

Hand in Hand

The topic of the eleventh Mozaik is ecumenism and reconciliation: stories from Europe. In this issue we consider several questions: how can we come closer together, as churches and as peoples in Europe? What can we learn from our ecumenical ancestors on this journey? These topics are of great importance now for the World Student Christian Federation Europe Region.

The method of non-violence as political and spiritual force was dealt with in the WSCF Nordic Winter Meeting in Trosa, Vagnhärad (Sweden) in February 2003. Our European Regional Assembly (ERA) in Finland in October 2003 explores how WSCF as an actor of church history has shaped and continues to shape the ecumenical movement. Through this we strive to discover our roots and to look to the future.

Healing and reconciliation are the themes of the Conference of European Churches (KEK) General Assembly in Trondheim, Norway, in June 2003, with the youth meeting co-organised by WSCF-Europe. We must pose the question for ourselves: what do ecumenism and reconciliation mean for us? Enormous changes in our continent in the last fifty or sixty years are still living memories: how were our communities and our churches part of these changes? What is our vision for the future?

The seventeen articles inside this edition reflect upon the possibility of rereading and re-evaluating history and church history in order to enhance reconciliation among various identities. We are grateful to receive inputs from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Spain, and also the United States of America.

There are five sections of dialogue within the journal. After the introduction, the opening section, Redrafted Memories, provides a theoretical and Biblical grounding for the topic. Forgiving and kenosis (emptying-out) are means to reach understanding in the postmodern age as well, including the prominent question of female leadership in the Church.

The section Cloaks of Sophia brings inputs from the realm of philosophy and history of ideas. ARISTIPPOS, DIOGENES, ROUSSEAU, BAUDELAIRE, MOUNIER and ZIGO bring us closer to the ancient Cyrenaic school, virtuous atheism and personalism.

In the section Inflaming the Rainbow, the ecumenical history is looked at from different perspectives. The sometimes rebellious, sometimes tradition-respecting story of WSCF receives its place in this narrative as well. The seventeenth century Central European history appears as a foretaste of the movement for Christian unity. We are especially grateful to John George HUBER, the chair of the Faith, Order and Witness Committee of the Ecumenical Council of San Diego County, that he shares with us his vision of intra-Christian dialogue.

In our fourth section, encountering the Geometry of Unity, we intend to research social and political issues, questions and answers, like poverty or church-state relations. The divided half century in this part of the globe has its mark on our way of thinking, even when approaching the enlargement of the European Union.

Bible studies are a long tradition within WSCF and the Student Christian Movements. A Psalm of David, number 103, provides opportunities to reflect upon personal and communitarian reconciliation.

Because we are beyond the first ten years of the journal, and after the first ten issues, we enlist the contents of the previous Mozaiks as a historical overview on what we have produced during our first decade. We encourage our readers and supporters to write-in with responses to the articles contained in this issue of Mozaik as well. Please send all comments, feedback, questions and further ideas on stories, histories and reconciliations to our email address (wscfmozaik@yahoo.co.uk).

Finally, we are proud to introduce our illustrator, Agnes AVAGYAN, a member of the Armenian SCM, who has been assigned the Diva title in the Russian Guinness Book of Records for her extraordinary ability to draw with both of her hands simultaneously. Her cartoons aim to make life more enjoyable while exposing bureaucracy, injustice, ignorance and other negative features of the contemporary society to tough criticism. Her paintings are warm-coloured and point to the bright side of life. In short, her art tries to make the audience notice the conciling beauty around us without forgetting the manifoldness of life's joys and sorrows.

Agnes Avagyan

