

The Neighbour in Need

Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted.

Martin Luther KING, Jr.

An old ecumenical adage says that 'doctrine divides, service unites'. Although doctrinal dialogue is indispensable for the long-term growth of Christian unity, often it is the Christian praxis that constitutes the most convincing witness for the world.

The social dimension of Christianity is the focus of the the current issue of Mozaik. Concrete experiences, case studies, meditations, reflections on Christian thinkers; all these contributions have their origin in the basic Christian concern for this world. The concern for the neighbour and for a just economic structure of society are the core motifs of this issue.

Several of the articles appearing in this issue are directly linked to the Solidarity Conference of WSCF Europe 'I was a stranger and you invited me in': Homelessness and Poverty Housing in Europe Today, which took place in May 2006 in Cluj, Romania. The conference concentrated on the situation of homeless people in different societies, as well as on theological perspectives and policies on refugees. Mozaik follows the same line enriching the theme with historical and local case studies dealing with modern poverty and economic (in-)justice, first-hand experiences of

the authors, as well as with the liturgical perspective.

This time we present to the reader articles written by authors from Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, the U.K. and the U.S. They cover an array of issues and we hope that the reader will be able to find among them approaches to modern poverty that will inspire him or her to an engaged Christian response to this challenge of our times. The readers are cordially invited to send comments, feedback, questions and further ideas to our e-mail address wscf-mozaik@yahoo.co.uk or to contact directly the authors, whose e-mail addresses are included in their mini-bios.

The atmosphere of Mozaik is always co-shaped by a young artist, whose artwork accompanies the reader throughout the journal. This time we introduce to you the Finnish photographer Ville PIRTILAHTI, whose photographs are little allegories of the (frequently unsuccessful) attempt of the human to make the world better. Simultaneously we remain grateful to Anna-Kaisa MIINALAINEN for her help in selecting and processing the photographs.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my co-editors Rebecca BLOCKSOME and Thorsten NILGES for their excellent work. I really appreciated their commitment to the editorship during this exceptionally hot summer and I enjoyed the spirit of our co-operation very much.

Ut omnes unum sint.

WSCF Activities – Calendar for 2007

3-10 OCTOBER 2006

**WSCF Europe Thematic Conference:
"Religion and Society – Partners or Competitors?"**
Copenhagen, Denmark

11-15 JANUARY 2007

European Regional Committee Meeting
Malta

8-11 FEBRUARY 2007

Nordic Winter Meeting: "Amazing Meetings between the Religions"
Sweden

22-26 FEBRUARY 2007

CESR Winter Seminar: "Leadership and Decision-making in Democratic Communities"
Sopron, Hungary

4-11 MARCH 2007

WSCF Europe Thematic Conference: "Family – Expectations and Exceptions"
Strasbourg, France

19-22 APRIL 2007

Staff Meeting
Edinburgh, Scotland

23-28 MAY 2007

WSCF Europe Thematic Conference: "If I Were a Migrant ..." Youth Perspective on Migration and Integration of Young Migrants into Society
Rome, Italy

6-10 JUNE 2007

Ecumenical Church Days - Kirchentag
Köln, Germany

4-9 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3): "The Light of Christ Shines

Upon Us All"
Sibiu, Romania

16-21 OCTOBER 2007

WSCF Europe Thematic Conference: "Religion – Source of Peace or Violence?"
Paris, France

21-23 OCTOBER 2007

European Regional Assembly
Paris, France

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