



CONFERENCE ON WORLD MISSION AND EVANGELISM

COME HOLY SPIRIT - HEAL AND RECONCILE

Called in Christ to be reconciling and healing communities

Athens (Greece), 9-16 May 2005

PLEN 14 May

Honored gathering; dear friends.

As the representatives of the youth of the Christian community all around the world we now deliver you a message and urge you to listen.

How old was Jesus when he first delivered His message? According to the WCC standards He would have been considered a youth. He would have been placed into a special category, offered a pre-conference and have a lovely misspelled T-Shirt.

Surely we youth delegates and stewards appreciate the opportunity we have been given to participate and we have done our best in order to let the voice of young people sound loud and clear.

In our minds there is a conference after this conference that takes place in our homes and in our communities where we are expected to carry on the message received here. We appeal to you to overcome barriers of communication between the different church traditions and to continue praying for the other churches and our common witness to the world. We also appeal to you to continue to stand up, to take position and action against the various forms of violence in the world. It is our task to confront challenges like the HIV-pandemic, domestic violence and ecological violence with one interconfessional voice; and to repent wherever our churches do not resist violence.

Therefore we urge all participants who experienced these blessed days in Athens to take care of the seeds planted in our hearts during this conference, to share what we have seen and heard and to carry out the message of healing and reconciliation to our world.

We remind you of the WCC goal of 25% youth participation in every major event but clearly we have failed to reach this goal here in Athens for only 5% of this conference's participants are youth, and they have not played an active role.

In eight months time we have a great opportunity to change this trend - for the focus of the General Assembly in Porto Allegre is on youth! We challenge you to listen to the young people of your communities and give them the chance to contribute to the ecumenical mission.

Young people are important participants in their home communities and therefore young delegates are crucial in delivering fresh messages all around the world and acting as a bridge between discussion and action.