

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.

Thursday 12 May

Today in Aghios Andreas

Violence and mission

The main focus of the plenary round table today is on the ambiguous relationship between violence and mission. A liturgical procession will open the day.



Lectio Divina

Participants start the day with silence and prayer, and continue with reading the scripture passage of the day.

Healing

The series of healing services, drawn from diverse church traditions, continues. Today's will be an Eastern Orthodox supplication service to the Theotokos in the outdoor chapel.

Synaxei

Today's offerings focus on mission and violence, with presentations and case studies from around the world.

Watch the conference live!

Live video coverage of the plenaries continues on the internet.

For more info see www.mission2005.org

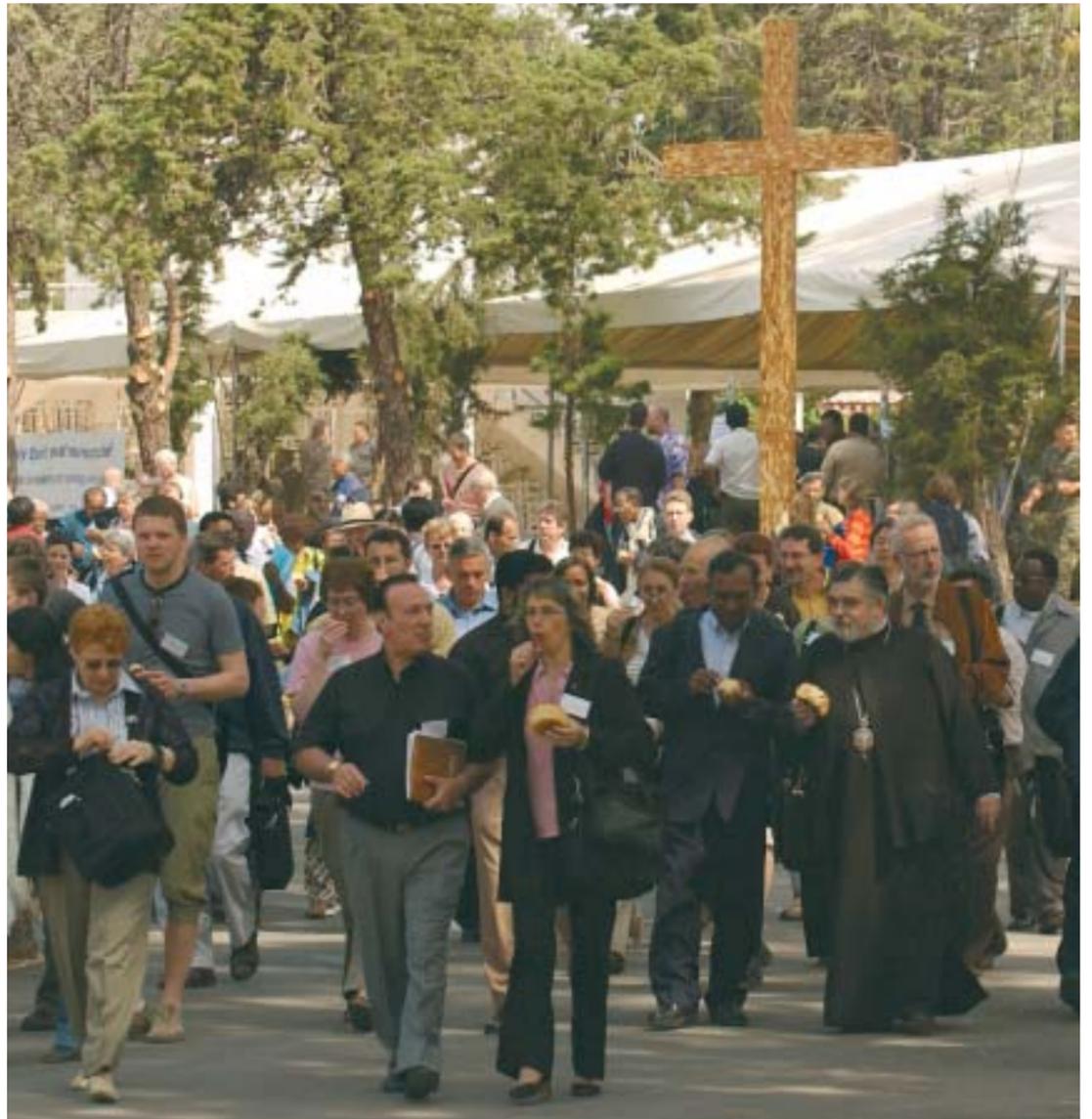
Number
of the Day
1267

Meals speedily
served each day
in the cafeteria.
Bon appétit!

Now and forever

"Lord, you have given us grace to offer these common prayers with one heart. You have promised to grant the requests of two or three gathered in your name. Fulfill now the petitions of your servants for our benefit, giving us the knowledge of your truth in this world, and granting us eternal life in the world to come."

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." (Luke 10:21-22)



Mission and Violence Building cultures of peace

The ambiguous relations between Christian life, witness, mission and violence are the focus of today's programme. The day opens with a liturgical procession of symbols of violence, brought to the altar by young people from various regions.

An audio-visual presentation of the first five years of the WCC Decade to Overcome

Violence will be followed by personal testimonies witnessing to the ambivalent relationship between mission and violence.

There will be no attempt to resolve all the questions raised. Rather, a time of prayer will place the debate on mission,

power and violence before God: "Do not lead us into temptation – but deliver us from evil."

The WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence was launched in 2001, and aims to mobilize church resources in support of a culture of peace.

Wall of prayer

Next to the worship tent there is a large white brick wall. The Wall of Prayer offers a space for participants to offer an individual prayer, or identify someone to pray for. A group of intercessors will collect the prayers and bring them to the prayer group.

Ruth's Reflections

Safe Homes

As people first arrived here, the sight of people pausing, map in hand, peering at numbers on doors was common. Next we needed the maps again to find our way to a 'home group'. Now people are confidently picking their way on paths through the trees to their group. In the clear air of the morning, groups gather seeking the sun and the light of God's Word, in the darkness of the evening people gather again to share, now wrapping blankets around for warmth. The 'home groups' are designed to be safe spaces of belonging, though this does not mean that they cannot also be places where differences are aired and explored. In that sense they are at the micro level what we hope for the whole conference. But let us not forget, as we heard in powerful testimony in Wednesday's plenary, that not all people in our world experience the home as a safe place. Let us hold them in our prayers.

Ruth Bottoms, CWME moderator



Profile

Bishop Farrell

Asking the same questions

As secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity,

Bishop Brian Farrell is a seasoned ecumenist and meeting-goer. Born in Ireland, Bishop Farrell served in the USA before moving to the Vatican and international ecumenical work. Roman Catholics have long been involved in the international mission conferences, but this time Bishop Farrell heads a large official and international Catholic presence at the CWME, and Catholics have been fully involved in the preparatory process. How does he view the conference?

Also 'On Air' today

Today's round table involves Fernando Enns, a Mennonite theologian and ecumenical leader, Tinyiko Maluleke, a leading African missiologist from South Africa, and Viola Raheb, a Lutheran theologian and Christian educator from Palestine. They will reflect on their experiences of mission and violence. Round table at 11.00 in the Plenary Tent.

"The event is a real opportunity to bring together diverse Christians, to share our traditions and work towards a greater understanding of all our churches and traditions, and to realize that our churches are asking the same questions," the Bishop underlines. "It is also a wonderful opportunity to look together for direction in mission to a world which is in such rapid change."

The Pontifical Council appoints a staff consultant to work in WCC on mission issues. There are 42 Roman Catholic Church participants at the conference, sent by the Holy See and from diverse affiliated bodies and including members of the Catholic Church of Greece.

Faces and voices



Today only-Bookshop

Special price for *Building Peace – Overcoming Violence in Communities* and *Axis of Peace – Christian Faith in Times of Violence and War* - 5 euros each.



Stewarts?

A curiosity of the Athens CWME is the small spelling error on conference T-shirts worn by the stewards. Along with the logo of the CWME, the youthful assistants' shirts are emblazoned with the identification "STEWART" like the famous Scottish name. It lends to the whole event a Presbyterian ambience. The Church of Scotland denies there are plans to supply matching kilts in the appropriate tartan.

Personal safety

You are asked to pay attention to personal safety and avoid walking alone outside the conference venue late at night. The venue entrances are guarded 24 hours.



Rev. Mrs Omatsola Williams
Nigeria

I come from a spiritual church where our focus is on praying for ourselves, and for others on request. We pray of course even for those who do not request. Here in Athens, by the grace of God, I was nominated to be one of the intercessors and it gives me joy that God is using me to improve the life of others.



Pastor Julio López
Argentina

Represento a la Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés, que nació de una inmigración escocesa en 1825. Cada domingo en el culto hay un espacio para la oración de la congregación, para que presente su gratitud y sus peticiones. Luego de una historia con muchas exclusiones, nuestra iglesia encontró sanidad a partir de una confesión de pecados y de la oración comunitaria.



Pastor Hector Petrecca
Argentina

Pertenezco a la Iglesia Cristiana Bíblica de Argentina, de tradición pentecostal. Mi abuelo fue el primer pastor pentecostal en Buenos Aires, en 1916. Creemos que la oración es poderosa. Aunque todos oran, incluyendo los fieles de otras religiones – hindúes, musulmanes, budistas – lo importante es la respuesta, que se logra por medio de la fe, que es una obsesión.



Mr Lian Sian Mung
Myanmar

I have been working more than ten years as a youth director in the Pentecostal Church. This conference is for me a prelude of heaven, as I believe that – as in this conference – we will see many people from different countries and denominations in heaven. I am happy to be part of the intercessor assistance of this conference.

Sights and Sounds

A miracle on the cross

The giant cross sent to the conference is a gift from the churches of Jerusalem. During the ceremony it was accidentally installed the wrong way! The efforts of 15 strong men proved fruitless. Then – without anyone asking for it – a truck with a crane drives by and pulls the cross up without any trouble. A miracle?

Praise the Lord in song

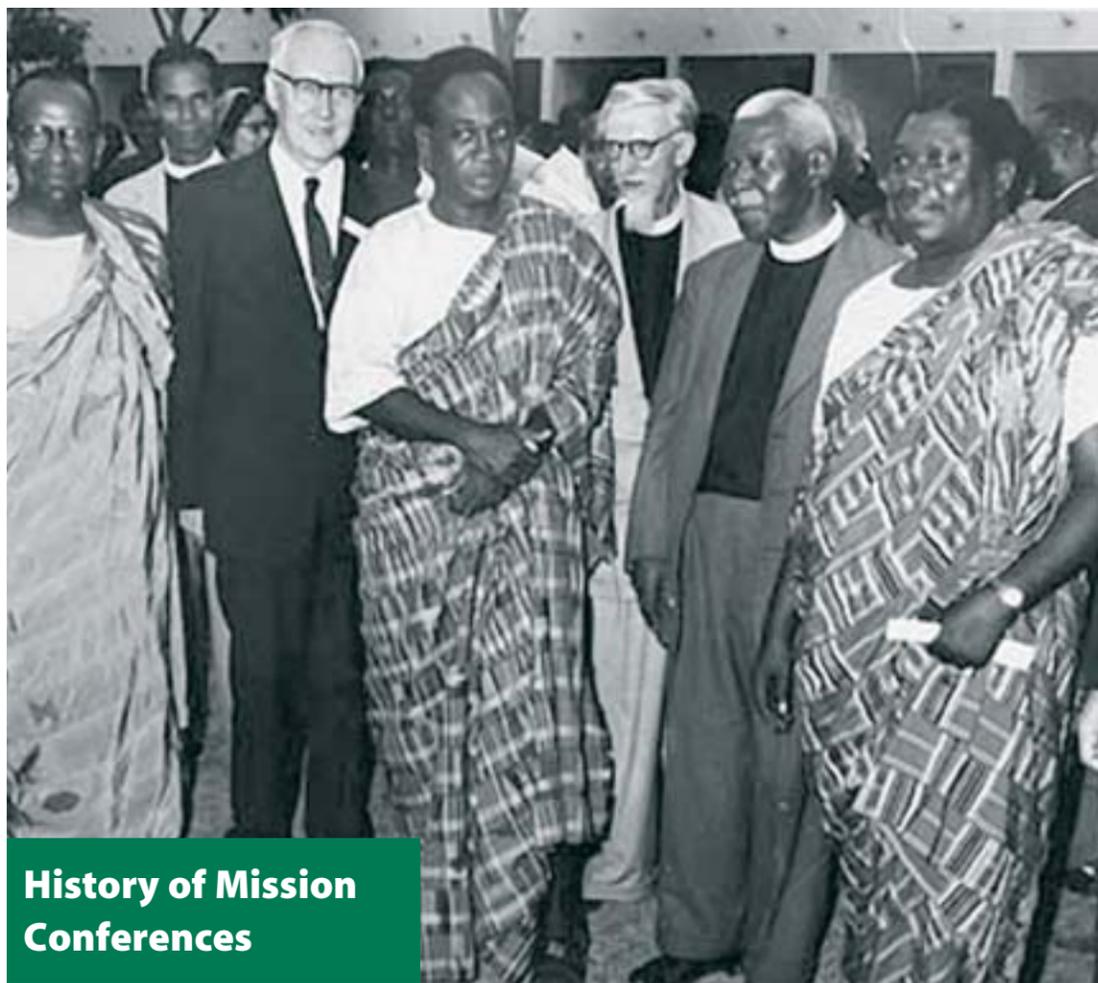
Under the direction of the Brazilian Simeí Montero - along with the tones of great musicians - the conference's choir sings at every service to support the congregation. Choir rehearsals take place daily 30 minutes after the service and at 21.00 in the worship tent. If you want to join, come to the worship and then look out for those you've seen singing at the service!

Willingen 1952

The fifth mission conference was in Willingen, Germany. Willingen is considered to have had the most lasting influence on ecumenical mission theology. The idea of *missio Dei*, that was taken up in the follow-up of Willingen, proved to be most creative. The strong emphasis on the centrality of the church in mission was replaced by an enlarged perspective that allowed an interpretation of world events as determining factors for mission.

Achimota 1958

The sixth mission conference in Achimota debated a proposal to unite with the World Council of Churches, with which it shared several programmes and entertained intensive relations. The proposal was accepted by a great majority, while certain more conservative mission councils refused to integrate mission and church. They wanted to preserve missionary freedom, and not become dependent on ecclesiastical authorities and agendas.



History of Mission Conferences

The sixth world mission conference met in Achimota near Accra, Ghana.

World News

Aid groups defend Aceh efforts

Aid organisations working in Indonesia have defended themselves from criticism about slow reconstruction efforts in the tsunami-hit province of Aceh. They were responding to a senior government official who said he was shocked at how little had been done. For five months, aid organizations have been providing emergency relief in the form of food, shelter and schooling, all the while trying to plan how to rebuild a shattered society.

Info on Mission 2005 Local Organizers

The Catholic Church of Greece

The Roman Catholic Church has a centuries-old presence in Greece. In the last 20 years numerous immigrants from Poland, the Philippines, Ukraine and Albania have come to Greece and many of them are Catholics. There are currently six Catholic dioceses in Greece.

Friday: The Anglican Church in Greece

Mission2005 in the international press

Newsday USA (Associated Press) (www.newsday.com)

Christian churches must set aside differences and adopt less confrontational approaches toward other faiths in an age of mobile populations and strains between the West and the Islamic world, the head of the Greek Orthodox Church told a global religious conference Tuesday.

Ecupres Argentina (www.ecupres.com.ar)

En la inauguración habló el pastor Samuel Kobia, Secretario General del CMI, reconoció que "la misión arrastra un pesado bagaje histórico, ya que ha contribuido a fomentar la división y el conflicto entre personas e incluso entre familias de iglesias" y que "quizas ha llegado el momento de la confesión y el arrepentimiento".

Day's Glossary

EAPPI

An outgrowth of the ecumenical campaign to end the illegal occupation of Palestine and support a just peace, the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) currently provides 22 international companions to assist local people in their nonviolent activities and concerted advocacy efforts.

Practical details

Airport taxi

Telephone 229 40 91 300.

NEW! Adapters

International electrical adapters may be requested at the information desk.

Bank and post office shuttle

A daily bus 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 the cafeteria and shops.

NEW! Electricity

The intensive use of electricity, especially in the evening, is causing small power failures. Please limit your use of heaters to the night and turn off all lights in daytime.

First Aid

A clinic is staffed 24 hours a day in the conference venue. In case of emergency please contact the information desk.

Lost and found

For lost property please go to the information desk.

Information desk and messages

The Information desk is open from 8.00 to 19.00. Personal messages and mail are distributed each day in alphabetized boxes at the information desk. Hand messages directly to stewards.

Internet Café

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

Meals

Lunch is served daily at 12.30 or 13.30. Dinner is served daily at 19.00 or 19.45. Please try to go at the time assigned to you to avoid long queues.

Participant list

The participants list is not yet available.

Post office in Nea Makri

Open from 07.30 to 14.00. Shops in the same town are open until 14.00 and reopen at 17.00 to 21.00 each day.

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 the Press Room, ground floor of the main building.

NEW! British and Irish regional meeting

CWME participants from Britain and Ireland are invited to an informal gathering on Friday at 13.45 in the Taverna area outside the restaurant, to share experience and plan follow-up. Contact: Simon Barrow: +44 7939 139882.

Smoking

Smoking is only allowed outdoors.

Special needs

Contact Judith Kocher at the Information desk.

Stewards

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

Swimming

Participants swim at their own risk.

NEW! Message service

Please check the message board in the main entrance. To receive and send messages to any participant, just contact the information desk.

NEW! On-site taxi service

Our hosts are providing a minibus to ferry people with limited mobility around the conference site. Pickup point

in front of main entrance. Just signal the taxi to stop if you need it.

Telephone and network

Telephone cards are for sale at the bookshop and can be used on the public phones in the entrance hall of the main building.

Toilets

Toilets are signposted. Please respect other participants and keep them clean!

NEW! Water – Nero - Aqua

Preserve creation: limited water is available at one time, so please try to limit your use of this precious resource.

NEW! Under 40?

Participants under 40 are invited to gather on the Taverna terrace tonight at 19.00. Further info: message Catherine Chang.

WCC 9th Assembly Resource CD

Free at the bookshop. Please help yourself!

Weather

Thursday 12 May 2005

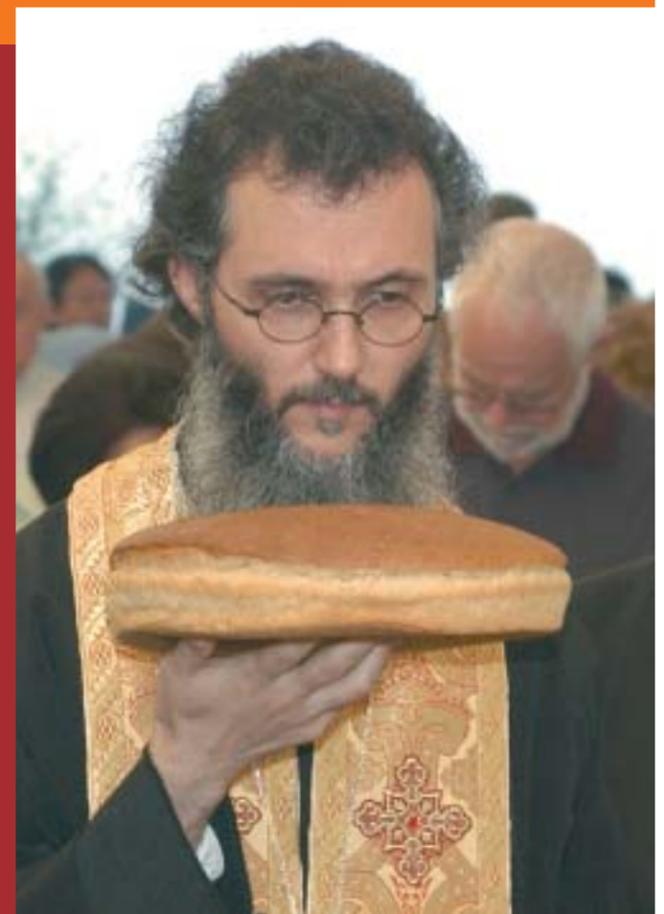
Athens + 22°C, cloudy
Bangkok +29°C, showers

Today's Synaxeis

Thanks to all participants for their helpful and constructive feedback regarding the Synaxeis programme! As a result of this, we are pleased to offer today a limited evening session from 21.00 to 21.45.

A full list of evening sessions will be posted on the synaxeis registration board. We are encouraging participants to check the registration board regularly to ensure that they are up to date with the latest programme changes.

Places are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Facilitators are invited to contact the synaxeis coordinator, Tara Tautari, to schedule sessions.



Μία μέρα πριν...

