Thus Starting a Whole New Series and Era

On one hand, we worked together intellectually as true disciples, which involved passing on knowledge and understanding concerning the importance of unity. On the other hand, we took part in ecumenical prayers and worship, which furthered our involvement into the spirituality of unity.

After a thorough introduction and some ice-breakers, through discussions the participants uncovered their stereotypes and prejudices on denominations and on the ecumenical movement as a whole. A panel discussion dealt with the models of visible unity.

Lectures followed, dealing with Jesus Christ's call for unity as a Biblical introduction, as well as the history of the four branches of the ecumenical movement: mission and evangelism, faith and order, life and work, and ecumenical formation.

Group discussions gathered spiritual, theological and practical means of unity. One panel discussion was on obstacles on the way towards unity, and another on an emerging ecumenical vision. The seminar ended with an ecumenical worship and an overall evaluation by the participants and the organisers.

Following the participants' advice and considering their evaluation, we have already started to prepare the continuation and further development of this ecumenical training and formation for students and youth, and to confirm our commitment to support such initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in Europe as a whole.

THE HUMANITY POEM

Anastasia Gkitsi

(CONSTANTINOPLE, SUMMER 2004)

Tantalized the words drop'd and painted with their blood the verses.

They drop'd weak like the corpses of precocious fighters like the unshaped bodies of children like the bare facts of history. And as the last verse of the stanza appeared in my hands I found not the poem lying. Breathing warmth to the Entire Humanity to stop the suffering...



She graduated from the faculty of Theology in 1999 (Aristotle's University of Thessaloniki) and she started her master degree in ecumenical area. She graduated with a master's ecumenism in Dogmatical studies (Chambesy - Switzerland, 2001 - 2003). Her Thesis dealt with Confessions of faith's literal typology. She is writing a PhD in Theology about the relation between theology and poetry in writings of the Church Fathers. She is working in secondary education (since 2005) as a teacher of Theology, History and Psychology. She is a poet and a member of the literature group "Ale Amoroza". She is publishing poems (since 1996), theological and literature articles in journals, reviews and anthologies such as (Epi-Koinonia, Kath'Odon, Nea Poreia, Meteikasma) She has published a number of articles dealing with the Greek poet T. Livaditis. Her own poetry collection entitled : "I Know ! it's late..." was published in 2000 (ed. Paratiritis). She is translating articles on behalf of the "Academy of Theological Studies" She was awarded with medals and prizes from many Greek and international Poetry and Literature associations such as : Griechischer Kunst und Literatur Verein, Union of European Writers, Intellectual Cultural center of Rafina, MusicHeaven, Literature Association Zalonis, Conservatory Foudoulis.

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