

## **Visitation/Encounter Assignment for Summer, 2006**

Difficult Dialogues Faculty Development Seminar

### VISITATION/ENCOUNTER WITH A POINT OF VIEW THAT IS UNFAMILIAR

**Who:** A team of two members of the Faculty Development Seminar

**What:** Explore a point of view that is not familiar to you, and then share your findings with the other members of the Seminar.

**How:** Using face-to-face and other research methods. You may work together, or separately in a coordinated manner. Both experiential (encounter) and research (Web, articles, books) modes of exploration are expected.

**Where:** People, places, books, web sites, and other sources of your own choosing.

**Why:** The short-term goal is to enrich the understanding of the members of the Seminar. The long-term goal is to provide reliable information to other faculty members.

**Timetable:** Provide a ten-minute oral team report to the other members of the Seminar, supported by informational resources in hand or on the Web, on October 27, 2006.

The primary source of your visitation/encounter should be recognized leaders or well-grounded believers in the point of view you are exploring.

We suggest the following questions for exploration:

What is the most important principle or idea of your community/tradition?

What are the key behaviors or actions that are expected of people who are members of your community/tradition?

What types of support or guidance does your community/tradition offer to help its members follow the guidelines for the life you believe is good?

Has your community/tradition changed over the past forty years? If so, in what ways?

What are the expected roles of men, women, and children in your community/tradition?

Are there important disagreements within your community/tradition at the present time?

Are there important disagreements with outsiders about your community/tradition at the present time?

Is there any discrimination or disrespect that your community/tradition suffers? From whom do these actions come? Over what issues?

How do you imagine the future for your community/tradition?

A Seminar Blackboard discussion board will be available to share information about the progress of your quest, to raise questions, and to make suggestions to other teams about where to find resources.

Choices have been made by most of the Seminar's members among the following traditions:

Atheism/Secular Humanism

Buddhism

Christian (fundamentalist)

Hindu

Islam

Judaism (Orthodox)

Sikhism