

Between Denial and Assertion

"The Gospel is about the embodiment of the spiritual – the fleshing out of the eternal."

(Ronald FERGUSON)

When we called for articles for this issue, we were looking for essays and articles examining the connections between body and mind, body and spirit; the role of sexuality in Christian life; wholeness and holiness; fullness of life and life in abundance. We encouraged the authors to contribute to ecumenical thinking by exploring and rediscovering the body (to be resurrected).

This issue on Body is connected to our Gender and Education Working Group within WSCF Europe, coordinated by Ellen Aasland Reinertsen. Our last conference (in Amsterdam, April 2002) dealt with Women and Men Created in God's Image – but? – Body and Sexuality between Denial and Assertion. Our journal builds on the findings and concerns of this event.

The fourteen articles gathered here mirror the ways that students and young intellectuals see the question of body in the world and in the Church. The geographical scope of the reflections arches from England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Norway and Italy to Lithuania, Belarus and Romania, and from Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to North America.

We grouped the contributions into four sections, so that they could underline or undermine each other within one section, but also that sections as different approaches to our topic could be in dialogue with each other. While the section Interior and Exterior deals with the possibilities and limitations of the human body, the part Fullness of Life places the body within the perspective of the life of the Church.

The heading Challenges in the Church gathers essays more provocative towards internal issues which we tend to hide and to forget in our accustomed Christian life. As closure, three articles on the artistic understanding of the body are grouped within the section, Glance of an Artist.

We revived the long tradition of

Bible studies within WSCF, and asked Nienke PRUIKSMA, our previous chairperson who wrote the Bible study for the present issue, to be responsible for this section in the future. Her text is completed with a prayer from the Amsterdam conference.

Our illustrator in this issue is an Italian artist, Karen LA FATA. Her long-time focus is the human body, which she sees as an architectural masterpiece in itself. We wholeheartedly thank her for providing the graphical program for this issue.

Since one of our aims is to build a thinktank of committed and concerned people, we encourage our readers to write-in with responses to the articles contained in this issue of Mozaik. Please send all comments, feedback, and further ideas on Embodied Faith and this issue to our email address (wscfmozaik@yahoo.co.uk).

As you can see, the intention of the editorial board was to create an organic text (proper to this topic), which can speak for itself. We think that both provoking and reconciling can be part of the thematics and style of this ecumenical journal, their dynamics hopefully contributing to the unity of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Ronald Ferguson

**Best wishes to our friends at MOZAIK
And to those who read this fine magazine.**

Rev John Moyer

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