

UPF Paris, France Hosts Interfaith Meeting to Discuss "Reconciliation"

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Paris, France -- Dialogue and Alliance organized its monthly interfaith meeting on the theme "Reconciliation in Daily Life."

Registrations came from 12 countries -- Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Germany, Iraq, Mali, Mauritius, Republic of Congo, Switzerland, Togo, United States -- as well as French Polynesia.

The moderator of the meeting on June 26, 2022, was **Chantal Nga Onana**, general secretary of the association FNP (*Familles du Nord pour la Paix*).

The first reading, from the Bhagavad Gîtâ (chapter 12, verse 12), was commented on by **Yves-Henri Delzenne**, a yogi and a martial arts master.

The second reading, Genesis 33:1-17, recalling the encounter between Jacob and his brother Esau, was commented on by **Father Jean-Michel Tchitembo** of the parish of N.-D. de Valenciennes, author of *Élan œcuménique et dialogue interreligieux*.

As it is sometimes necessary to ask for forgiveness to be reconciled, we had, as a short musical break, the song *Pardon* interpreted by the master of Ivorian reggae Alpha Blondy. Beyond his artistic career, he is very committed to the cause of reconciliation, and in 2005 he was appointed a UPF Ambassador for Peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

The third reading, taken from the Koran, Sura III, verse 35, was commented on by **Imam Othmane Iquioussen** of the Raïsmes Mosque (North), co-author of *Peace Be with You, Yes Religions Are Made to Unite*.

The last reading, from the New Testament, was commented on by **Brice Wete-Matouba**, a Kimbanguist and founder of the reflection group *Les lundis de l'humain*.

During the question-and-answer session we were happy to hear a testimony by **Lili Ogbeide** about the association Concerned People (concernedpeople.org/) which works for reconciliation, love and unity between our black and white brothers and sisters.



The meeting concluded with the song *Céleste Jérusalem* performed at the Notre-Dame de la Treille Cathedral in Lille, during the closing concert organized by Ecclesia Cantic.

