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Special Issue: Protestantism in the Balkans (Macedonia, Serbia, and Albania)

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SPECIAL ISSUE: PROTESTANTISM IN THE BALKANS (MACEDONIA, SERBIA, AND ALBANIA)

This issue of *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe* is published as part of the celebration of the 500-years of the Protestant Reformation. In fact, this issue contains the works presented by its authors at the scientific gathering organized within the anniversary by the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, a branch of “St. Cyril and Methodius University” in Skopje, Macedonia). The program, **Scientific Wednesday**, was held on November 1 , 2017. The scholarly gathering was titled **Protestantism in the Balkans**. Prof. Ruzica Cacanaska, as a member of the advisory editorial board of this journal, and also as organizer of this gathering, prepared this special issue. At the same time, Prof. Cacanaska is the head of the research project “Protestantism in Macedonia TODAY,” which is being carried out at the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research.

There are seven articles published in this issue, which were presented at the Scientific Wednesday. Cacanaska presented the key findings of the project *Protestantism in Macedonia - Today*. Paul Mojzes titled his presentation *Congregational Mission to Macedonia 1873-1918 in Macedonia*. Maja Angelovska - Panov spoke of *Medieval Heresies and Protestantism*. The Dean of the Orthodox Theological Faculty in Skopje, Gjoko Gjorgjevski wrote *Orthodoxy and Protestantism through the Centuries*. Dragan Todorović presented profound results from his research on the *Protestantization of the Roma from Southeastern Serbia*. David Hosaflook focused on *Protestantism in Albania*. And Kostake Milkov emphasized the importance of proselytism, presenting his work entitled *The Independent Churches and Proselytism*.

A special honor for me as organizer of the gathering was the presence of the superintendent of the United Methodist Church in Macedonia, Rev. Wilfried Nausner and the pastor Rev/ Mile Cekov. Special thanks to Jovan Jovanovski, who recorded the whole event. Extraordinary gratitude is due to the audience, part of which participated in the discussion; their participation gave special significance to this event.

Once again I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Paul Mojzes, for his presence, his active participation in this scholarly gathering, as well as for his publication of the OPREE journal.

Skopje, February 18, 2018

Ruzhica Cacanaska, guest editor