

Mission 2005 News

Η ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΑ



Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, Athens, Greece, May 9-16, 2005

Mission2005News is issued every morning. Editors Alex Belopopsky and Jyrki Harkonen may be found in the Public Information Team Office (Main building, upstairs), tel +30 697 718 4378. Design: Espresso Studio. Creative director Dimitris Arvanitis. Art director Kyriakos Koutsogiannopoulos. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the World Council of Churches or of CWME.

Tuesday 10 May

Today in Aghios Andreas

News for you!

The 13th Conference on World Mission and Evangelism opens today. This daily newspaper will provide news, views and information on the conference life and programme. Feedback is welcome!

Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens

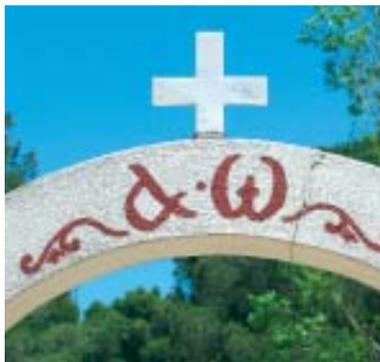
The head of the Church of Greece who invited the conference, is welcoming the event with a message on Tuesday morning. A full profile of this church leader is inside.

Come, Holy Spirit!

The plenary will focus on the main theme of the conference, pneumatology and mission, with addresses from two different theological perspectives. Further information inside.

'Synaxeis' – people to people

Also starting Tuesday a programme of about 70 workshops by participants and for participants offer opportunities to discuss a wide variety of issues in depth. The daily schedule is published on page 4.



The cross of hope

The conference opens Tuesday with the arrival by boat of an olive-wood cross from Jerusalem. To be placed at the centre of the camp, it is intended as a symbol of reconciliation and healing as well as of churches standing in solidarity with Christians in the Middle East.



For more info see www.mission2005.org

**Number
of the Day
576**

**576 registered
participants have
already arrived
at Aghios Andreas**

Now and forever

"That which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands concerning life... we proclaim to you."

"Before your cross, we bow down in worship O Master, and your holy resurrection we glorify."

"Come Holy Spirit, heal and reconcile. Ven Santo Espíritu, sana y reconcilia. Viens Saint Esprit, guérir, réconcilier. Komm, Heiliger Geist, heile und versöhne."

Come Holy Spirit! Historic event opens

One of the broadest world gatherings of churches and mission organizations gets under way today as the 13th Conference on World Mission and Evangelism opens near Athens, Greece. The Athens mission conference follows a long tradition of world mission conferences that began already in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1910.

"Athens 2005" is a unique opportunity for Christians from all continents and a broad spectrum of church families to exchange ex-

periences and to reflect on the priorities for mission and the future of Christian witness. "We are here because the church matters, because mission matters and ecumenism matters," says CWME moderator Rev. Ruth Bottoms from the UK.

Aside from the plenary sessions, about 70 workshops, or synaxei, will meet during the week. The conference will also be richly liturgical and spiritual: morning home groups will meditate on biblical texts in the Lectio Divina tradition.

Daily prayer will be drawn from various church traditions.

Five different healing services will be conducted according to different confessional traditions. A chapel, open nearly all the time, will offer a space for individual or group prayer. A team of counselors will be permanently available for pastoral care and spiritual orientation.

650 people from 105 countries

The 13th world mission conference is the first WCC world mission conference to be held in a predominantly Orthodox context. The WCC CWME has invited people from all continents and all major Christian denominations to the 13th world mission conference. Around 700 people from 105 countries are expected to gather in Athens to exchange their experiences.

Ruth's Reflections

Journey Begins

the journeying should not stop. We are invited to a new journey together during the conference. It is a journey in prayer, discussion, listening and sharing, building on the past but looking to the future. All of us bring something to this journey: our understanding, our experiences, our stories, our hurts and our hopes. This is our conference, to make of it what we can, to give and receive, open to the stirring wind of the Spirit answering our prayer 'Come Holy Spirit, heal and reconcile.'

Welcome to this World Mission Conference! It has been a long journey to arrive here: from initial ideas to detailed programme; from all the planning to detailed practicalities on the ground; from nominations to selection of participants, from visa issues to travel times; from prayers and preparatory documents to websites. Now we are finally here. But

Ruth Bottoms, CWME moderator



Profile

Archbishop Christodoulos

In the spirit of new openness

The decision of the Orthodox Church of Greece to invite the Mission2005 Conference to Athens is in many ways an expression of the openness

of its primate, Archbishop Christodoulos.

Archbishop Christodoulos has emphasized his positive attitude towards the ecumenical movement on many occasions before the Athens Mission Conference. The Archbishop has underlined that Orthodoxy has a vocation in the striving towards the recovery of unity among Christians.

As the Church of Greece has been involved in the WCC since its foundation, it continues the

ecumenical "dialogue with love in Christ for our Christian brothers and sisters and with respect for them".

Archbishop Christodoulos' welcome address will be given at the opening plenary at 11.00 in the Plenary Tent.

Also 'On Air' today

The opening plenary will begin with the welcome by the conference moderator Ruth Bottoms. After an opening address by WCC general secretary Samuel Kobia, the second part of the first day will focus on pneumatology and mission, with addresses by Kirsteen Kim and Wonsuk Ma. Kim is honorary lecturer at the University of Birmingham, UK. Wonsuk Ma is a Korean Pentecostal missionary and theologian, living in the Philippines.

Faces and voices

Visit the bookstore

In a little corner surrounded with glass walls in the centre of the main building Linda Ford has set up a nice little WCC bookstore. Excellent choice of WCC publications on mission and gospel, ecumenical souvenirs, brochures, DVDs. The bookstore is open every day from 10.30 to 20.30.

Cafeteria

The "Samatzis Gastronomie" catering service will be serving continental breakfast, lunch and dinner with Greek specialities and a vegetarian option, salads, a selection of various cheeses, desserts and soft drinks, water and coffee.

Media at your service

This conference provides, for the first time in the history of the WCC, full coverage and all materials in electronic form: live webcasts, full text of speeches on the web, etc. www.mission2005.org.



Glossalalia

There are nine translators working full time on written translations of conference documents. Jane Stranz says that the task is very challenging and demanding. Many documents are written by people who don't have English as their mother tongue. All the preparatory documents have been translated into English, Greek, Spanish, German and French.





Anastasia Gkitsi (27)
Greece

J'étais très contente de l'organisation de cette rencontre. On a reçu beaucoup d'informations sur les problèmes de réconciliation et de guérison qui existent à tous les niveaux – social, théologique, politique. Nous avons partagé nos expériences, et nous sommes arrivés à nous comprendre l'un l'autre.



Monica Coll Gonzales (21)
Cuba

It was interesting to be together, especially when we all come from different countries and denominations. Views and opinions were certainly rich. We were able to analyze which are the roots of the problems for reconciliation in different political and social contexts. It seemed that the problems are the same all over the world.



Bertram Granville Swarts (24)
South Africa

We just celebrated ten years of democracy in South Africa. Shadows of racism are still present and I was personally challenged to find how the Holy Spirit reconciles and heals me personally. After the pre-conference, I will go home with lots of experience. The friendships we were able to create here will send us beyond the limits of our national backgrounds.



Vahagn Azizyan (25)
Armenia

I am from Armenia. It was a marvellous opportunity to discover Christian richness from all over the world. It was a great change for me to start thinking and acting ecumenically. I am sent by the ecumenical department of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin. I made a lot of open-minded friends. Our unity becomes reality in diversity.

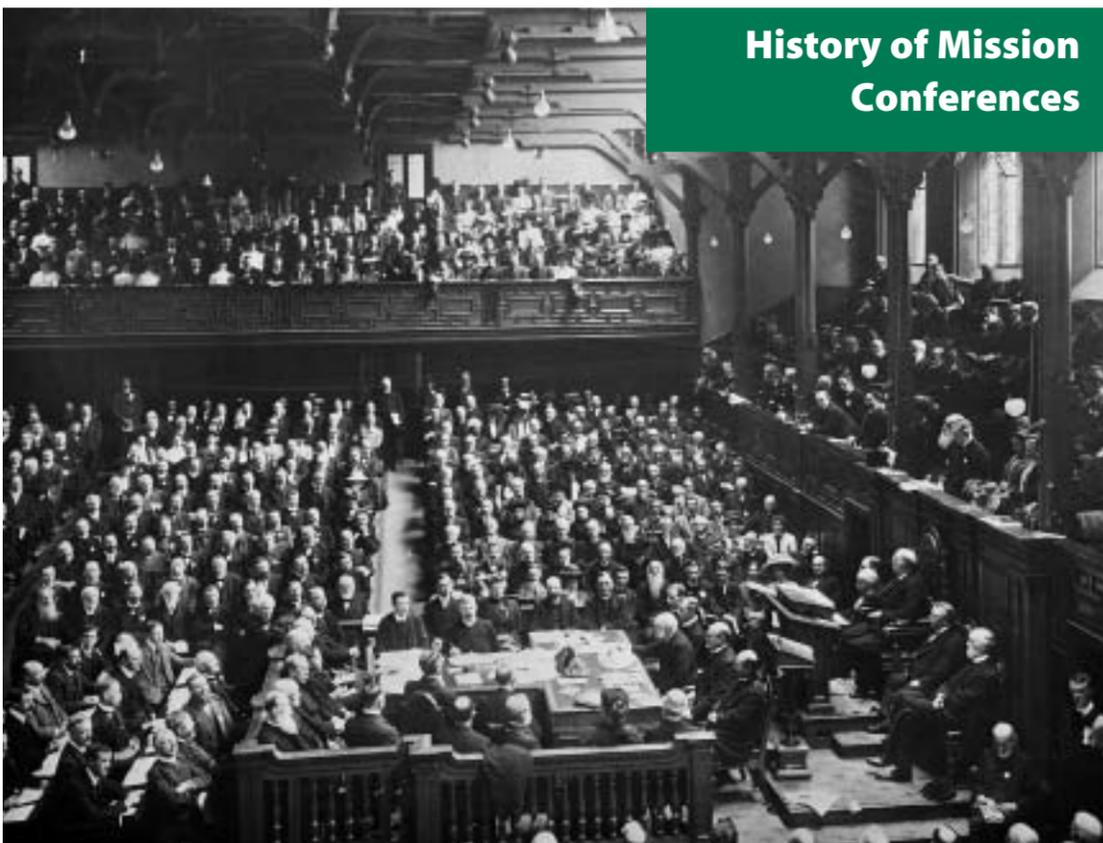
Sights and sounds

Under the Greek Sun

Some participants from Northern Europe have already experienced beautiful but burning Greek sun in Aghios Andreas. It is warmly recommended not to spend more than 30 minutes in direct sunshine.

Catholic pre-event

The Catholic Church of Greece organized before Mission2005 a meeting on local church participation in ecumenical relations. About 30 participants from all over the world met to get know each other and to share their common interest in the theme of the mission conference.



History of Mission Conferences

Edinburgh 1910

The first World Mission Conference was an assembly for careful and pioneering thought in order to secure the permanence of Christian co-operation. More than 1200 representatives from all over the world attended the conference.

Jerusalem 1928

The spirit of proselytism was strongly replaced at the second World Missionary Conference by the willingness to learn from one another. The task of the missionary was to see the best in other religions.

The first World Mission Conference in Edinburgh gathered more than 1200 representatives from all over the world.

World News

Blair finalising ministerial team

Tony Blair is finalising the shape of his ministerial team after securing a record third-term in office. Several days after being formally asked to form a government by the Queen, Blair had moved several senior ministers to new jobs.

Russia celebrated the end of World War II

Russians celebrated yesterday the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. President Putin emphasised in Moscow that Russia was the main power which helped bring freedom to Europe, defeating the Nazis at an enormous human cost - 30m Soviet lives were lost.

Mission 2005 in the international press

Kathimerini, Greece, (www.ekathimerini.com)

"Dialogue is in the nature of mankind" says WCC leader Kobia.

Delegates from Christian churches gather for joint conference in Athens for the first time.

Latin America News Agency (www.alcnoticias.org)

"We are convinced that the mission of the church is to receive, celebrate and proclaim reconciliation, healing and wholeness of life in Christ," says WCC staff Carlos Ham.

Agence France Presse, France

(www.afp.fr)

Le Conseil Mondial des Eglises 340 églises se réunissent à Athènes.

Près de 600 représentants de 340 églises chrétiennes de différents pays vont participer à la conférence.

Day's Glossary

ALAC

Mission Conference Athens Local Arrangements Committee.

CWME

Conference on World Mission and Evangelism. The 13th world mission conference is taking place in Athens at the invitation of the Church of Greece. It is the first world mission conference to be held in an Orthodox context.

Synaxeis

This Greek term refers to a gathering of people around a selected theme or issue. Commemoration of several saints is called also a Synaxeis.

Info on Mission 2005 Local Organizers

Orthodox Church of Greece

The herald of Christianity in the Hellenic denomination and founder of the Church of Greece was the apostle Paul who preached the Gospel during his travels (Acts 16:9). The Orthodox Church of Greece consists today of 81 dioceses and about 9 million members.

Wednesday:
Armenian Evangelical Church of Greece

Practical details

Bank and post office shuttle

A daily shuttle to Nea Makri town leaves daily every hour from 9.00 to 21.00.

Bookshop

On the ground floor of the main building.

Breakfast

Breakfast is served in the main building cafeteria daily from 7.15.

Currency

Only euros are accepted in cafeteria and shops.

First Aid

A clinic is staffed 24 hours a day in the conference venue. For any emergency contact the Information desk.

Information desk and messages

The Information desk is in the main hall of the main building. Personal messages and mail are distributed each day in alphabetized boxes at the Information desk.

Internet Café

Connect to the Internet using the lines of the Internet café. Wireless access to Internet available.

Housekeeping

Rooms will be cleaned only on this Tuesday.

Keys

Be careful not to lose your room key. Replacement must be paid for.

Meals

Lunch is served daily at 12.30 or 13.30. Dinner is served daily at 19.00 or 19.45.

Prayers

Morning worship and evening prayers will take place in the Worship tent.

Press Room

Interview requests and meeting room for the Press Service in Press Room, ground floor of the main building.

Smoking

Smoking is allowed only outdoors.

Stewards

Stewards will guide and help you when needed but remember that they have designated tasks.

Swimming

Participants swim at their own risk.

Taverna

An outdoor cafeteria, "The Seaside Taverna", will be open every evening after dinner, selling snacks and drinks.

Telephone and network

Telephone cards may be purchased at the bookshop. Public telephones are available in the entrance hall of the main building.

Toilets

Toilets are signposted. Participants are asked to leave the toilets clean.

Weather

Tuesday 10 May 2005

Athens + 21°C, cloudy
Mexico City +24°C, cloudy

Today's Synaxeis

TIME	SYNAXIS THEME	PLACE
14.30	The healing congregation	Plenary tent
14.30	The Holy Spirit and mission theology today	Worship tent
14.30	Earthing liturgy for life	Room 101
14.30	From strangers to friends	Glass House
14.30	Being Christian in counselling	Synaxis tent 1
14.30	Mission and youth in the age of globalization	Synaxis tent 6
16.30	Orthodox Church and world mission	Plenary tent
16.30	Common witness in China	Worship tent
16.30	Working together – churches and agencies	Room 101
16.30	New ways of being church today	Glass House
16.30	Counselling in situations of terminal illness	Synaxis tent 1
16.30	Meditating and praying as spiritual guidance	Synaxis tent 5
16.30	Healing conflict in a multicultural church	Synaxis tent 6

During the conference *synaxis* refers to the series of afternoon workshops which will be offered each day. Check the daily announcements for full details of each event.



Μία μέρα πριν...

