



OPCEMI *news*

- NEWSLETTER FROM THE OPERA PER LE CHIESE EVANGELICHE METODISTE IN ITALIA -

Matthew 25,14-30

Dear sisters and brothers,
Very often we are all inclined to reflect and ask questions about what will happen in the distant future. What will happen after death? What will happen in the time of the last days?

In this passage from Matthew's gospel, in this gospel apocalypse, it is Jesus himself who draws a line, marks a road in relation to our in the meantime. The tale is simple and complex at the same time: the owner of an important property leaves his home for a long journey, it is not known how long this journey will last but he will certainly return. As he leaves, he leaves a possession, a patrimony to his servants: to one 5 talents, to one 2 talents and to the last one only one talent, so he leaves.

What is now the task of these servants, of these administrators? Of course they have to look after the property, the fields, they have to manage the other servants while waiting for the master of the house to return, but what to do with the liquid assets, with that money? The first two decide to take it to the bank and make it fruitful, and so they do, and in this way that capital even doubles. The last of the servants, the one who had only one talent, guards it, hides it and returns it. On his return, the master will reward only the first two servants, while he will punish the one who did not make use of the even minimal talent he had received.

What is the problem with this



story? Maybe Jesus is wrong. Or rather, perhaps the master of that house was wrong. What did the servant who only had one talent do wrong? He was the servant who would have risked the most. Investing that minimal capital would have meant running the risk of losing everything. Probably the other two would have run the risk of losing only a part! He thought: better to return what I received than to lose everything.

The master, however, did not give his goods to the servants to guard what was already his or to keep it safe from thieves. The master expected his servants to make that capital yield an income for the future. But the risk is high, every time we want to make more of what we have it is necessary to put into play, to question what we have or what

we have been up to that moment: in feelings, in relationships, in personal growth, in every change, we lose something of ourselves to then see an important evolution, but the risk is inevitable.

So, what are our talents that the Lord has given us as we await his return?

The message we receive is immediate, simple and complex at the same time, it gives joy and hope but also responsibility and commitment: Jesus returned to the Father and promised that he will return, indeed he promised that he will always be with us, then will come the day of amen, the day when we will be with God face to face! In the meantime, Jesus has left us gifts, talents, possibilities. What will we do with them?

In the meantime, we can throw our talents into the fray of the world, we can commit what we are to peace, to justice, to the search for fragments of a better world, we can proclaim God's love just when war and violence always seem to win, we can say Resurrection while we have a coffin in front of us. These talents of grace, salvation, love and reconciliation are a leaven that makes the dough grow, that changes categories of thought, ways of being and acting: they can bear fruit!

But perhaps we could do much more and even better than what those servants did. And that, I believe, is what is essential for us today. They worked and decided everything on their own, leaving the responsibility of deciding what

to do with their talents to the last servant alone. what would have happened if they had put themselves together? The capital to be invested would have grown and on his return the master of the house would have found a big surprise. Yes, but then how would they have divided it between them, how would they have shown, each one, how good they had been? In short, what credit would they have individually? Precisely this is the miracle of witnessing, of faith and acting out of love: I am not looking for any merit, I am happy, enthusiastic, because the talent has been multiplied. He who has little

will discover that even the little is enough, he who believes he does not have enough and is afraid, will discover in God that his little can become the much that is enough to do good without fear. But if we are afraid, if we lock our talent inside the safe, if we stop being salt and light for the world by thinking only of ourselves, then we will be lost and our waiting for the Kingdom of God will only be sadness. Behold, seek your talent and run to make it bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Rev. Luca Anziani
President C.P. OPCEMI

CONFERENCE

Press Room - Chamber of Deputies
22 November 2023 at 16:00



The Federation of Evangelical Women in Italy (FDEI), in collaboration with Riforma - Echo of the Waldensian Valleys and the press agency NEV, presents the brochure 2023 "10 days to overcome violence".

Conference theme "Women and work: widespread and hidden violence".

[DOWNLOAD THE FLYER](#)

CALENDAR of OPCEMI CP meetings

Rome

- 18-19/11/2023
- 13-14/01/2024
- 16-17/03/2024
- 20-21/04/2024
- 22-23/06/2024

Centro Ecumene - Velletri

- 24/05/2024

Torre Pellice

- 31/08/2024



OPCEMINews

NEWS FROM CHURCHS AND CIRCUITS

From the 8th Circuit:

Historical-theological seminars

WESLEY and the METHODISM

Thursday at 8:45 pm

30/11/23

The English and American Methodist Mission in 19th century Italy

Speaker past. Giovanni Anziani

01/02/24

John Wesley and Predestination

Speaker Prof. Giancarlo Rinaldi

14/03/24

The Baptismal Theology of John Wesley

Speaker past. Nicola Tedoldi

11/04/24

Methodism and monasticism

Speaker Livio Cinardi

Per info: Sovrintendente Past. Nicola Tedoldi

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METHODIST CONSULTATION

The Methodist Consultation will take place, as usual, at the "Centro Ecumene" in Velletri (RM) on Friday 24, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May 2024. It will begin with dinner on Friday and close with lunch on Sunday.



INTERVIEWS FROM THE SYNOD



Below are two short interviews with two Methodist delegates to the last Synod who were attending for the first time.

The delegates answered the following questions:

1. What impressed you most about the proceedings of this Synod?
2. Which of the topics covered interested you most?
3. Do you think it was an experience you would like to repeat?

Answers by Sister Julia König of the Church of Bologna and Modena:

1) What struck me most was the complexity of the organisation of the synod. I was amazed to see how many regulations, commissions, assignments there are. For a person who has never attended, it is really difficult to understand

everything that goes on and is said amidst acronyms and names of people or past events that are talked about, but that a new person cannot know. Moreover, it was strange and beautiful for me to be in an environment where being Methodist and international is the norm. I felt at home.

2) Among the topics discussed that most caught my interest were relations with other churches, both Italian and foreign. I enjoyed hearing the greetings of all these people from all over the world. I am very proud of all that the union of the Waldensian and Methodist churches are doing for social work, and so the topics that most intrigued me were the CSD, the 8 per thousand to the Waldensian Church and the immense number of initiatives supported by this.

3) It is an experience I would absolutely repeat. I am very honoured to have been able to parti-

cipate as a Member of Parliament from the second district. I did not feel adequately prepared, but fortunately I had a lot of explanations throughout the week from the people around me.

Replies by Riccardo Perpich of the Plurisede Church in Pescara:

1) The atmosphere and I would add the awareness that the Methodist presence as a whole truly reflects the motto “The world is my parish “

2) Campo di lavoro, Otto per Mille (OPM), FCEI, Synod-responsive works, Evangelical Hospital International.

3) I think it was a formative experience that I recommend every Methodist to have at least once. I would not rule out repeating it even though it is very demanding.

From the OPCEMI office

Some registers in use by the churches are still available at the OPCEMI offices. Should any congregation need them, they can write to the secretary's office:

metodismo@chiesavaldese.org

The secretary will check the availability of what is requested. OPCEMI asks for reimbursement of shipping costs.

