



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

Meditation 10 May

Embargoed against delivery

Document No **1**

THE PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

A message for the Mission and Evangelism Conference Athens – May 2005

We bring you greetings from all the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem and their various communities as you gather to consider the next stage in the work of Mission and Evangelism of the Christian Churches.

This Cross is a token of our love and prayers that God will richly bless all of you and guide your deliberations. It was made by Christian craftsmen in Bethlehem, whose very livelihoods are in danger because of the on-going situation in the Holy Land. The wood used come from olive trees uprooted to make way for the advancement of the so-called “security fence”. The Cross has been ingeniously constructed by putting olive wood tiles together – a clear reminder to all of us that our witness is more positive and effective the more our various Churches are seen working and witnessing together.

Jesus said, “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12.32). So we believe the stronger our witness together the greater the power of the Cross to draw men and women to Christ, who offers healing and reconciliation to the world.

The Cross comes also with representatives of our various families of Churches to remind all of you that we seek to be a vital, living witness in the Holy Land to our Risen Lord. However, the efficacy of our witness calls for the prayers and support of the whole of Christendom across the world. Though each of us is called by God to witness to the love demonstrated by the Cross in our various homelands nevertheless we would ask you to help and encourage all Christians of the Holy Land to be “Living Stones”.

We wish you all, the Peace of the Risen Christ.