

# 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.

Friday 13 May

## Today in Aghios Andreas

### ■ Healing

Two panel discussions will introduce important aspects of healing ministry: in post-modern situations, and mission in a time of HIV/AIDS. More inside.



### ■ Books on HIV/AIDS available

Books on the theme of the day at the Bookshop for the special price of 7 €.

### ■ Spirituality

The rich worship life of the conference continues with morning prayers, healing services, an outdoor chapel open at most times, pastoral counselling, spaces for silence, prayer and meditation.

### ■ Synaxeis

The final part of the rich programme of offerings gets under way, with a focus on healing and reconciliation. Further details on back page.

### ■ Getting the message

Participants continue to work on the concluding message from the conference to be agreed Saturday.

For more info see [www.mission2005.org](http://www.mission2005.org)

**Number  
of the Day**  
**42**

The number of super 'stewards' and the answer to everything on the conference. Half of the stewards are Greek.

## Now and forever

"See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him – his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness – so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand." (Isaiah 52:13-15)

Λέει ο Κύριος: «Ο δούλος μου θα προκόψει, θα εξυψωθεί, θα δοξαστεί, πολύ ψηλά θ' ανέβει. Πολλοί έχουν εκπλαγεί γι' αυτόν, γιατί ήταν τόσο παραμορφωμένη η όψη του. Η διάφερε από την όψη των ανθρώπων. Έτσι θα εκπλαγούν γι' αυτόν αμέτρητα έθνη, και βασιλιάδες άφωνοι θα μείνουν, γιατί θα δουν εκείνο που ποτέ δεν τους διηγήθηκαν, θα μάθουν κάτι που δεν είχαν ως τότε ακούσει». (Ησαΐας 52: 13-15)



## Healing in a time of HIV/AIDS

"Silence kills, stigma kills," retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa recently told an interviewer from Christian Aid. "Let us, as a church, speak out and speak up. HIV/AIDS is not God's punishment for sin. You have got to say that quite firmly and categorically. How can it be said that a child who has AIDS through mother-to-child transmission is being punished for sin? If it is a god who is punishing them, then that god is one I would not worship!" As part of the plenary pro-

gramme today, panelists will report and compare responses to the challenge on a number of fronts. Gracia Violet Ross Quiroga is an evangelical lending support to people living with HIV/AIDS in Bolivia; Anthony Allen serves as a psychiatrist in Kingston, Jamaica; Japi Heath, an Anglican priest who is himself HIV/AIDS-positive, will discuss his experience in South Africa.

In his conversation with Christian Aid, Archbishop Tutu en-

couraged the church to take bold action in society: "The church should speak out firmly against stigmatization. But this must go hand in glove with legislation that ensures people living with AIDS are not discriminated against in their jobs, for example. We, the church, should be at the forefront of this. We follow a master who has always been on the side of those who are having a hard time. So we have got to be where Jesus is."

### Staggering statistics

The global AIDS crisis staggers our imagination. The scale of human loss undermines the social and economic fabric of entire nations, especially in Africa. At current rates, 100 million people worldwide will be infected by 2010. Of the 14,000 persons infected each day, 85% live in the developing world.

## Ruth's Reflections

# Philoxenia

More than half way through this conference and though we are on a secluded site, the richness of the Greek context has been clearly evident. We have experienced warm, generous hospitality (philoxenia) from our hosts. The singing at the Orthodox morning prayer that 'Christ is risen', with its deep resonances, was very moving. The cultural evening brought us examples of music, song and dance from Greece, full of life, energy and beauty that got us dancing too. Sunday visits to local parishes will give us further opportunity to engage with the Greek context, both the Christian churches and to see more of the city of Athens. The sending service at the Areopagos will bring together the past, as we gather at the place where Paul spoke to the Athenians, with the present as we conclude our time together. In the light of all that the conference is, hopefully too the future of our mission and evangelism will carry something of what we have gained in this visit in Greece.

Rev. Ruth Bottoms, CWME moderator



## Profile

Opoku Onyinah

# A Pentecostal perspective

The Rev. Dr Opoku Onyinah, rector of Pentecost University College in Accra, is a conference advisor. He has become a leading

contributor to consultations on healing from Accra to London to Santiago, Chile. An executive council member of the Church of Pentecost, he is familiar with his Ghana-based church's missionary outreach in 54 nations. Last month, he conducted training for leaders of his church in Italy.

"I have been a pastor for 29 years," he says, "and I have served as an 'apostle of the church' - one who plants congregations, trains local leadership and sends out church members to pray for healing and the coming of the Holy

Spirit. In this conference, I am able to share my experience as a minister, a missionary and an educator."

His church is the second-largest in Ghana; only the Catholic Church has more members. The Pentecostal Council of Ghana often cooperates with the more broadly ecumenical Christian Council of Ghana. The Church of Pentecost belongs to both councils.

Dr Onyinah has been impressed by the mission conference. "It brings together many different Christian traditions and allows us to compare views, and this is done fairly. If Pentecostals were in charge, we would have gone a little farther. We would call people forward, and pray for their healing. Spiritual healing is essential, even when a person is beyond cure. But sometimes healing also leads to curing, and that is a wonderful thing!"

## Also 'On Air' today

Today's theme, HIV/AIDS, will be introduced in two panels. On the first panel, Bernard Ugeux, a Roman Catholic anthropologist and theologian from France, and Erika Schuchardt, a German member of parliament and expert on counselling, focus on different aspects of the healing ministry. The second panel with Gracia Violet Ross Quiroga, Anthony Allen and Japi Heath will reflect on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Ross Quiroga is an evangelical lending support to people living with HIV/AIDS in Bolivia; Allen serves as a psychiatrist in Kingston, Jamaica; Japi Heath, an Anglican priest who is himself HIV/AIDS-positive, will discuss his experience in South Africa.

## Faces and voices



### Sweetmeats

Coffee and Greek delicacies are served on the front lawn by courtesy of the gentlemen of Samartzis Gastronomie. An outdoor cafeteria, the Greek "Seaside Taverna" offers a large variety of drinks: juices, Greek wines, ouzo, beer, gin, whisky and vodka. Chef Harry Mastorakos tells us that Greek specialities, such as grilled chicken and souvlaki, will also be available. Open daily 19.00-24.00.



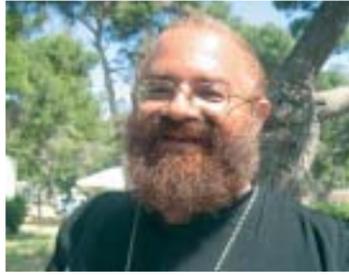
### Differing views

You will have noticed a small group of demonstrators outside the main gates. They represent a breakaway Orthodox church group and they are against the holding of the conference and dialogue among Christians. Their views are not shared by the ALAC host churches. The conference leadership entirely respects their right to hold different views, but also upholds the right of participants to peace and tolerance.



**Sister Anelle Melezan**  
Martinique

I am a sister of Mother Teresa and that's why I wear this white robe. I come from Jordan where we have two communities working among the poorest of the poor. I find this conference a very interesting opportunity to share personal experiences.



**Father John Bonub**  
Egypt

I work with the Coptic Orthodox Church with missionaries in Zambia and Congo. I find myself benefiting from this ecumenical conference. My black robe is good for formalities, sermons and conferences, but not when it's hot! It is very restraining so one can't move as one would like.



**Father Isaac Barakat**  
Syria

I come from the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Damascus, which is one of the oldest patriarchates. This is my first ecumenical conference and I've learned a lot. The black robe is important because it is part of the tradition and not uncomfortable.



**Father Timoteo Luis Antonio Torres Esquivel**  
Columbia

This is my first ecumenical conference. I serve the Greek Orthodox Church in Cuba. I feel that we need ecumenical dialogue to combine strengths and solve problems. My black robe is not just clothing but a testimony to the world of my choice to serve God.

## Sights and Sounds

### Porter la guérison par la liturgie

Au cours de la conférence, les luthériens furent les premiers à proposer un type de prière qui émaillera la conférence: le service de guérison. Une lente procession marquée de nombreux symboles (eau, linges, croix, pierre, huile) a ainsi conduit, le long de la grève du Centre Hagios Andreas, la quarantaine de participants à une prière de repentance. Point d'orgue de cette prière, la bénédiction au travers d'un signe de croix tracé sur le front des participants avec de l'huile d'olive venue de Palestine.

### Multicultural Ministries

International Network for Multicultural Ministry (INFORM), is a group of people gathering to share and discuss strategies of doing Multicultural Ministries in various geographical contexts of the global village. INFORM is meeting on Friday at 13.30 in Synaxis Tent 3.



## History of Mission Conferences

### New Delhi 1961

The integration of church and mission became effective in the WCC at the seventh assembly in New Delhi. The mission councils affiliated to the IMC became affiliated to the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the WCC. The Division on World Mission

and Evangelism took over the programmatic work and responsibility of the IMC, which ceased to exist.

### Mexico City 1963

The perspective of mission was enlarged in Mexico City to encompass all continents, and not only those of the "South". Meeting during

the first development decade, the conference dealt intensively with witness in a world where God was active, inviting the churches to join in missio Dei. It was the time of a positive appreciation of secularization and of non-religious formulations of Christian faith and action, in particular in the West.

From New Delhi the world mission conferences started to gather larger denominational participation, including Orthodox churches and also Roman Catholic observers. Left: F.C. Fry, U. Barbieri, Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, W.A. Visser 't Hooft.

## World News

### Haiti murder convictions quashed

Haiti's Supreme Court has overturned the convictions of dozens of military leaders found guilty in 2000 of murder and torture. They were convicted of mass killings during an attack on supporters of former President Aristide in the shanty town of Raboteau in 1994.

## Info on Mission 2005 Local Organizers

### The Anglican Church of Greece

The first Anglican representative from the British and Foreign Bible Society arrived in Greece in the early 1830s. In 1843 the foundation stone of Saint Paul's Anglican church was laid in Athens. Today the Anglican Church in Greece has about ten parishes and communities for ministering to those Christians whose roots are in the English-speaking world.

Saturday: *The Armenian Orthodox Church*

## Mission2005 in the international press

Radio Vatikan, Rome ([www.radiovaticana.org](http://www.radiovaticana.org))

Ökumenische Mega-Konferenz in Griechenland - Eines der weltweit größten Treffen der Christenheit hat in Athen begonnen. Am Rand der Weltmissionskonferenz wurde bekannt, dass der ÖRK-Generalsekretär Samuel Kobia sich Mitte Juni mit Papst Benedikt XVI. treffen will. Die katholische Kirche gehört dem Weltkirchenrat nicht an, arbeitet aber eng mit ihm zusammen.

[www.kyrkanstidning.com](http://www.kyrkanstidning.com) Sweden

Kyrkans världsråds 13 missionskonferens om pågår i Aten. Inför 700 deltagare invigningstalade Atens ärkebiskop Christodoulos om aktuella utmaningar i världen. När ekonomiska och politiska beslut presenteras som historiskt oundvikliga måste kyrkan vara på fredens, de fattigas, de marginaliserades och de maktlösas sida, menade Christodoulos.

Protestinfo, Agence de Presse Protestante Switzerland ([www.protestinfo.ch](http://www.protestinfo.ch))

13e Conférence mondiale sur la mission à Athènes: "Le centre de gravité du christianisme se situe aujourd'hui du côté de Tombouctou."

## Day's Glossary

### Forgiveness

Jesus taught his followers to pray that they may learn to forgive as they have been forgiven (Luke 11:4). Paul's concept of reconciliation is also based in God's refusal to count trespasses against those who have been reconciled through the cross of Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

### Spirit

In the figures of the Old Testament, the link between word (dabhar) and spirit, breath and wind (ruah) is one of the things which most forcefully heralds Trinitarian theology.

## Practical details

### NEW! Travel

Last day for confirming air tickets! Please contact the travel office in the main hall.

### NEW! Departures

Departures before May 16 are dealt with individually. Shuttles to the airport will be set up for Monday, May 16. A schedule will be on display in the cafeteria area on Saturday.

### NEW! Free book

Don't forget to go and pick up from the Bookshop your copy of *Healing as Empowerment* – a workbook to help people discuss issues of healing, offered free to participants.

### Counselling

Six counsellors are ready to listen and share your thoughts, questions and problems. Two of them are present daily from 8.00 to 22.00 upstairs in the main building.

### Indigenous peoples' gathering

Meeting over dinner today at 19.00 in the Cafeteria. Look for the reserved table.

### Healing Service

Today the Coptic Orthodox Church will be responsible for the Healing Service, which will be celebrated in the Open Chapel at 14.30.

### Lost and found

For lost property please go to the Information desk.

### Methodists meet

Methodists will meet for lunch today at 12.30 in the Cafeteria. Please look for the reserved table.

### New Publications

Erika Schuchardt's new book "Why Me? – Learning to Live in Crises" (WCC Publications) can be ordered in the Bookshop.

### Nordiskt möte

Över 20 delegater från Finland, Sverige, Norge och Danmark möts för första gången i Aghios Andreas, fredag kl. 12.30 i cafeterian.

### Participants list

The participants list is not yet available.

### Shuttle buses

Buses to and from Mati Hotel to Aghios Andreas and back are available morning and evening. Please check the timetable at the Information desk. A daily shuttle to Nea Makri town leaves daily every hour from 9.00 to 21.00.

### Press Room

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

### Special needs

Contact Judith Kocher at the Information desk.

### Church visits on Sunday

Sign up for the church visits in Athens on the sheets provided in the cafeteria area.

## Weather

### Friday 13 May 2005

Athens + 22°C, cloudy  
Rio de Janeiro +26°C, sunny

## Today's Synaxeis

The Synaxis programme is still going. We are grateful for the contributions thus far and have received a lot of positive feedback from participants. The schedule is almost full, however there are a couple of free places left. If you would still like to offer a Synaxis, please don't hesitate to contact the Synaxis coordinator, Tara Tautari.

A full list of all sessions will be posted on the Synaxis 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.

Any changes to this schedule will be posted on the Synaxis registration board.



## Μία μέρα πριν...

