



World Council of Churches

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To the United Bible Societies on its 75th celebration

Dear Mr Michael Perreau, Director General of the United Bible Societies,
Dear sisters and brothers Christ,

I take this opportunity to greet you from the World Council of Churches and to congratulate you on the celebration of the 75th jubilee of the United Bible Societies.

The United Bible Societies was founded with the goal to equip churches worldwide to share God's Word. Seventy-five years later, it is impressive to see the results: a vast and expanding network of collaborations with diverse Christian faith communities, all focused on bringing the Bible to as many people as possible.

The World Council of Churches and the United Bible Societies enjoy a close and fruitful collaboration. Through mutual participation in major events, annual meetings, and joint publications, they both seek to nurture engagement with scripture as the common root and unifying element in ecumenical relations.

The Church finds its foundational and unifying principle in the Bible. The Scripture teaches us who we are, where we are from and where we are destined to go. As Christians, our identity is in Christ, in whom we "are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God" (Eph 2:22).

The unity expressed in the New Testament is not a superficial or a metaphorical one; it is grounded in Christ, in which all who were far off have been brought near. Through Christ, we are sanctified and unified together as his people.

We experience this living biblical truth and legacy in all our Christian traditions. In a disrupted world like ours today, Christians need to reaffirm a biblically inspired discipleship which can reduce the power of the dividing forces. In this respect, your closer collaboration with Christians and all people of good will, both locally and globally, is vital.

Dear sisters and brothers, let us abide in Christ's love, which moves the world to reconciliation and unity.

I wish you a blessed and happy jubilee celebration and many more fruitful years ahead in the Lord's vineyard.

Yours in the Crucified and Risen Lord,

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
Acting General Secretary
World Council of Churches