

## **REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT**

***The Work of the Communication Department during the year 2007 is summarized in the following:***

- The publication of the 3 periodicals: NewsReport, Courrier Oecuménique du Moyen-Orient, Al-Muntada, was made regular; the number of pages in each was increased; and their coverage of all MECC activities became comprehensive.
- A contract was signed with LibanPost for the distribution of the Council's periodicals in Lebanon, the other Arab countries, Europe, USA, Canada and Australia. As a result, the periodicals are received now regularly. Further, the list of subscribers was updated.
- The MECC website, mec-churches.org, was activated and updated. It covers now the Council's program activities and its statements. The site carries also, the contents of the 3 periodicals the MECC NewsBrief in both arabic and english, the history and organizational chart of the Council in addition to information related to the various MECC General Assemblies and key personnel. The site will soon be linked to the churches websites and ecumenical sites in the world.
- The Department participated in covering all the Council's activities in the written and audio-visual media. It also participated in the preparation of lectures and interventions related the media work.
- Consecutive meetings were held between the communication Department and media representatives in Lebanon to inform about the Council's activities and to establish personal contact with directors and editorialists of Lebanese press and TV main programs' presenters. This renewed relation was reflected in the enhancement of the Council's presence in the Lebanese and Arab Media.
- The book on the Eighth General Assembly held in Cyprus 2003 was published. It covers all the reports, interventions and messages sent by the ecumenical councils to the Assembly. The book was distributed to all participants in the Assembly and to the people interested in the ecumenical work in the Middle East. The book contains texts in Arabic and in English..
- An edited copy of the MECC constitution and By Laws was published after revision and amendment in the eighth general assembly.
- The relation with Télé-Lumière and Noursat was reinforced. These 2 TVs are supervised by the Council of Catholic Patriarcals and Bishops. They cover widely all MECC activities in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Jordan. Coordination with both stations took place during the week of prayers for Christian Unity (15-18 January 2006), in addition to the "Agabi" station coverage.

- The relation was consolidated between the Ecumencial Committee of the Department – which includes representatives of the 4 families of churches – and the staff in the Department, both in Egypt and in Lebanon.
- The Communication department takes part in the Bookfair for Christian Publications organized by the Catholic Information Center every year. Visitors interests in MECC publications who recognized.
  - The Communication Dept. has exceeded the internal church coverage to the wide Arab Media in the Egyptian Syrian and Jordanian papers in addition to the Lebanese papers and all audio-visual media. We will work on promoting these steps.
  - But the new that is worth pointing is the constant appearance of MECC during latest year on page “Religions & Faiths” supervised by Dept. Director, George Nassif in the Lebanese newspaper Al-Nahar. This made this weekly news a permanent platform to introduce MECC’s activities and Churches.

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