly complex, more difficult, and for this reason it requires the involvement of all of us: a mission in the distant countries... and mission in our house. Today we need an open and welcoming mission and as the Swiss theologian Klauspeter Blaser writes, "we must keep in mind that the mission reminds us that history is the theater of combat between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Evil; not the combat of religions among them" ..

Certainly the sense of the missions has changed a lot since the years of holy innocence that we read the "Ling-ling!" with its comic strips of "little blacks" and "little Chinese", despite the character of a little "naive" of the magazine, however the bell of its headboard continues to call us to the mission today with the same enthusiasm that he did in the years of my childhood.



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