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WoL

WORD OF LIFE

Rev 21:3

“He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.»

It has always been **God’s desire to live with us**, who are his people. The Book of Revelation gives us the certainty that God’s desire will be totally fulfilled.

GOD WITH US

Jesus is risen, his presence is no longer limited to one place or one time. He is present all over the world, for all time, and has formed a **new and very unique community, a people made up of many nationalities**. God lives in my soul, in my family, in my nation, but he also wants to live in all the nations of the world and make them all one family, one people.

JUST ONE FAMILY

In many countries there are people of different races, religions and nationalities living next to each other. **But we sometimes look at one another with fear, suspicion and distrust**. We even wage war on each other. And yet God is the father of all of us and loves each and every one of us as his sons and daughters. **He wants us to be one family**.

LOVE THE COUNTRY OF THE OTHERS AS YOU LOVE YOUR OWN

Let’s make the effort this month to appreciate diversity, respect others and look at them as someone who belongs to me. **I am the other, the other is me; the other lives in me, I live in the other**. And let’s begin with those we share our life with every day.

«If one day all people (...) learn to put themselves aside and also the idea they have of their own country (...) Jesus will be alive and present among peoples (...).»

Chiara Lubich

Cut and fold



OUR EXPERIENCES



It's our Life

BRUSSELS (Belgium)

A CELEBRATION OF UNITY AMONG DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

We are a **group of teens from Belgium** and for the past three years we have sponsored a project to bring together people of different cultures and languages in our region. We call it **“Together for peace.”**

In the big cities of our country, there are many Muslims who have immigrated here from Morocco, Turkey and the Balkan countries of southeastern Europe. This year we organized an event in Brussels called **“Concert for Fraternity”** and the **whole program was prepared by Muslims and Christians working together**.

The goal of the concert was to tell people about our commitment to living for a united world.

All of us - children and teens of both religions and of various languages - worked hard on the day of the event. We prepared a sack lunch for each participant, respecting the dietary laws of each group. We also had **a game for everyone to play as an icebreaker and to dispel any preconceived notions or fears**. It was a great way to go out to others and get to know and respect them. Other groups also contributed to the concert, with choirs and professional singers. They were Muslim and Christian groups, speaking French, Dutch and German. It was **an invitation to enter into the culture of the other person**.

450 people came. Important persons such as the Belgian Secretary of State, the National Minister of Education, the President of the Executive Board of Muslims (an official organ of the Belgian government), the President of Religions for Peace of Europe, several Islamic theologians and a young Egyptian Christian who is studying in Belgium for his doctorate **What struck the participants the most was the sense of brotherhood among all**, which increased as the day progressed and which many had never experienced before.

«We speak different languages and have different religious beliefs,” some of the teenagers said, “and yet **our diversity does not stop us from living together and building peace**. It was a very strong experience! We hope to sponsor many more events like this so that we can spread unity all over our country.”

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When music becomes a means to unite people