

Cevaa - Communauté d'Églises en Mission - Community of Churches in Missions

12^e Assemblée Générale - 12th General Assembly

16-22 octobre/October, 2023 - Côte d'Ivoire - Ivory Coast

Habiter autrement la création Genèse 2,15



Inhabit creation differently Genesis 2;15



Theological Empowerment

Delegate's handbook

Daily meditations

During the General Assembly, you'll be invited to start each day by taking part in a **House Group** meeting.

These times of meditation and sharing around a biblical text take place in a small group. Everyone has the opportunity to experience the Word of God as a transforming force in life.

At this GA 2023, we want to reflect together on the theme of ecology:

Inhabit creation differently

Genesis 2 verse 15

This theme will then be developed throughout the Community during the next Joint Action, which will be proposed for approval during this GA.

Information and instructions

In each House Group, a **moderator** will be responsible for the smooth running of the group. He or she will be responsible for the group's animation, and for ensuring that all group members have the opportunity to speak and participate.

Five 45-minute morning meditation sessions are scheduled from Tuesday to Saturday.

Each day, a biblical text is proposed with a short commentary and a few questions for further reflection.



Let's aerate our minds

Acts 1, 12-14 and Psalm 8

October 17 2023

Open-air meditation

During Covid-19, we had to resort to barrier gestures: physical distancing, wearing a mask, washing our hands. Sometimes, these barriers, while curbing contamination, succeeded in building barriers between humans. Today, we're getting back to the way we used to meet, strengthening exchanges and giving new meaning and direction to our activities. We are invited to seek out virtues such as purity, love and truth.

Our first effective gesture is to air our minds through prayer and the reading of God's Word: leaving our usual rhythm of life to make ourselves available to welcome God's gift; taking time to contemplate nature, feel the wind on our faces and lift our souls to God. The disciples, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, did not remain isolated. They were together, and all persevered in prayer with one accord. It is the unity of hearts that attracts the Holy Spirit.

Brainstroming

- *Why do we need to pray collectively?*
- *How do we relate to time and prayer?*
- *Where do we feel most comfortable praying: in the temple or in the open air?*

O Worship the King all glorious

O worship the King,
all glorious above
O gratefully sing
His wonderful love

Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days
Paviolioned in splendor, and girded with praise

O tell of His might,
O sing of His grace
Whose robe is the light
and canopy space

His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm

O measureless might,
ineffable love
While angels delight
to worship above

Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend

You alone are
the matchless King
To You alone
be all majesty

Your glories and wonders,
what tongue can recite?
You breathe in the air, You shine in the light.

The spirit creates Community

Acts 2, 42-47

October 18, 2023

The search for a way of living together remains an ongoing quest, as we strive to take better account of the diversity that characterizes our societies.

The text of our meditation is an image of the way those who met Jesus lived. They persisted in listening to the Word of God and living together in fraternal communion.

The Cevaa Community is multicultural. It includes people from different continents, different parts of the world, different countries, different cultures. This diversity, due to its history and identity, remains an important asset for sharing and living together.

But does living together embody sufficient openness, sacrifice, sharing and flexibility?

Brainstorming

- *What does verse 45 teach us about our consumer frenzy?*
- *How can we reaffirm the identity of our Cevaa Community?*

We are one the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit, x2
We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity
may one day be restored:
*And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.*

We will walk with each other, x2
We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land.
*And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.*

We will work with each other, x2
We will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity
And save each one's pride:
*And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.*

All praise to the Father,
from who all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus,
His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one:
*And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.*



Caring for the creation

Deuteronomy 20, 19-20

October 19, 2023

In Jewish tradition, religious and family ceremonies (births, weddings, anniversaries, deaths...) are often occasions when trees are planted. It's a contribution to the well-being of humanity, but above all a way of immortalizing the memory of an event.

God asks his people to respect life. This passage reminds us that the primary function of trees is to nourish. Whatever the material need or situation is, it's no good cutting them down as long as they can bear fruit. We need to show deep respect for creation and preserve life and the natural resources God has given us.

Today, ecological pressure has become a problem on an unprecedented scale. Human beings are victims of their "double success": the increase in lifespan, population and daily needs on the one hand, and the development of new technologies and material possessions on the other. Who still takes the time to plant a tree? Who still looks to nature for sustenance? Let's reawaken our awareness of nature's primary function and recognize that it's not just a scenery that can be molded to suit our needs and desires. God created the earth and its creatures with everything necessary to perpetuate life. And that was good...

Brainstorming

- *Does your Church have anything to say about this ecological crisis?*
- *What new convictions, attitudes and forms of life am I called to?*

Bringing in the sheaves

Sowing in the morning,
sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide
and the dewy eve
Waiting for the harvest, and
the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing,
bringing in the sheaves.

Sowing in the sunshine,
sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds
nor winter's chilling breeze
By and by the harvest,
and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing,
bringing in the sheaves.

Going forth with weeping,
sowing for the Master,
Though the loss sustained
our spirit often grieves
When our weeping's over,
He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing,
bringing in the sheaves.

*Bringing in the sheaves,
bringing in the sheaves,*

*We shall come rejoicing,
bringing in the sheaves.*

x2



An inner conversion

Romans 8, 19-23

October 20, 2023

Ecology is not primarily a question of legislation, but of conversion. There is a reciprocal relationship between humans and the physical environment in which they live and of which they are a part. Individualism and utilitarianism often lead to the abuse of creation. By distancing themselves from God through sin, humans have dragged creation down with them, thus profoundly altering the nature of their relationships with the created world, with God and with their fellow human beings.

According to the Encyclical Laudato Si, "Exterior deserts are multiplying in our world, because interior deserts have become so great. For this reason, the treasures of the earth are no longer at the service of building God's garden, in which all can live, but are enslaved by the powers of exploitation and destruction".

Ecological conversion is about marveling at nature, recognizing our sin against creation, and committing ourselves to social change.

Brainstorming

- *What encourages and protects life and the living in your particular environment?*
- *What needs to change in our practices?*

There shall be showers of blessings

There shall be showers of blessing:

This is the promise of love;

There shall be seasons refreshing,

Sent from the Savior above.

There shall be showers of blessing,

Precious reviving again;

Over the hills and the valleys,

Sound of abundance of rain.

There shall be showers of blessing;

Send them upon us, O Lord;

Grant to us now a refreshing,

Come, and now honor Thy Word.

There shall be showers of blessing:

Oh, that today they might fall,

Now as to God we're confessing,

Now as on Jesus we call!

There shall be showers of blessing,

If we but trust and obey;

There shall be seasons refreshing,

If we let God have His way.

Showers of blessing,

Showers of blessing we need:

Mercy drops round us are falling,

But for the showers we plead.



Bearing fruits of love

Mark 11, 12-14

October 21, 2023

In this passage, why a curse on a tree? A fig tree that bears no fruit when it's not even fruiting season? How can Jesus hold a grudge against this tree? What is this text about?

By talking about the fig tree, Jesus is talking about us, about our inability to bear fruit for others (of love). Today, we live in a materialistic, utilitarian society that easily dismisses the question of meaning.

Through this passage, he teaches us that if our life consists solely of having a good conscience of religious acts, it will lead to nothing but death. The crisis facing our world is not just an environmental one. It is also a spiritual one since it concerns our way of seeing or imagining the world.

Brainstorming

- *Are we capable of giving service, fruits of love and justice to those around us?*
- *Is there a right time to give fruit to those who ask for it?*

How great Thou art

Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout
the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul,
my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art
Then sings my soul,
my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art*

And when I think that God,
His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die,
I scarce can take it in
That on the cross,
my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died
to take away my sin

*Then sings my soul,
my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art
Then sings my soul,
my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art*

When Christ shall come,
with shout of acclamation
And take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow,
in humble adoration
And then proclaim,
my God, how great Thou art

*Then sings my soul,
my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art
Then sings my soul,
my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art*



Ideas, notes, artistic expression... it's up to you!

