

Mission 2005 News

Η ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΑ



#6

ΕΛΘΕ, ΠΝΕΥΜΑ ΑΓΙΟ, ΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΣΕ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΜΦΩΝΙΩΣΕ ΜΑΣ!

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

This is the last Mission2005 News. Editors Alex Belopovsky (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.

Sunday 15 May

Goodbye Aghios Andreas



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

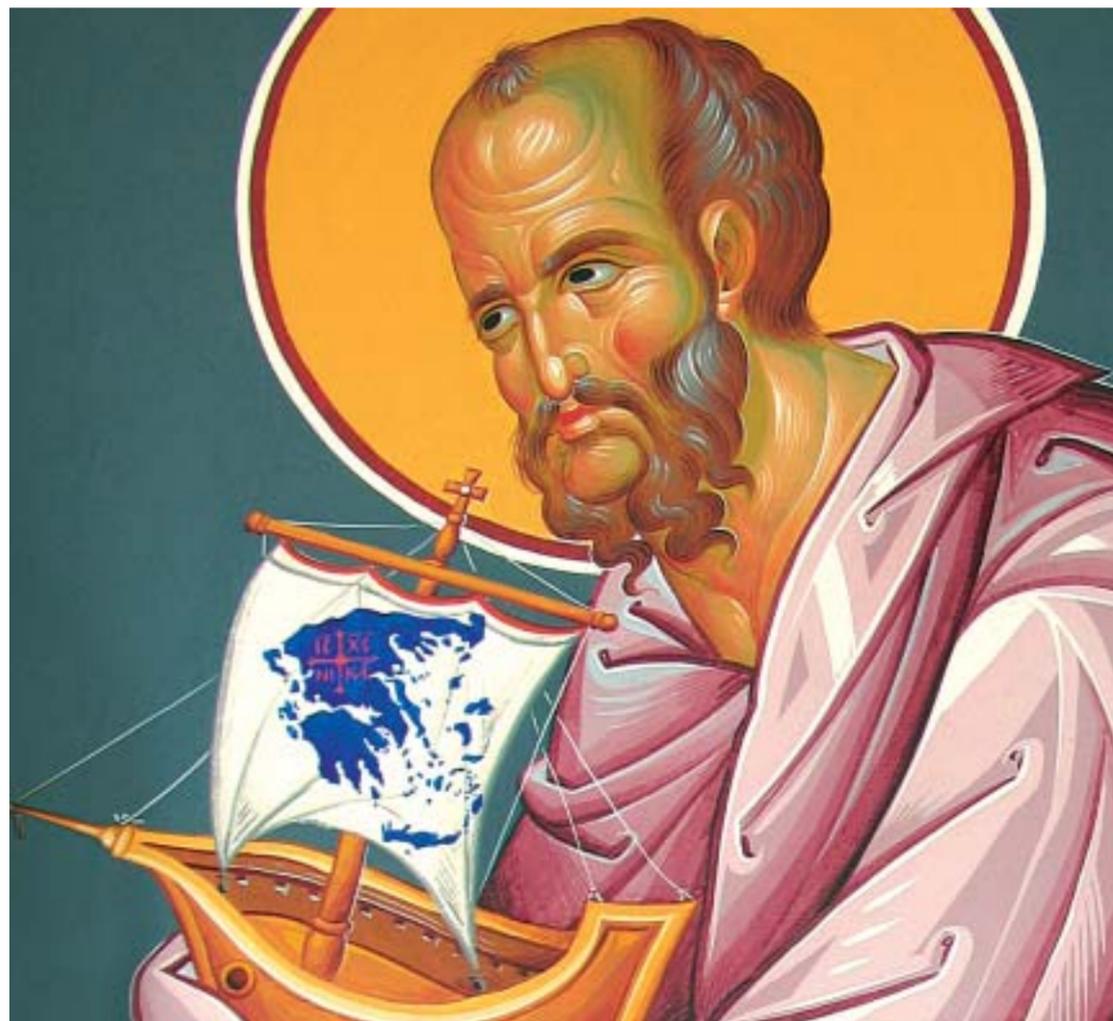
www.mission.2005.org is the address of the conference home page in five languages where, by clicking on *Resources* you will find all the documents and other resources of the conference, on *News - Media* the press releases and features, as well as photos, videos and other items which will help you tell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

To the airport

Shuttles to the airport will be functioning until Monday evening.

Taxis

Airport taxi telephone is 229 40 91 300.



 Kalo taxidi! Bon Voyage!

**Number
of the Day**
39

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

Now and forever

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26)

"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)

Ο Κύριος να σε ευλογεί και να σε φυλάει. Ο Κύριος να σου δείξει την εύνοιά του και να σ' ελεήσει. Ο Κύριος να σου συμπαραστέκεται και να σου δίνει ειρήνη. (Αριθμοί 6, 24-26)

Ο Θεός της ελπίδας να σας γεμίσει με κάθε λογής χαρά κι ειρήνη που δίνει η πίστη, για να έχετε περίσσια ελπίδα με τη δύναμη του Αγίου Πνεύματος. (Προς Ρωμαίους 15, 13)

In the footsteps of Saint Paul, the 13th Conference on World Mission and Evangelism concludes today with a celebration of the reconciling message of Christ in a closing ceremony and worship service held at the Areopagus, which is the place where the Apostle preached to the Athenians some 2,000 years ago. "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and

everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things." (Acts 17:22-25 NRSV). Yesterday the conference concluded its plenary work recognizing that the profound changes affecting the world in the new millennium form an

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 churches 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.

Go forth in peace!

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.

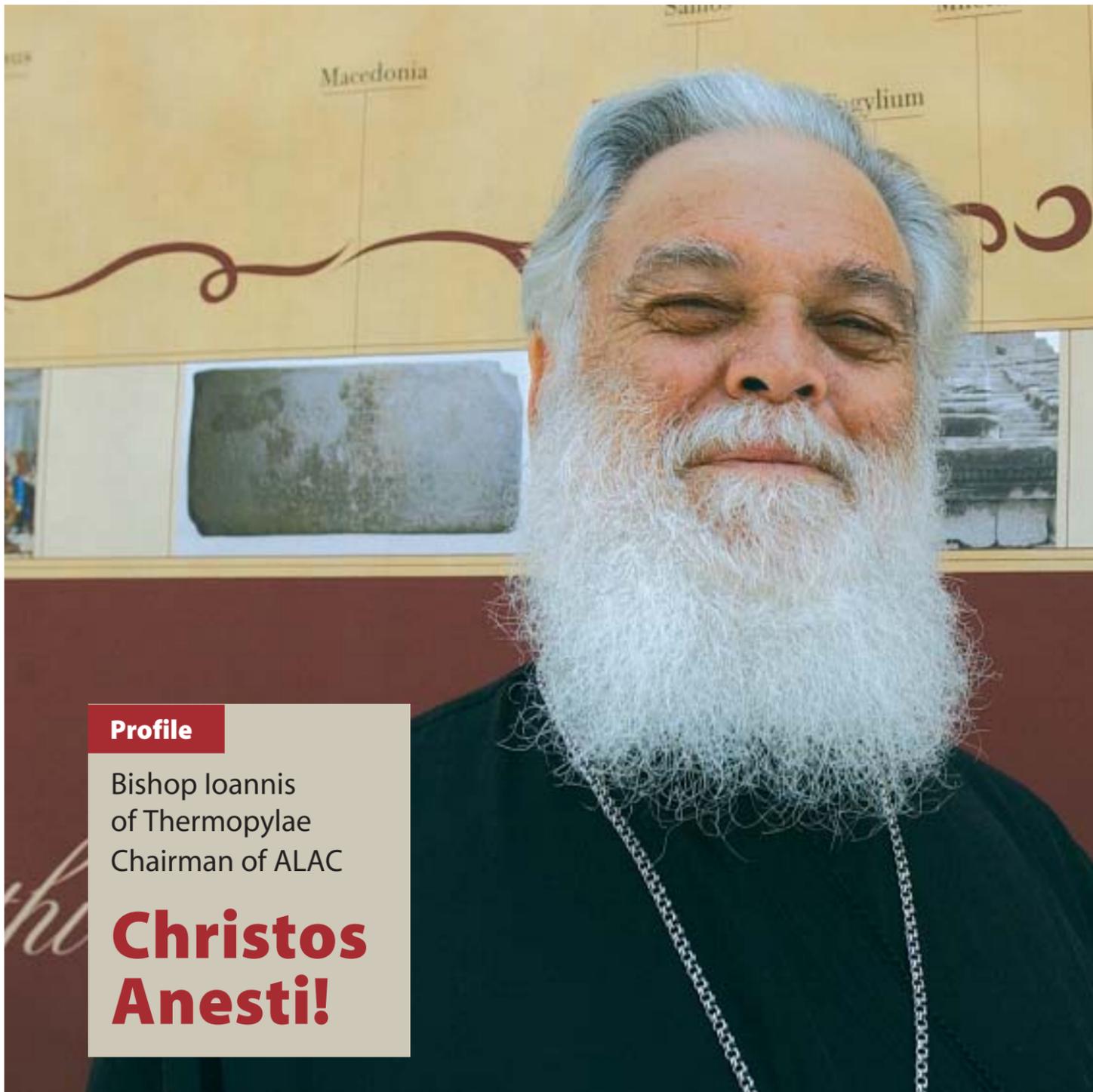
Ruth's Reflections

Thank you

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 programme here. I dream that conference participants will make their own commitment before God to continue in their call to be in mission together and work towards reconciliation and healing in Christ, in God's world today.

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 a 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

Rev. Ruth Bottoms, CWME moderator



Profile

Bishop Ioannis
of Thermopylae
Chairman of ALAC

Christos Anesti!

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 he 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 thought 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 input 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.

Faces and voices

Sunday 8 May

Preparing

Stewards prepared Aghios Andreas, ready to welcome more than 650 participants.



Monday 9 May

Gathering

Due to a great number of arrivals you couldn't avoid queuing.



Tuesday 10 May

Journey starts

A weeklong journey of sharing experiences began.



Wednesday 11 May

Healing

Healing hand in hand in a broken world.





Michael Dumont
Canada

At the next WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre the theme will be youth. I think that it is critically important that youth be part of that event. Youth played a minimal role in the work of Athens2005: we were a forgotten demographic. My hope is that at Porto Alegre we will have a 25% youth delegation.



Mary Khalaf
Syria

My hope for the next Mission conference is that 25% of its participants are young people 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 of my region so that we can all live in peace.



Nadia Kist
Kenya

As a youth my hope is to see our discussions prayerfully put into action not as a movement but each one as an individual in his or her community. There is one verse that comes to my 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 of creation, be united in the One Body of Christ, at the very least in the practical realization of those projects.

Sights and Sounds

Thursday 12 May

Building peace

Building cultures of peace against violence



Friday 13 May

Healing

Growing together.



Saturday 14 May

Sending

Common witness to all nations.



Sunday 15 May

Celebrating

Go forth in peace!



San Antonio 1989

The conference of San Antonio, Texas, USA can be considered the last in the period dominated by the conflict between two ideological and economic systems (1918-1989). San Antonio became famous for a consensus statement on the relation between Christianity and other religions. San Antonio also dealt with Christian involvement in struggles for life and against oppression, as well as with the increasing importance of our relation with creation.

Salvador de Bahía 1996

The last conference on mission of the 20th century took place in Salvador de Bahía, Brazil, and was fully dedicated



History of Mission Conferences

to the relation between gospel and cultures. After the change in world politics of 1989 and the increased influence

of cultural and ethnic identities on violent conflicts, a renewed missiological reflection on culture was needed.

The 12th Mission Conference in Salvador de Bahía insisted on the richness of cultural variety as God's gift.

Mission2005 in the international press

Times Online United Kingdom (www.timesonline.co.uk)

"More often than not, persons with disabilities feel alienated, marginalised, embarrassed and in some cases offended by the treatment meted out to them by the Church," said the Rev Samuel Kabue at a meeting of the World Council of Churches in Athens

ORF Religion Austria (<http://religion.orf.at/>)

Im Mittelpunkt von mehr als 60 Workshops stehen Fragen wie die Möglichkeit des "Erfahrens von Heilung" in einer Gemeinde oder danach, wie in einer gespaltenen Gesellschaft durch das Wirken christlicher Gemeinden Versöhnung gefördert werden kann.

La-Croix France (www.la-croix.com)

"Ce qui est désormais normatif pour exprimer notre foi, ce ne sont plus des formes nées de la culture européenne, a affirmé le pasteur Kobia, méthodiste du Kenya. Aujourd'hui, la mission est portée par des frères et des soeurs ayant reçu des dons de l'Esprit qui n'ont jamais été monopolisés par des intermédiaires européens ou nordaméricains."

In.gr Greece (www.in.gr)

Πανχριστιανικό συνέδριο - Συνεργασία των χριστιανικών εκκλησιών για το ιεραποστολικό έργο. Μήνυμα ενότητας για τον επανευαγγελισμό του ποιμνίου στέλνουν οι χριστιανικές εκκλησίες(...).

Day's Glossary

Resurrection

The word for Resurrection in Greek, *Anastasis* (pronounced *Anástassis*, from the Greek verb *an-ístamai* = to stand up, to rise) refers mainly to the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

Christós Anésti ("Christ is risen!", in Greek) is therefore the wish heard everywhere in Greece these days, the correct answer to it being *Alithós Anésti o Kýrios* ("The Lord is risen indeed!"), reminding Christians that the otherwise irremediable sense of absence and of pain caused by death is only temporary.

Info on Mission 2005 Local Organizers

The Greek Evangelical Church

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.



Weather
Sunday 15 May 2005
 Athens + 23°C, showers
 Reykjavik + 9°C, sunny

Ευχαριστώ πολύ

Thanks to the conference organizers, local organizers, civil and military authorities, participants, interpreters and translators, staff, stewards, Samartzis Gastronomie, et al...



Mission Conference in 2010

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.

Yesterday...

