

On the way to 2033

Chantal | Jerusalem | Global christian Forum | Togo | JC2033 Switzerland | Easter Together 2025

Two prayers from Chantal

Since 2001 Chantal and I have been leading 'Lectio divina' meetings, a spiritual reading of the Scriptures. Here are two of Chantal's prayers, the fruit of those blessed moments:

God blessed the seventh day and consecrated it (Genesis 2:3).

Thank you for your creation, which you made perfect and declared very good. We are in this time of rest that you have blessed and consecrated.

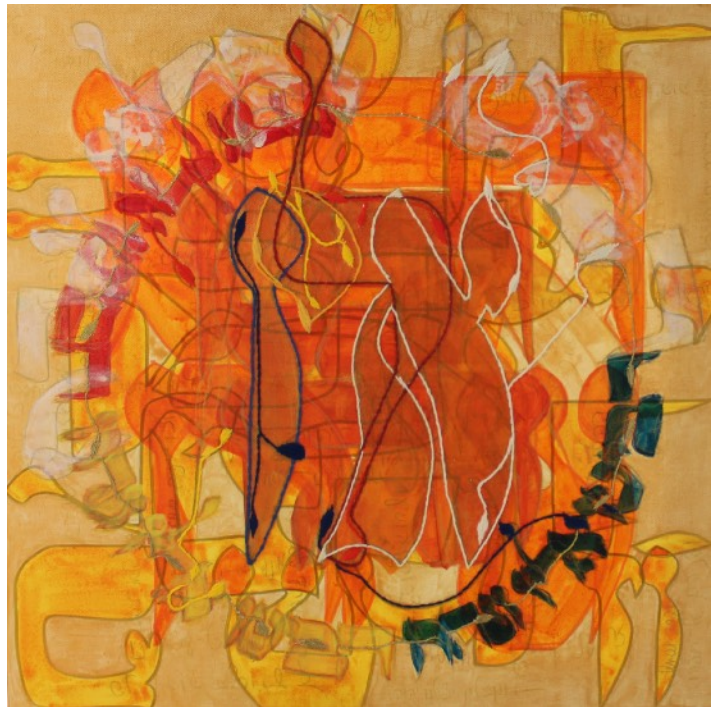
I'd like to remember every day that I can experience this rest with you.

And with others, because we are all made in your likeness.

Jesus said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he gave up the Spirit (John 19:30).

Just as Mary remained on her feet in these dramatic circumstances, I want to remain on my feet in all the situations I am experiencing. And it is your Spirit, Lord, who can make that possible.

I hope that at the end of my life, I'll also be able to say: "It's all over. I've done what God asked of me ».



Editorial: Thank you,

Dear friends,

This latest newsletter is a bit special, as I'm the only one writing to you, following Chantal's death on 12 January.

I had 20 happy years with her. To God, in whom she now lives, I say a huge thank you. Right from the start, she took part in the "March towards 2033", making her contribution and fully supporting it.

A few years ago, Chantal entrusted me with this verse from Psalm 34, asking me to make it the theme of her funeral if she had to go before me: "Those who look to Him will radiate joy". (v. 6)

I asked Anat Rosenwasser, a Jewish artist, to paint Chantal's 'Word of Life' in Hebrew calligraphy, an art in which she excels and which you can see above.

All those who knew Chantal recognize that this verse expresses her spiritual radiance. These words have also stayed with me over the last few months, giving me great consolation.

As my commitments to JC2033 continue, these words encourage me to turn towards the Risen Lord. I want to live it with you and thank you again for your signs of friendship and support during this special time.

May its light and grace shine forth and produce beautiful fruit!

Best regards, Martin

Easter in Jerusalem

I wanted to spend Easter in Jerusalem this year for several reasons. First and foremost because it's where Chantal and I spent our first Easter, 20 years ago, on our honeymoon. And we've been back so many times!

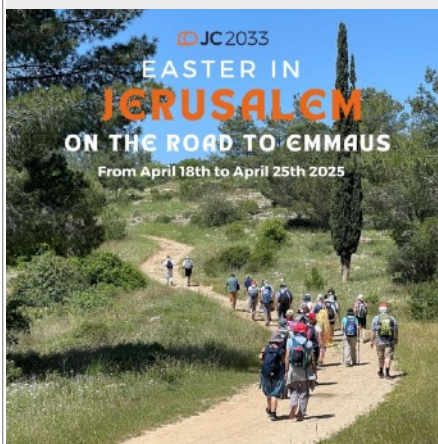
As we have taken part in the "*Jerusalem Climbs*" almost every year for the last fifteen years, I have many friends there, both Jewish and Arab.

I visited them and often "*wept with those who wept*", perceiving on both sides a great sadness in the current situation, which is so difficult.

I also visited several leaders of the communities we visit on the Emmaus Roads organized by the JC2033 initiative.

On Easter Monday, I got up at five in the morning and walked with a team of young people to Nicopolis, 34 kilometers on the road to Emmaus, or rather, on one of the possible roads!

Read my chronicles of Jerusalem here :
<https://www.hoegger.org/article/chroniques-de-jerusalem-paques-2024>



Emmaus Way in 2025

The walk along the road to Emmaus will take place, situation permitting, from 18 to 25 April. 2025

We hope it will take place, given the current troubled situation! You can register now.

JC2033 follows the recommendations of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs regarding the situation in Israel. In other words, if he advises against going, the trip will be postponed until 2026.

See here:

<https://www.jc2033.world/en/blog/easter-in-jerusalem-752.html>

Global Christian Forum

Along with Olivier Fleury, I was invited to take part in the fourth gathering of the Global Christian Forum (GCF) held in Accra (Ghana) in April 2024. This Forum brings together around the same table the two major currents of world Christianity that have marked the 20th century: the "ecumenical" current and the "evangelical-pentecostal" current. These two trends have developed in parallel, sometimes in opposition. The aim of the Forum is to bring them together.



How can we do this? Above all, by getting to know each other better, by sharing our "faith journeys", by finding out how each of us met Christ and walked with Him!

The theme of the gathering was "*So that the world may know*" (John 17:23). In a preface to Olivier Fleury's book of the same title, written especially for the Global Christian Forum, the General Secretary, Pastor Casely Essamuah, states:

"Our theme fits perfectly with the title of Olivier Fleury's book and the aim of the JC2033 initiative: to mobilize Christians throughout the world in the joy of the unity we share with one another because we serve one Lord and have one hope, to galvanize us to share the Gospel in our different contexts. I warmly recommend this book."

Invited to share his experience in the plenary session, O. Fleury exhorted the 250 leaders with his words: "Christ is Risen. The world must know it. The world must believe it. But how can they believe? I'd like to tell you that we have an incredible opportunity before us: the 2000th anniversary of the resurrection of Jesus. He is alive, and he wants to give us full life, now and for eternity".

We are grateful to have been invited to this gathering, and to have been able to talk about the year 2033 as a wonderful opportunity to bear witness. "*Many people knew us. There's a real friendship and trust developing that will bear fruit. We've become recognized players,*" Says Olivier.

Read several of my articles on this Forum:

<https://romandie.forumchretien.org/global-christian-forum-forth-global-gathering-accra-ghana>

Togo



After the Global Christian Forum meeting in Accra, Ghana, Olivier Fleury and I travelled to neighboring Togo for a few visits.

On the first day, we took part in an Assembly of God service at the Akato-Démé temple in Lomé. We addressed the many children (see photo) and then the congregation.

The next day, we visited pastors from the Assemblies of God, who had been specially summoned for the occasion. "Your message got through. Thank you very much. We want to concentrate on what's essential in all the churches: the Risen Jesus, whom we want to celebrate," said Saram Ankou, their General Secretary.

We had an excellent meeting with the leaders of the Focolare Movement and Youth With A Mission. It seemed to us that God had lit a spark between these two movements, such was the joy of the meeting! May it ignite the whole of Africa for 2033!

The Bible Society of Togo works with all the member churches of the Christian Council. It is without doubt the most ecumenical organization in the country. Estelle Akouegnon, the general secretary, recalls that a major Bible distribution program was launched to mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus. She thinks that something similar could be done for 2033.

At the end of this brief but intense visit, O. Fleury made this observation, "I remember Billy Wilson, the president of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, telling me that there would be more initiatives in Africa by 2033 than anywhere else. This visit confirmed it for me. Africa's vocation is to pass on the faith. We need Africa, and Togo in particular.

Birth of JC2033 French-speaking Switzerland

The guests looked at each other with connivance, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and smiles... something was afoot in French-speaking Switzerland! Here's a look back at an evening of dreams...

Last January, at the JC2033 office in St-Prex, over thirty leaders of all denominations, representing all the cantons of French-speaking Switzerland, gathered for a meal.

The aim of this meeting? To dream and share our hearts for our region in 2033. That's how Christel Woestelandt and Pierre-André Léchoy passionately shared their experiences as JC2033 ambassadors in the cantons of Fribourg and Neuchâtel respectively.

If the troops were already motivated after such sharing, the impetus of founder Olivier Fleury will have finished setting the powder keg alight:

"And you, if you had two minutes to express it, what would be the dream that would come out of your heart for 2033?"

So everyone took up their pen to write down their aspirations and hopes for the celebrations of the bimillennial of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The participants then divided into cantons to think about how to put their ideas into practice in a spirit of collaboration.

Let's celebrate each step of unity that enables us to move forward on the road to 2033, to bear witness to the world that Jesus Christ is risen!

Aurore Girardet



What's your dream for 2033?

Become an ambassador

You're a peacemaker, your heart beats for unity!

You want to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

You love sharing and celebrating with your Christian brothers and sisters! Yes, I'd like to advance the JC2033 vision in my sphere of influence, I'd like to become an ambassador:

See here: <https://www.jc2033.world/en/ambassadors.html>

« Easter Together 2025 » - Nicaea

JC2033 is taking part in the "Easter together 2025" initiative. The year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Council of Nicaea (325 AD), and the date of Easter will be shared by all Christians.

This Council was an example of how people could make decisions together in difficult times and from different cultures. The foundations of the Christian faith were laid. It was also at Nicaea that it was decided how to calculate the date of the Christian Easter: the Sunday following the first full moon after the start of spring.

Later the use of different calendars meant that the date of Easter differed between East and West, so that it only occasionally coincides (for example, in this year 2024, there is a difference of more than a month).

But in 2025 all the Churches will celebrate Easter on the same day. An appeal will be made to ensure that the road to 2033 is also an opportunity to call for the date of Easter to be unified.

It would be a magnificent gift to offer Jesus Christ this sign of unity in 2033! To achieve this, we are working with several other Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox movements.

**ONLINE
WEBINAR**

**From Nicaea walking Together to Unity.
The beginning of a new beginning.**

 **February 8th, 2024
13:30 - 16:30 CET**

register online, choosing your language - you will receive the link - please update your zoom app

 **REGISTER NOW**






Succes of an online seminar

As a lecturer in ecumenical theology at the Theological Highschool of the French part of Switzerland, last February I took part in the online seminar "Since Nicaea, walking together towards unity. The start of a new beginning", bringing a Protestant perspective.

The seminar, organized by "Easter Together 2025", was a great success, with over 500 people attending. "Its aim was to disseminate, in a language accessible to all, the great heritage of the Church's first Council: a heritage which, if taken on board and lived out, has the power to challenge us in the times of suffering in which we live".

See the various contributions here, including mine:

See here : <https://www.hoegger.org/article/commemorer-le-concile-de-nicee-le-debut-dun-nouveau-depart>

Merci!



In Jerusalem in 2008

Thank you, dear friends, for your prayers and support for this wonderful project. I wish you a summer full of discoveries and blessings.

Best regards, Martin

If you wish, you can support this commitment financially by **making a donation to the account of the association JC2033 International** (specifying for Martin Hoegger), using the code below or the IBAN account.

Thank you so much for your support!

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