

9 - 15 February 2018



## [Voices from Colombia: “What if we have no land to till?”](#)

A delegation from the Oikotree movement travelled to Colombia from 2 to 5 February. Oikotree is a faith-based network initiated by the WCC, World Communion of Reformed Churches, and Council of World Mission that seeks to promote justice in the economy and ecology.



## [Youth in Asia can now apply for WCC inter-religious training](#)

Applications are now open for YATRA (Youth in Asia

## [Prayer Cycle](#)

11 - 17 February 2018

[Austria,](#)  
[Liechtenstein,](#)  
[Switzerland](#)



[» View the prayers](#)

18 - 24 February 2018

[France, Germany,](#)  
[Monaco](#)



[» View the prayers](#)

Training for Religious Amity) 2018, an inter-religious training programme of the WCC. The intensive training course, held annually since 2014, seeks to enable young Christian leaders from Asian churches to contribute towards the building up of just, harmonious and peaceable communities by equipping them for ministries of justice and peace from an inter-religious perspective.



### [Tveit speaks on Partnership to End Violence Against Children](#)

Speaking in Stockholm, Sweden, on 14-15 February, WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit addressed the End Violence Solutions Summit, part of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. "On behalf of the WCC, I am very pleased to announce that we commit to supporting our 348 member churches in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children," said Tveit.



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### [New videos](#)



**Seven Weeks for Water 2018**

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### [New on Facebook](#)



[2018 Lenten campaign "Seven Weeks for Water" begins in Colombia](#)

## [2018 Lenten campaign “Seven Weeks for Water” begins in Colombia](#)

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network began the 2018 edition of its annual Lenten campaign “Seven Weeks for Water” in Bogota, Colombia, on 14 February. WCC leaders, members of WCC Reference Group of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, and local churches participated in a ceremony at La Giralda, headquarters of the Colombian Ministry of Internal Affairs.



## [Show up in fight against racism, is white American pastor’s plea](#)

Charlottesville in Virginia hit world headlines in 2017 during clashes between white supremacists and neo-Nazis who attacked protestors, including clergy, calling for the removal of a controversial statue.



## [Turning plans into action to prevent](#)



*[Voices of hope - Zimbabwean church leaders and communication](#)*



*[70 years of WCC](#)*

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## [incitement to violence](#)

Another step towards preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes was taken on Tuesday this week, when religious leaders and other actors gathered for a three-day meeting in Vienna to discuss the implementation of the Plan of Action for such prevention.



## [As South Sudan talks unfold, church leaders prioritise peace](#)

As the second round of South Sudan peace talks unfold in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, church leaders are urging the parties to prioritise peace to end the misery for millions trapped or ejected by the prolonged war. The talks, titled “High Level Revitalisation Forum,” which opened on 5 February are occurring at a time when international calls to end the conflict have amplified. The current civil war started in December 2013, as a dispute between the political elite in Africa’s newest nation.



### [WCC pilgrims visit the wounds of Colombia](#)

Expressing solidarity with the people of Colombia and searching for clearer understanding of the country's complex humanitarian situation, some participants of the annual meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Reference Group of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJPRG) visited the regions of Valledupar, Barranquilla, Cartagena, Chocó, Cali and Cauca on 3-5 February.



### [Seven weeks of Lent highlight water justice in Latin America](#)

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network (WCC-EWN) invites you to use the season of Lent to reflect on water. Since 2008, EWN has been providing weekly theological reflections and other resources on water for the seven weeks of Lent and for World Water Day on 22 March. This year, the focus is on Latin America.



### [#WCC70: Churches as “freedom agents”](#)

In 2018 we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the World Council of Churches. In order to create a lively firsthand account of the ecumenical fellowship and of our shared journey, member churches have contributed stories of people, events, achievements and even failures, all of which have deepened our collective search for Christian unity. This story was written by Olle Eriksson, a Namibian who worked for 35 years (1968 – 2003) with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission and Lutheran World Federation.



### [Three voices of hope from Zimbabwe](#)

In November last year the 37-year rule of President Robert Mugabe came to an end. Two months later, the mood among Zimbabweans can be described as cautiously optimistic and there is a sense of hope for a

better future. General elections are scheduled in July, which will determine the political direction of this once prosperous country.



### [Ecumenical accompaniers share observations with EU](#)

As an “ecumenical accompanier,” Prokop’s role description might include: “walks children to school,” and “shares what he sees.” In many communities, these tasks are daily - even mundane - parts of life. But for Prokop, who has served with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (WCC-EAPPI), walking children to school was anything but humdrum.



### [WCC calls for peace in Colombia](#)

Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, deputy general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), expressed concern and voiced solidarity for the people of

Colombia as they confront a recent upsurge of violence.



### [Area Development Plan for Green Village now in effect](#)

On 26 January, Geneva authorities confirmed that the Area Development Plan (ADP) for the project Green Village is now in effect. The Green Village real estate project, designed by LRS Architectes SA, sets six new buildings in a park, around a restored and renovated Ecumenical Centre building.

## **upcoming events**



### Seven Weeks for Water 2018

14 February - 30 March 2018 Bogota, Colombia

According to the Christian tradition, Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ. During this period many people engage in fasting and practice moderation or self-denial in order to focus on repentance and consecrating themselves to God. While water has a strong spiritual significance in the Christian



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## Archbishop of Canterbury visits WCC

16 February 2018 Geneva, Switzerland / online

As part of the celebrations of its 70th anniversary year, the World Council of Churches welcomes the official visit and public lecture by The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury on 16 February 2018.



## Day of prayer and fasting for peace in South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo

23 February 2018 Worldwide

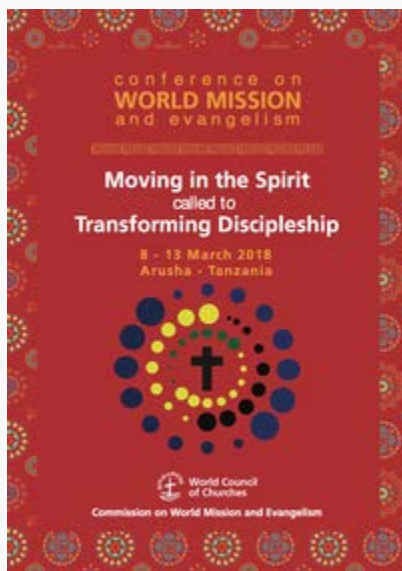
On 23 February 2018, the World Council of Churches joins Pope Francis and the Roman Catholic Church in calling for



## Global Ecumenical Theological Institute 2018

05 - 13 March 2018 Arusha, Tanzania

The Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) 2018 is a global ecumenical short-term study and exposure programme in accompaniment of the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism.



## Conference on World Mission and Evangelism

08 - 13 March 2018 Arusha, Tanzania

Council of Churches (WCC) Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME), organized every decade.



## WCC invites applications to Internship Programme 2018

15 March 2018 Ecumenical Centre, Geneva

With application deadlines 15 March, the WCC invites applications of church-engaged youth to undertake an internship with the council at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva in 2018.



## Applications welcome - Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity

18 March 2018 Hong Kong

Applications are now open for YATRA (Youth in Asia Training for Religious Amity) 2018, an inter-religious training programme of the WCC. The intensive training course, held annually since 2014, seeks to enable young Christian leaders from Asian churches to contribute towards the building up of just, harmonious and peaceable communities by equipping them for ministries of justice and peace from an inter-religious perspective.



## Central Committee meeting

15 - 21 June 2018 Geneva, Switzerland

years. It is responsible for carrying out the policies adopted by the Assembly, reviewing and supervising WCC programmes and the budget of the Council.



## Pastoral Challenges in a Multi-cultural and Multi-religious Context

02 - 13 July 2018 Bossey, Switzerland

The multi-cultural and multi-faith realities Christians live in today are confronting them, in their witness and praxis, with common challenges along with on-going differences among various Christian confessions. In a world of post-modern values and concepts, the voice of the churches remains often unheard and is hardly understood. In these contexts, the faithful members of the congregations across all confessions are getting aged and their number decreases. Other faith communities living in such contexts go through a similar experience.



## Religions and Sustainable Development Goals – Perspectives from Judaism, Christianity and Islam

23 July - 10 August 2018 Bossey, Switzerland

Intended for an international audience of young people interested and engaged in interreligious dialogue, the Ecumenical Institute's Certificate of Advanced Studies in Interreligious Studies includes lectures, courses, workshops and study visits to places of interreligious interest, and is accredited by the University of Geneva under the Swiss Higher Education Programme for Continuing Education.



## 2018 Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management (GEM) for an Economy of Life

19 - 31 August 2018 Mexico City, Mexico

In order to strengthen the voice of the churches with regards to global economics, a group of 18 current and future leaders representing the churches will have the opportunity to attend the Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management (GEM) for an Economy of Life in Mexico City, Mexico from 19-31 August 2018.



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The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, today the WCC brings together 348 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 550 million Christians in over 120 countries, and works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church. The WCC general secretary is the Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, from the [Lutheran] Church of Norway.

**Media contact:** +41 79 507 6363; [www.oikoumene.org/press](http://www.oikoumene.org/press)

**Our visiting address is:**

World Council of Churches

150 route de Ferney

Geneve 2 1211

Switzerland

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