Go forth in peace!

The 14th World Mission Conference will take place in 2010, a hundred years after the first one in Edinburgh, Scotland. Hoping to see you all then.

Weather

Sunday 15 May 2005

Athens + 21C, showers.

Reykjavik + 9ºC, sunny

Athens + 23ºC, showers

Sunday 15 May 2005

Weather

Mission Conference in 2010

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Goodbye Aghios Andreas

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Check-out
All participants should leave Aghios Andreas by Monday afternoon at the latest.

Keys
It is indispensable that participants leave the key to their room when checking out.

Meals
Monday’s lunch is the last meal served for participants.

Participants list
The participants list is now available at the Information desk!

Explore the website
www.mission.2005.org is the address of the conference home page in five languages where, by clicking on Resources you will find all the documents and other resources of the conference, on News - Media the press releases and features, as well as photos, videos and other items which will help you tell the story of the conference when you return home.

To the airport
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Number of journalists from around the world at the conference and reporting daily

Now and forever

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“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:13)

Reconciliation today

“Reconfiguration of the ecumenical movement” is the topic being explored these days by churches, councils, alliances and agencies. Who knows what new forms of ecumenism may evolve? In the short term, Samuel Kobia has identified several priorities for the World Council of Churches: to serve as a meeting point for many cultures and churches; to provide resources that strengthen local communities; to expand interfaith dialogue, and especially Christian-Muslim relations; to assist churches in resisting manipulation for political ends; and to remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Go forth in peace!

Fourth World Mission and Evangelism Conference in 2010

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

This is the last Mission2005 News. Editors Alex Belopopsky (alx@wcc-coe.org), Jyrki Harkonen (jyrki.harkonen@logosmedia.fi) and designer Kyriakos Koutsogiannopoulos (espressostudio@hol.gr) thank all the readers for the positive feedback. Opinions expressed in Mission2005 News do not necessarily represent the views of the World Council of Churches.

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As Athens2005 reaches its conclusion, Bishop Ioannis of the ancient see of Thermopylae, the jovial chairman of the Athens Local Arrangements Committee, is a busy but satisfied man. “The positive impressions and results of the meeting are printed on the hearts of those who have participated, as we see in their enthusiasm and faces, and we hope that they will take these impressions back to their churches and countries.”

What impressions would be like the participants to take with them when they leave? “I hope that participants will find their distinct beliefs and thoughts enriched by the encounter, and will better know the thoughts and spirituality of our Orthodox church. And perhaps even a few words of Greek – ‘Christos Anesti!’ (Christ is risen).”

Bishop Ioannis, a former student at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, leads much of his church’s international cooperation. How does he see the future of the ecumenical movement in Greece? “The 14 months of work for this event was the first time that churches from various confessions have worked together so intensively. Despite our problems and differences, I am convinced that we are entering a new era in our ecumenical collaboration, in Greece and worldwide, and that the forthcoming assembly of the WCC in Porto Alegre will open up a new era.”

Also ‘On Air’ today

The excellent teamwork of the Athens Local Arrangements Committee (ALAC) guaranteed that Mission2005 was a great success. With Bishop Ioannis and the Orthodox Church of Greece, the impact of the other local churches – the Armenian Orthodox Church, the Armenian Evangelical Church, the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church and the Greek Evangelical Church – has been a wonderful example for ecumenical cooperation in the 21st century.

Ruth’s Reflections

Thank you, gracious, merciful, kind, patient, humble, courageous... little words which need to carry so much weight to convey the appreciation we have to all those who have made this conference possible. Some have been visible, others working hard behind the scenes. Each one plays a role in the body working to enable the whole, that we might be joined together, a healing and reconciling community in conference. Above all, I want to say thank you to the participants, without whose stories, testimonies, sharing, presentations, hard work, laughter and concerns this conference would not have been what it is. And, as I have said all along, may this not be an end, but a stage in the journey as we take back what we have heard, seen and experienced and go further with it.

Our hard working stewards have all committed themselves to engaging in a specific ecumenical project in the light of their work, laughter and concerns. And perhaps even a few words, thoughts enriched by the encounter, and will better understand our (Orthodox) reality. We want actions, not just words. The truth is that no one is willing to make radical changes not only for our own sake, but for future generations as well. Ecumenical projects are ambitious projects so, let us, all of us, create a united in the One Body of Christ, at the very least in the practical dimension of these projects.

Saturday 14 May

Sighting and Sounds

Building cultures of peace against violence

Democratic collaboration in Greece, Anatassi (pronounced Anthestosa), from the Greek verb ‘anastasi’ (to stand up, to rise) refers mainly to the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

Christos Anesti (‘Christ is risen’) in Greek is therefore the wish heard everywhere in Greece three days, the correct answer to ‘What did the Resurrection of Jesus mean?’ (‘Christ is risen’). In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Christian understanding of history was renewed. Together with the birth of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus confirmed the belief in an afterlife for all people who believe in him and in his kingdom. In the resurrection, the history of humankind was overturned, and all people are created in the image of God.

On Info on Mission

The origins of the Greek Evangelical Church (GEC) can be traced back to the 1850s, when the protestant magazine ‘Star of the East’ was first issued. Today the Greek Evangelical Church consists of 30 congregations and 5000 believers. The GEC is one of the founding members of the WCC.
Ruth’s Reflections

Thank you

Thank you, gracias, merci, vielen Dank, eucharisto - little words which need to carry so much weight to convey the appreciation we have to all those who have made this conference possible. Some have been visible, others working hard behind the scenes. Each one part of the body working to enable the whole, that we might be joined together, a healing and reconciling community in conference. Above all, I want to say thank you to the participants, without whose stories, testimonies, sharing, presentations, hard work, laughter and concerns this conference would not have been what it is. And, as I have said all along, may this not be an end, but a stage in the journey we take back to what we have found, seen and experienced and go further - together.

Our hard working teams have all committed themselves to engaging in a specific ecumenical project in the light of their programme here. I dream that conference participants will make their own commitment before God to continue in this call to be in mission together and work towards reconciliation and healing in Christ, in God’s world today.

Rev. Ruth Bottoms, CWME moderator

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Michael Dumont
Canada

At the next WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre the theme was youth. I think that it is critically important that youth be part of that event. Youth played a seminal role in the work of Athens2005; we saw a forgotten demographic. My hope is that at Porto Alegre we will have a 20% youth delegation.

Mary Khalaf
Syria

My hope for the next Mission Assembly is that 20% of participants are youth and that they have more input into the life and activities of the conference. My wish for the future is that we keep on praying and working for the healing and reconciliation in the world so that we can all live in peace.

Nadia Kist
Kenya

As a youth my hope is to see our conference pray for peaceful action not as a movement but with each one as an individual for his or her community. There is a verse that comes to mind: ”Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action!” (1 John 3:18 NRSV). Let’s imagine what changes would result.

Ioannis Pantelidis
Greece

We youth have a lot of expectations. We want actions, not just words. The truth is that no one is willing to make radical changes, not only for our own sake, but for future generations as well. Ecumenical projects are holistic projects so, let us all create, as united in the One Body of Christ, at the very least in the practical realisation of those projects.

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O Κύριος να σε σώθει και να σε σωθεί. Ο Κύριος να σε σώθει η σώθει σας. Ο Κύριος να σε σώθει και να σε σώθει η σώθει. (Απολυτήριο, 6:24-26)
O θεός μας σώζει μας με κατάλληλη σκέψη και γενικά με κατάλληλη σκέψη. (Προπομπή 15, 13)
Reconciliation today
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Unprecedented challenge to Christian mission and witness, and call the churches to repentance and reconciliation. The participants agreed to send the great olive-wood cross, offered by the church of Jerusalem, to the WCC 9th Assembly in Porto Alegre in 2006. From there it will once again return to Greece and the Greek churches as a permanent and visible reminder of this conference.