

Witnessing Together in Geneva
Jeûne Genevois
Thursday, 8th September, 2016
“Rising to the challenge of migration – Are we all Noahs?”

Programme Outline:

10.00-16.00 Ecumenical Centre, 150 route de Ferney, Gd Sacconex
(welcome with coffee from 9.15 a.m.)
16.15 Walk to Parc des Crolettes, Montbrillant
17.30 Parade from Parc des Crolettes to Temple of St. Gervais
18.00 Service at the Temple of St. Gervais

This important issue of migration is the topic for our yearly gathering organised by the migrant church group, **“Witnessing Together in Geneva** on Thursday, 8th September, 2016 starting at the Ecumenical Centre and ending with a celebration at the church of St. Gervais.

“Rising to the challenge of migration - are we all Noahs?” Geneva Christian communities are warmly invited to participate in this day. It is a great occasion to discover or rediscover other Christians who celebrate in Geneva, and to share a moment with them. How can we witness together? What welcome do our churches provide?

Come and join us for worship, different presentations and table discussions on this important subject. It is a wonderful opportunity of learning and sharing with people from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as from different parts of Europe and enjoy being a fellowship of Christian communities and living out the richness of our diversity. There will be simultaneous translation into English, French and Spanish.

The day starts with coffee and welcome at 9.30 followed by worship at 10.00 a.m. At 11.00 a.m. is a presentation on the theme: **‘Rising to the challenge of migration – Are we all Noahs?’** by Revd Peniel Rajkumar (World Council of Churches (WCC) Interreligious Relations and Dialogue) moderator Dr. Katalina Tahaafe-Williams (WCC-Mission and Evangelism). Small group discussions on this subject in different language groups follow before a communal meal (finger-food) prepared by different communities.

After lunch, **Dr Clare Amos**, WCC (Interreligious Relations and Dialogue) will talk about the biblical aspects of our theme. Those who have

participated in Clare's bible studies know how she brilliantly reveals so many insights of the biblical passages and enables us to understand them in their context. Group discussions and feedback follow this plenary session, moderated by Rvd. Joseph Kabongo, coordinator of the day's programme.

The theme is appropriate for the Jeûne Genevois, which commemorates the welcome given by the people of Geneva to the Protestants fleeing persecution in Europe.

Andi Fuhrer, Salvation Army will give a personal account of the Welcome and Civil Protection shelter of migrants in Geneva. Also Dr. Jean-François Mayer, historian from Religioscope, will give us a brief outline of his research on religious movements in Switzerland.

A separate programme for children will take place from 10-16h to enable everyone to attend the main programme.

Before leaving the Ecumenical Centre for our walk to the Crolettes Park, **Pastor Gabriel Amisi**, present coordinator of the Witnessing Together group, will give a blessing and farewell.

At 16.15 we leave the Ecumenical Centre and walk to the Parc of the Crolettes, from where at 17.30 we parade to the Temple of St. Gervais, for a commemorative celebration of the Jeûne Genevois organised by the Protestant Church of Geneva and parish of St. Gervais starting at 18.00.

March from the Ecumenical Centre to the Park of the Crolettes

Each **second** year, Témoigner Ensemble à Genève TEAG celebrates the September "Jeûne genevois" with an international event, at the ecumenical centre and together with the parish of Saint Gervais. **2010, 2012, 2014, 2016.** Between those years, TEAG organizes a mid-year event. **2011, 2013, 2015.**

Witnessing Together in Geneva ("Témoigner Ensemble à Genève") is a platform coordinated by the Protestant Church of Geneva and the International Reformed Center John Knox. You can find out more about them on their website at: temoignerensemble.wordpress.com