



Greetings from the 8th General Assembly of the Cevaa

To the Cevaa member Churches,

Saly, 22 October 2014

Madams and Sirs,

The Cevaa General Assembly, meeting at Saly, Senegal, from 14 to 22 October, sends you most fraternal greetings. The Cevaa, which means all of us as delegates assembled for these days, but in reality, Cevaa is first and foremost each one of you, members of the Churches that make up the Cevaa, involved in God's mission, carrying out his will for this world.

“Families Gospel and Cultures in a changing world” was the theme of our assembly, and also of the shared action that we will carry out together in the coming years. Because the richness of our community is found in this, discovering how the Gospel is manifested in the context and cultures of the other members de la community, which puts into perspective our own understanding of the Gospel in order to be continually more faithful to it.

So, this assembly is only a first step on the path of this shared reflection. To help us get started on it we benefited from talks by the sociologist Irène Amenyah Sarr, from Senegal, and by the theologian Katharina Schächl, from France. The shared action chosen by the assembly includes the following study areas:

- Training in family and conjugal living
- Education of children and youth in the family and in the Church
- Intercultural training
- Debate on societal questions concerning the family
- Production of material

Now we are counting on the member Churches to take this theme and work on it, locally but also regionally with other sister-Churches, and to carry it out in their missionary programs.

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It is our pleasure to inform you that we have decided to prolong the Cevaa youth strategy. We want to bring to your attention the thirst young people have for recognition and to be able to take their rightful place in the Church, including on the decision-making level. With them, as with others, mutual attentiveness and respect are essential aspects of life in Christ. As the young people meeting at Porto Novo in July 2014 themselves said, “Tomorrow ok, but first of all today”!

We also worked on Cevaa policies concerning the missionary programs, in order to have coherence between the shared action decided on by the general assembly and the missionary programs presented by the Churches. Therefore, among other things, we adopted the following recommendations:

- “concerning attributions, the Cevaa gives priority to programs that take into account the themes and shared actions decided on by the Churches, the GA and the le Council, for a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years”
- “special attention is given to theological empowerment, to training, and to meetings and exchanges”.

The general assembly asks its member Churches to use their attributions or, if they are not being used, to make them available to the community.

In addition, we call your attention to the theological empowerment brochure that was just revised. This tool for training, sharing and reflection is available for your use. We invite you to take advantage of its richness. A training seminar for theological trainers has already been planned from 15 to 28 June 2015 at Porto Novo (Benin). In your delegation to this training, we invite you to make room for women and young people.

In light of the dramatic news concerning the Ebola virus epidemic, Doctor A. Tevi Déla-Dem Salomon Lawson, a certified medical doctor and a specialist in infectious diseases, gave us a high-quality presentation concerning this illness. He called on us to inform the members of our Churches about this subject, with the goal of prevention of the illness but also in order to fight against the stigmatization and psychosis around it which lead to unjustified reactions of fear and rejection. We pass this call on to you along with the importance of advocacy to civil authorities so they will help the countries affected by the epidemic in combating it. The general assembly decided to free up funds in order to help member Churches which are neighbours of the epidemic carry out preventive actions and also to grant money to the AACC for emergency action in the affected countries.

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We entrust to your intercession various subjects of prayer that were raised during the assembly:

- Those affected by the Ebola virus, as already mentioned,
- Those concerned by the situation of violence in Central African Republic and, more widely, those in countries plagued by political instability or conflicts between communities in which member Churches from our community are present; as the apostle Paul said, “If one member of the body suffers, all the members suffer with it” (1 Cor 12.26)
- The tragedy of migrants crossing the Mediterranean at the risk– and sometimes the price – of their lives in trying to arrive in a Europe which is being transformed more and more into a fortress, disregarding the evangelical conviction that whoever welcomes a foreigner welcomes Jesus himself (Mat 25/35).
- Finally, we invite you to pray for all the member Churches so they will remain faithful to the Gospel and participate always more fully in God’s mission in our world.

We call upon you the blessing of our Lord Jesus-Christ and ask that you will all have the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in order to carry out His will.

The delegates to the Cevaa general assembly

