

# Der evangelische Erzieher

Zeitschrift für Pädagogik und Theologie

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Verlag Moritz Diesterweg  
Redaktion Dr. Peter Tachau  
Telefon (0611) 1301-356  
Hochstraße 29-31

6000 Frankfurt 1

Bremgarten, 15. März 1978

M. Paulo F r e i r e  
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Dear Mr. Freire I

Professor Becker probably told you already about my plot against you. I promised him to send you my questions for our interview - here they are. Naturally you can add questions of your own.

Our review DER EVANGELISCHE ERZIEHER is one of the few periodicals for scientific religious education interested also in foreign matters. So I am very glad to be allowed to interview you.

Number 6 / 1978 of our review is dedicated to the theme "Religious Education in South America".

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In Europe we know about hunger in the lower classes of South America, we heard about the unsafe conditions in Argentina and elsewhere, but besides that South America is still a white spot on the map. This is true especially to the educational system and to the modes and contents of religious education.

The "Evangelische Erzieher" has made it his task to give new impulses to his readers, as he thinks that European provincialism is out of date by now.

Some articles of 6/1978 thematically related with religious education and especially the interview with you, Mr. Freire, are to give the reader a first glimpse into the situation South American.

Here the five questions we are interested to ask you:

1. What is the structure of the S.A'n educational system (public schools, private schools, school grades ...), and what are the relations between school and churches?
2. We often hear about analphabetism in South America. Is it due to the shortage of schools and teachers or to the fact that for many people the work of the children is vital?
3. In your book "Education of the Suppressed " you declare that today's school is a means to confirm actual bad social orders. In school children are forced to take up an alienated conception of the world, and in addition a belief that suits those who are in power.- Which alternative to school do you see that could take over the functions of the traditional elementary schools in South America?
4. In some other place you speak about education as a practice of liberty whose nature is dialogical and whose educational material are generative themes. Could you explain our readers what you understand by generative themes and how you intend to put them to use?
5. Which function could have religious education in the responsibility of the churches within your programme of an education towards liberty?

and 6.

You have by now spent several years in Europe and you know the school- and educational system here which covers all children of the growing generation. Where in this system do you see fields calling for fundamental reforms?

I will thank you for expressing your opinions on the questions above. I would be obliged if you could speak English during our interview, but you can also speak Spanish if you choose. I'm looking forward to get to know you personally on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.- I'll be at your bureau at about 10 o'clock.

Kind regards and thank you very much -

Yours

*K. O. G. G. G.*