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Bulletin for Inter-religious Cooperation

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BULLETIN for Inter-religious Cooperation

No. 4

August – September 2004

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May you deserve many years – may a good year be written down for you

SEMINAR ON THE INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Seminar under the topic “Inter-religious dialogue” was held on the FIS and OF premises, on 13 September 2004. It was organized in close cooperation between the Faculty of Islamic Studies, the Orthodox Faculty and MCIC. Representatives from the Islamic-Christian Study Centre (ICSC) from Copenhagen, Denmark participated at the seminar.

The seminar was arranged in two sessions. The premises of the FIS were used to host the morning session of the seminar, under the topic “To be believer in the modern multi-religious society”, with Mrs. Lisi Rasmusen and Mr. Safet Bektovic from ICIC as introducers. As part of the panel discussion on the topic “The nationality in the pluralistic society, the relations among the state, the church and the religious communities, the different types of secular societies”, D-r. Jovan Takovski, Vice-Dean of the OF, D-r. Ismail Bardhi, Dean of the FIS, D-r. Metin Izeti, lecturer at the FIS, M-r. Abdulxemi Nesimi, lecturer at the FIS and M-r. Goko Gorgeski at the OF came out with their works.

In the greeting speeches given by the Dean of the FIS and the Vice-Dean of the OF at the start, the crisis resulting from the absence of theological and religious culture in the society was underscored, further on the need for cooperation and positive energy, as well as the need for co-existence paradigm to be created. The moral support by the state was cited to be of essential importance in that direction, in view of the fact that the state was little concerned with the religion and the religious institutions in the past, which lead to the present unregulated status of both of the Theological Faculties within the state education system.

In addition, the most burning issue of developing cooperation among the state, the church and the religious communities was put on discussion. It was underlined that the purity of the religion and its content require the cooperation issue to be kept out of the political problems and the politics in general, in one word – there is no need for that.

In her lecture on the main topic, Mrs. Rasmusen pointed out that contradictory tendencies can be detected among the believers in Denmark vis-à-vis the religious communities. Most of the people identify themselves as Christians or Moslems, most often as a form of opposition against the other people. Having been religious people, individuals and communities as well, we have an obligation to work towards achieving universal good, against the use of the identity as a form of rejection of the other people – in Macedonia and Denmark, also. The message is clear, in the Bible and in the Koran, to direct your work not only towards the personal interests, but also towards the good of the whole society. We are all God's children.

In Mr. Safet Bektovic's view, the growing crisis of the modern life in the last decades of the 20th century resulted in growing interest for the religion. The globalization, the intensifying of the communication among the members of different cultures, the identity crisis, the absence of ideological-philosophical system, the eruption of conflicts with religious background are only some of the factors that call for new defining of the religion.

The premises of the Orthodox Faculty were used for hosting the second session of the seminar under the topic "Why inter-religious dialogue". D-r. Ismail Bardhi and Mrs. Lisi Rasmusen talked on this topic, while the topic "How can the Moslems and the Christians communicate and live together?" was taken up by D-r. Aco Girevski from the OF. According to Mrs. Lisi Rasmusen, the dialogue is aimed at building friendly relationships, based on trust. In different contexts, different models of dialogue are required. The underlying characteristic of all the models is the building of relations: to build a relationship means to give back, to get connected with, to be friendly disposed.

As a conclusion to his speech, Prof. D-r. Aco Gievski from the OF pointed out that with the different "belief", the basic values and the spirituality one possesses do not go away. Therefore, it is our obligation to share our convictions and deepest spiritual experiences, endowed by God, with the ones who are different from us. Those one who know their belief and are faithful to it, wholeheartedly and faithfully, those one who show repentance through consolation and authentic love – the permanent drives for restoring the spiritual life, those one could always, in any time and in any place throughout the world, initiate dialogues like this one.

In the end, the guests from Denmark presented the experiences with the ICSC in the area of inter-religious dialogue.

What should be noted is that Aleksandar Krzalovski from MCIC presided with the panel discussions at both of the sessions. All along the seminar, representatives from the media, as well as from both of the high-education institutions were present.

It is more than certain that the holy books are inexhaustible source of power for creating peace, love and co-existence for all the people, regardless of the national or religious backgrounds. They have best knowledge of the men. They talk about the society, the value of the body, the internal purity, the clear conscience, and the high consciousness for oneself and for the others. Unfortunately, the lack of knowledge about each other represent a big cultural and civilization shortcoming. That is why we hope that the gatherings like this one directed at inter-religious dialogue would stimulate us to move towards that direction.

Prepared by: D-r. Ismail Bardhi,
Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies, Skopje

ACTIVITIES OF THE THEOLOGICAL FACULTIES

INTER-RELIGIOUS SUMMER CAMP

Inter-religious summer camp was held from 12-17 in Struga. It was attended by twenty-five students and activists from the Orthodox Faculty (OF), the Faculty of Islamic Studies (FIS), Evangelic-Methodist Church (EMC), as well as the Baptist Church, Universal Life and New Hope.

The goal of the camp was through dialogue to share our religious convictions, to get to know more about each other, as well as for the other. It is exactly what challenged me to take part in the camp.

Apart from the opportunity to get acquainted with each other, we had an opportunity to listen to several lectures featuring the issues of humanity, love and dialogue.

Irsal Jakupi presented the lecture of D-r. Ismail Bardhi, the Dean of FIS, on the topic "*Islamic humanity – basis for inter-religious dialogue*".

The concept of humanity as one of the most important and affirmed values in the conscience of the modern men was presented with the lecture.

Mirce Tancev from EMC reminded us that "*God is in a look for dialogue with the men*", thus underlying the importance of the dialogue.

In the lecture given by the Prof. Petko Zlateski, of the OF, titled as "*Through the mutual love in Europe*", the basic accent was put on the love. In their love for the other people, the Christians should look up to the God's Love for the humanity.

Within the camp, a “*Workshop for evaluation of the program Inter-religious cooperation in Macedonia – PRM*” was organized. The representatives from MCIC informed us about the activities conducted so far and the future planned activities of the program.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to express their impressions of the mutual socializing and to give ideas for the future activities. It was our unanimous opinion that debates need to be organized where we would jointly work on eradicating the modern evils and dangers (drugs, abortion, euthanasia, cloning), we concurred that the Christian and Islamic religion alike, tightly correlate the religious system with the morale system. In the end, we concluded that the inter-religious dialogue should be intensified and directed towards overcoming the stereotypes.

The visits to the religious objects St. Bogorodica Perivlepta and St. Kliment at Plaosnik in Ohrid, as well as the Hasan Baba Hajati Teke in Struga were additional activities within the summer camp.

The church Ss. Kliment and Pantelejmon is found in the Plaosnik location, in Ohrid.. It had been a monastery. According to the St. Kliment’s hagiography, after he arrived in Ohrid in the year 893, he restored the old monastery and dedicated it to St. Pantelejmon. There he also built a church and a school and educated 3.500 pupils.

The church St. Bogorodica Perivlepta is found in the upper area of Ohrid in the vicinity of the “Gorna Porta”. It had been built in 1295 by the Byzantine army commander Progon Zgur.

During the visit to the church, the evening service was conducted and besides us, the Orthodox, the other visitors stayed at the service. That was a remarkable opportunity for the visitors to learn something more about the religious rituals in the Orthodox church.

Hasan Baba Hajti Teke is located in Struga and dates back to the 18th century. It had been built by Hasan Baba. The cupola of the minaret is equiangular, symbolizing the eight doors of the Paradise. The members of this Teke are named Halveti Hajati, which stands for full submission to the religious obligations and to restrain from the secular matters. Apart from the history of the Teke, we had an opportunity to get acquainted with Moslem religious ritual.

The visits contributed to learning something more about the history, the style and the construction of these temples, as well as with the religious rituals and services thus recognizing the reproduction of the original vision by the means of the symbolical forms of the ritual.

This experience contributed to appreciate the others and ourselves for those who we really are, and realized that even though different we are still very much the same unified in the

belief, in one God. All the participants at the camp somehow became closer, and I did not perceive them as Moslems, Methodist or Baptists any more, instead as a real person that I have come to know in deeper and personal manner.

Prepared by: Aneta Jovkovska
Graduated Theologian

INTER-RELIGIOUS INFO AND DIALOGUE CENTRE OPENS

The Inter-religious Info and Dialogue Centre opens on 1 July 2004

Within the PRM program, an Inter-religious and Dialogue Centre has been open. The Macedonian Orthodox Church, the Islamic Religious Community, the Catholic Church, the Jewish Community, the Evangelic-Methodist Church, as well as other religious communities made their contribution to the Centre by donating books.

The library fund of the Info and Dialogue Centre is mostly made up of editions with religious contents and it offers an opportunity for better informing about the different religions in Macedonia. Besides the library, the premises of the Centre are used for hosting meetings of the churches and the religious communities.

The Centre employs seven people, students of the Theological Faculties and church/religious communities activists (two of them are employed on part-time basis and the other five are engaged one day per week). The library fund is available to the students of the Theological Faculties, as well as to the interested citizens, every working day from 10am to 18 pm. The employees are ready to offer explanations about the publications any time.

Many students of the Theological Faculties and citizens interested in the religion issues visited the Centre. What's more the Deans of the OF and the FIS paid a visit to the Centre, as well.

The Publishing House "Tabernakul" put on display representative samples with religious contents.

The interested citizens are free to visit the Inter-religious Info and Dialogue Centre at Mito Hadzivasilev- Jasmin street No. 18, block 7, local 3. Any additional information can be obtained on tel. 02/3230-044.

Prepared by Suzana Trijkova
Graduated Theologian

VISIT TO THE MONASTERY “ST. BOGORODICA PRECISTA”

The representatives of the churches and the religious communities paid a visit to the monastery “St. Bogorodica Precista” on 30 June, 2004

Some twenty students and activists of the MOC (and OF), IRC (and FIS), KC, EMC, The Voice of God, as well as interested citizens paid a visit to the monastery “St. Bogorodica Precista”.

Upon arrival, we were welcomed with locum, coffee and cold water, in monastery fashion, by the seventy years old Agnija. We were informed about the history of the monastery during our stay.

The present construction of the monastery was put up back in 1949-50. The monastery has proved throughout the history to be important spiritual, cultural-educative centre. Namely, the first Archbishop of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, Dositej, had been hierotonisan to be Bishop in this monastery. The Monastery had been built back in 1848 by the igumen Teodosij together with the people from western Macedonia. The icon painter Dico from Tresonce painted the frescoes, it is also believed that his son Abram contributed also.

What makes greatest impression is the icon depicting the Holy Mother with opening in the stone floor below it, it is believed that if one goes through it will be granted with health and eternal goodness. The iconostasis is remarkable as well.

The monastery compound bloomed when the Metropolitan Mr. Timotej had been appointed for Eparchy Bishop. The old monastery shelters have been completely restored since then. Agnija tirelessly watches over the monastery property.

One member of the visiting group expressed her impressions by saying “All throughout the day, one idea kept recurring to me. That is that the religiousness goes hand in hand with the tolerance. To be precise, the people with clearly defined devoutness and strong religious feelings proved to be far more tolerant of the various religious denominations than the people who are lacking those values. Being it so, the project will be more successful providing it is directed towards the people who are expected to be less tolerant, according to the suggested formula”.

Prepared by: Suzana Trajkova
Graduated Theologian

Visit to the Catholic Church

A visit to the Catholic Church – Holiest Heart of Jesus in Skopje is scheduled to take place on 6 October 2004. The visitors will be welcomed by Don Nikola Kibaric.

THE DAYS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

The preparation activities for the Days of the Religious Communities have just been launched. On 7 September, 2004, an Organization Board has been constituted of representatives from the churches and the religious communities of RM. The Organization Board had its first meeting to decide on the application forms, the time of the event and other program activities.

The Days of the Religious Communities will be arranged in Exhibition part and Forum part. The exhibition activities are directed towards featuring new editions (books, newsletters, posters, audio and video materials) prepared by the churches and the religious communities, while the forum activities involve lectures and debates on various topics.

This event represents a unique opportunity for the churches and the religious communities of Macedonia to present themselves through their publications and editions and by the means of the forum events.

The religious communities and religious groups, as well as their accompanying humanitarian organizations that are to take part in the Days of the Religious Communities should be registered in accordance with the existing laws of the state.

More information on the event you can find in the Inter-religious Info and Dialogue Centre.

ADDRESS BOOK OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

The preparation activities for publishing an Address Book of the religious communities and religious groups are underway.

The Address Book will contain basic information about the religious communities and religious groups in Macedonia, registered in accordance with the Law on the religious communities, as well as photos depicting the more significant religious objects and it will be published in Macedonian language, with short version in Albanian language and English language.

The Address Book will provide for better informing about the churches and the religious communities in Macedonia.

It is the first ever Address Book of the religious communities and religious groups in Macedonia and represents an excellent opportunity for their presentation, not only to the other religious communities and group, but also to the general public.

We sincerely hope that it will be widely used in the public, as well as in the private sector and the international institutions interested in human and religious rights. The promotion of the Address Book is scheduled to take place at the Days of the religious Communities event.

Trainings, workshops and seminars

THE CIVIC SOCIETY IN THE EU INTEGRATION PROCESS

Within the Program on building capacities, APRODEV (association of 17 major humanitarian and development European organizations associated with the World Council of Churches) in cooperation with the Macedonian centre for International Cooperation (APRODEV's partner) organized a workshop titled "*The role of the civic society in the EU integration and democratization process in the Balkans*", on 22-23 July, 2004.

The workshop was started off with pre-seminar where Mr. Rob van Drimmelen – the Secretary General of APRODEV had an introductory expose. The seminar carried on with the lecture given by Mr. Peter Pavlovic, Conference of the European Churches' representative, on the topic "*The role of the church in the European integration processes – the experience of KEK as European Ecumenical Organization*". He underlined that the role of the civic society in the European development is very important for the future. The Balkan countries represent a part of that process. With an aim to achieve the goals and participate effectively in the European integration processes, the civic society organizations should clearly define their goals and partners. He added that the churches and the organizations related to the churches should play an important role in these processes.

A lecture was delivered by Ortaid's representative, a humanitarian organization within the Orthodox Church in Finland, Mr. Jyrki Harkonen under the topic "*The Orthodox Church in Finland: work on the development between the east and the west.*"

In short he introduced the humanitarian organization ORTAID, founded in 2000 as part of the Orthodox Church of Finland, to the participants.

Several times throughout the lecture, the fact that Finland is found right on the border between the two cultures, in a region marked with the presence of both cultures, the eastern and the western branch of Christianity, was underlined. Therefore, one can say that the eastern Christianity tradition and the western democracy values persevere

one along the other within the Finnish Orthodox Church, until the present day. He added that since the accession to the European Union since 1995, one quite normal step has been made towards the cultural integration. At the same time, he presented some ideas on how should the Orthodox Church take active part in the cultural dialogues in Europe.

The lecture was concluded with the words: Ortaid prefers to read the signs of the time by looking upon EU as a challenge. The success of EU in the end will largely depend on its ability to help the Orthodox churches free themselves from the nationalism and transform their mission into a mission of creating Orthodox Commonwealth in Europe.”

SEVEN YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF MOTHER TERESA MARKED

“THE MOTHER TERESA LEGACY” ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS WERE HANDED DOWN

“Maybe we are not capable of doing big things, however we can do small things, and with a lot of love too”, Mother Teresa – Gonga Bojagiu, the big humanist and citizen of the world, had once said. The world looked upon Mother Teresa with enthusiasm, upon her sacrifice and devotion to the sick and the hungry, the lonely and the abandoned ones. The recognition to this mother, the Nobel Prize of Peace, came about in 1979. In that honor and in the honor of the seven past years since the death of Mother Teresa, a ceremony was held in the Macedonian Academy of science and arts, on 5 September 2004.

At the ceremony organized by the association “The Skopian Mother Teresa”, the Mayor of Skopje, Mr. Risto Penov, granted this year acknowledgements to Mr. Boris Trajkovski (posthumous recognition), Age Bojadziu and the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC).

Mr. Azis Polozani, the Minister of Education and Science, granted statutes with the image of the big woman to Miftar Miftari, Mitko Tosev, Skender Kuli, Galaba Zareska and the Nursery for elderly people “Mother Teresa”.

The citizen of the world, Mother Teresa, was born 26 August 1910 in Skopje. She left her hometown on 26 September 1928 to dedicate herself to the humanity, to commit herself to the sick and the helpless. She passed away on 5 September, 1997 in Calcutta, India.

The Pope Joan Paul II beatified Mother Teresa on 19 October 2003, that is to say proclaimed her Blessed – one more step to Saint.

Prepared by: Gramoz Sabani

THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE RADOVO CATHOLIC PARISH ON A SUMMER CAMP IN OHRID

In the period from 17-23 July 2004, the Radovo Parson D-r. Zoran Stojanov organized a summer camp for the young people of this eastern Catholic Parish. The summer camp took place in the new Catholic Pastoral Centre in Ohrid.

The group numbered 32 participants from different age, from 8th grade primary school to high school pupils. Two Theologians took part at the camp as well. The goal of this camp was to constitute a compact group of young people of different age, thus provide a space for the personality of each participant to be expressed fully. Prior to the beginning of the camp, preparatory exercises on liturgy singing were conducted. The timetable of the summer camp mostly involved lectures i.e. spiritual impulses.

The participants used their free time to go to beach, to go sightseeing, to visit the cultural monuments in Ohrid and, of course, to celebrate the Holy Liturgy every day since best way to experience the blessings of God is through liturgy. With the Holy Liturgy, we can enrich ourselves spiritually.

The young people had a chance to listen to different sermons, namely by N.V.P. Mons. Kiro Stojanov, the Pastor Zoran, the Fraters Kusan and Srecko. They, each one in his way, made an attempt to give explanation to the young people how should the Happy News – the Evangelical scripts be conveyed in these days. What's more important how should they experience and live by the Evangelical scripts.

This type of socializing offered the young people a chance to get to know each other better, to make contacts, to appreciate each other for what they are with their positive, as well as negative characteristics. In continuation, the impressions of several participants, Aleksandra, Velika and Marija, are given.

“The hosts, the Fraters Kusan and Srecko, welcomed us as we were the most important guests. The camp began with Holy Liturgy and we took part with our amateur choir. Following the Holy Liturgy, the hosts organized ceremonious lunch for us and by the way, thanked our choir for the lovely singing. After the lunch, our Parson gave several lectures. Throughout the whole week, our Parson was trying to show us the true path in the life, the path towards love and fraternal friendship, the path that leads to making the people true Christian persons leading disciplined life. He tried through some stories and examples to clarify the world that surrounds us with its good and bad aspects. He tried to introduce us to our future life on the right path towards freedom. To be free signifies to choose the right path that leads to Jesus Christ. That seems to be the most important thing we have learnt

in Ohrid. Actually, our spiritual leaders, the Fraters Kusan and Srecko and D-r. Kiro Stojanov, tried to illustrate the same message through their sermons, lectures and morals. It was our expectation that we will be filled with spiritual energy and enriched as persons and it was fulfilled.”

Prepared by: Spase Spasov

MAY YOU DESERVE MANY YEARS – MAY GOOD YEAR BE WRITTEN DOWN FOR YOU

Tizke lesanim rabot – leshana tova tinkatevu

(Traditional greeting of the Jews in honor of the Ros Hasana holiday)

As opposed to the other holiday that are more or less connected with the nature and the history and have different meanings and have been written down in several different ways in Tanah and Talmud in the honor of Rosh Hashana (New Year) and Jom Kipur (the Reconciliation Day), it can be said that those are not Hagim (Pilgrimage holidays). Those holidays are considered to be great holidays, and they are known as thus among the people.

The counting of the months starts with the Nisan month in the spring, and the counting of the years starts with the Tishri month, in the autumn. Rosh Hashana is celebrated on the first and second Tishri and represents a beginning of the Ten Awful Days, until the Big Fast Jom Kipur. Those are Holy Judgment days when the just and merciful God settles the scores of all the living beings on the Earth, writes down the merits, the good deeds, as well as the sins, makes judgments and writes them down in the books, and on the tenth day seals what the person has deserved with his behavior during the last year.

Thus, it is believed that in the vening of Rosh Hashana God opens the three books: the Book of the good people and right away writes down the ones that have deserved to be there, the Book of the ones who are given time to repent in the course of the ten days, and the Book of the ones who are completely evil an are immediately written down in the Book of the bad people and have no chance to repent themselves for the sins and wrong doings. That is why, the basic prayer of Rosh Hashana is “Writes us down in the Book of the Good ones!”

The belief is that in the times when the Second Temple was in place, while the Big Priest Ezra was doing his reading in honor of the Tora holiday, the people celebrated this big Jewish holiday and listened to the Tora reading, and at the same time they were crying

since they knew that in the course of those ten days their fate is being sealed and the decision concerning their future are being made.

Both of the holidays are being congratulated with the words: Ketiva Vehatima Tova! (May you have good writing and sealing off).

In tanah it has been written down that the first day of the Tishri month is a resting day, when the sound from the trumpets reminds us that it should be a day of the Holy Congregation.

However, the question why do we celebrate for two days when it says that it should be celebrated in one, can hardly be avoided.

For that matter, the answer is simple and clear. In the times of the prophets, our Rabies made a decision Rosh Hashana to be celebrated for two days because in that time the beginning of the new month had been determined by two eyewitness who in front of Bet Din (Superior Court) stated that they had seen young Moon. Thus the news was spread by the messengers from Jerusalem to Babylon. Since for the message, about the beginning of the new month, to be spread it took longer time, the Rabies made a decision the holiday to be celebrated for two days, in Jerusalem and in the whole world. In that way the possibility of being late had been avoided.

Some customs had been written down and are preserved until the present day (serving sweet fruits, apples with honey, lamb head dish, fish dish). These customs apply for the evening of the start of the holiday. These customs symbolize the start of the new, sweet and good year, the head of the household always to be first, for us to be fertile. Besides that all, Rosh Hashana has been marked as the Judgment Day that ends with Jom Kipur.

The preparations for the Rosh Hashana celebrations begin as yet as the Elul month (the month before Tishri month). That is when we should get ready for the big holidays. The custom of going to the Synagogues at dawn (except for the Saturdays) and praying by the special Selih prayers i.e. pardon prayers, is being practiced until Jom Kipur (the tenth day of the New Year). Apart from the sincere repenting for the wrong doings in the previous year and the pardoning prayers, charitable contributions is recommended to be given away and good deeds to be done.

Prepared by: Hazan Avi Kozma

GENERAL EMC CONFERENCE

The General Conference of the Evangelic-Methodist Church was held in Pittsburg, USA from 27 April, 2004 to 7 May, 2004

The General Conference of the EMC took place in Pittsburg (USA). Around 1000 delegates from 150 countries were in attendance, plus around 2000 guests. The General Conference was opened up with a Ceremonial Service and with God's Dinner (Holy Communion). In the course of the Conference, the days started with a Service, during the break God's Dinner was served (communion).

The tragic death of our President Boris Trajkovski was observed with one minute silence. He had participated in the work of the General Conference. The General Conference is organized every fourth year and represents highest legislative body of the EMC. At the Conference, decisions are made with regard to the discipline, the organization, the structure and the life of the Church in general.

It is a practice the EMC to delegate its representative at the annual conferences. This year EMC of Macedonia delegated Mihail Cekov, the Head of the Church. The working materials obtained at the General Conference dealt with different issues. During the first week of the Conference, the delegates worked on the topics: *The church and the society; Conference; Followers, belief and commandments; Financial administration; Global preaching; Education and preaching service; Legal administration; Local church.*

In the course of the second week of the Conference, decisions were being made with regard to the church and society spheres. The decisions are being made at the central, and in the end at the annual conferences. Besides the working part, services were conducted by preachers from different countries. Gratitude to God, gratitude to all the brothers and sisters, who had us in their thoughts.

Mihail Cekov

The head of the EMC in Macedonia

BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT – NEW MAN

Those were the topics at the six in line Youth Summer Camp, in Crani camp by the Prespa Lake from 16-23 August 2004

Around 70 youngsters from the age of 15-27 from Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo took part at the camp. The lectures at the camp were: *"Body, Soul, Spirit and the New Man"*. The camp was organized with an aim to celebrate God for the new life he grants us with. Each morning started with prayer, Bible word. After the breakfast, the youth groups had an opportunity to present themselves with short program. Workshops on writing, painting,

sport, drama and handwork. It was wonderful opportunity for the young people to express fully their creativity. In the afternoon, the participants were free to go to the beach, to do sports, to socialize... The evening was filled with the personal testimonies of the participants about their faith in God, songs, quizzes on the knowledge of the Bible and other interesting activities. It was directed at our spiritual growth, in honor of God. We went to Ohrid to visit the more significant monuments, which to our pleasure can be found in large number. The evening before the last one was termed Night of talents and the young people had a chance to show their talents. On the last evening, a ceremonious service was conducted and a God's Dinner (communion) was served for all the participants at the camp. We said goodbye, hoping to meet each other again in the next year, if God gives.

The young people in EMC – Strumica

The Publishing House - Tabernakul donated publications with religious content to the Inter-religious Info and Dialogue Centre

Lexicon:

Bible – (Gk. book, script, collected works). The comprehensive term Bible that designates both the Canon Books of the Old Testament and the New Testament pervades since the 16 c. The term Holy Book is in use nowadays.

Monastery (Gk. one, alone) A housing compound where the monks retreat from the secular life. The monks devote their life to God and give an oath to life without wife, in poverty and servitude, they live in prayer, fasting and moral purity. As well as male monasteries, there are female monasteries too.

Ramazan – the third major command for the Moslems. The Ramazan Fast stands for restraining from food, drink, tobacco, and physical pleasure from dawn until dusk, thus the believer demonstrates his commitment to God. The start of the fasting month, this year falls on 15 October and ends on 14 November.

Talmud – (Heb. study, knowledge, teaching) – the fruit of the spiritual molding of the Jews throughout the centuries and in different countries. It represents a monumental encyclopedia, with regulations and laws, theology and science, law and ethics, medicine and hygiene, agronomy and other areas of the human life. The Talmud is constituted in six volumes.

Tashlih – (Heb. Tashtih) – the rite of going to river or sea coast on the first day of Rash Hashana, so as, in a symbolical manner, to throw the sins in the water. Thus one will enter in the new year cleared of sins.

Hadis – the words, deeds and the approvals of the prophet Mohamed.

Registered religious communities and religious groups in Macedonia

- 1. Macedonian Orthodox Church**
Boul. Partizanski Odredi 12, Skopje
- 2. Islamic Religious Community**
St. Chairska 52, Skopje
- 3. Catholic Church**
St. Risto Shishkov 31, Skopje
- 4. Jewish Religious Community in RM**
St. Borka Taleski 31, Skopje
- 5. Evangelistic-Methodist Church in RM**
St. Debarca 9, Skopje
- 6. Christian Adventist Church**
- 7. Baptist Church**
- 8. Jehovah Witnesses**
- 9. Islamic Erenleric Tarikan Religious Community in RM**
- 10. Satia San Centre**
- 11. Vaishnav Religious Community**
- 12. Pre-Christian Community – Universal Life**
- 13. Bektashi Community in RM**
- 14. Evangelic Church in RM**
- 15. Christian Church - “The Word of Hope”**
- 16. The Church of God in RM**
- 17. Christian Religious Group - New Hope**
- 18. Religious Group Christian Church – The Voice of God**
- 19. International Church of Christ”, Skopje**
- 20. Autonomous Church of Christ**
- 21. New-Apostles Church in Macedonia**
- 22. Evangelic-Congress Church**
- 23. Christian Centre**
- 24. Christian Church – Treasure News**