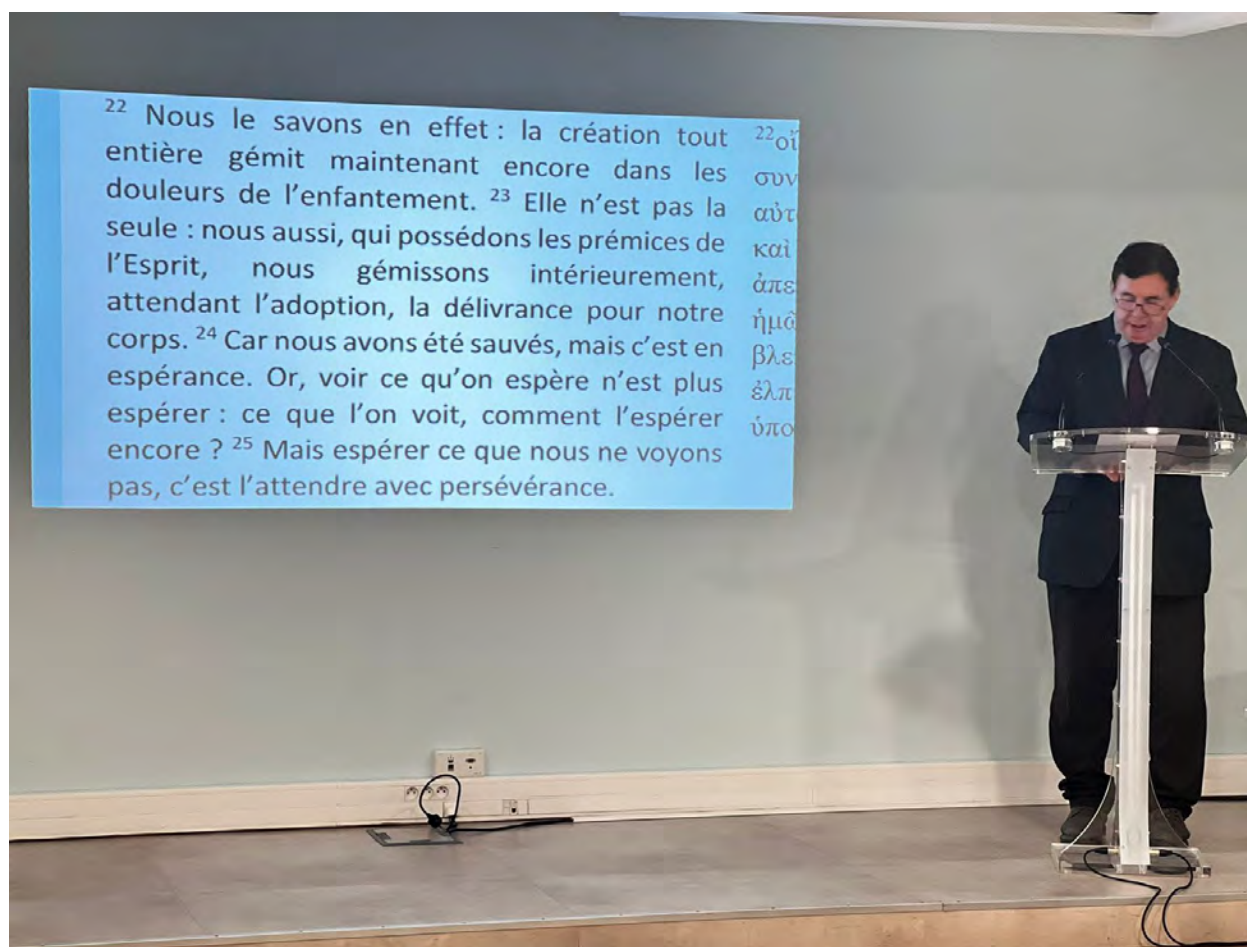


Dialogue and Alliance Paris, France's Interfaith Circle Shares Scriptures on Cultivating Hope

Jean-Francois Moulinet
November 19, 2023



Paris, France - The Dialogue and Alliance interfaith circle held its monthly meeting on the theme "Cultivating Hope" at the Espace Barrault conference center in Paris on November 19, 2023.

Around 20 participants attended the meeting, with dozens of others joining by Zoom from Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Canada, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Haiti, India, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United States. The program, moderated by Mr. Dorian Gravrand, was conducted in French.



Mr. Modeste Amoussou offered a Judeo-Christian perspective through a reading from Exodus 2:1-10, which narrates the tale of Moses' birth and the protection afforded him by his mother and Pharaoh's daughter. Dr. Jean-André Galeyrand, vice-president of the Cercle de Reflexion des Nations, added his

commentary.

This was followed by an interpretation of Charles Peguy's famous poem "L'Espérance," by actress Marina Cristalle.

Mr. Patrick Jouan, vice president of UPF-France, introduced a Christian perspective with the reading of Romans 8:22-25, which includes in part: "Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." Commentary was given by Monsignor Nicolas, Orthodox Patriarch of the Nations, Paris, who is developing activities in 93 countries.



The Muslim perspective was offered by famous Iranian reciter, Shahriar Parhizgar, who chanted verses 23 to 33 of the 19th Sura of the Quran (Maryam), which describe how Mary gave birth to Jesus. The commentator was Ms. Soraya Ayouch, a professor of psychology at the University of Paris and member of the Al Moultaqa Foundation.



The meeting ended with a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Laurent Ladouce, a researcher with UPF, and concluding remarks by Mr. Jean-François Moulinet, coordinator of the Dialogue and Alliance circle. He announced that the next meeting would take place on December 17 on the theme "Cultivating Good Stewardship."