

Monday, 27 October 2025 Plenary: “Mission: Common witness and Apostolic discipleship”

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I wanted to present some personal experiences (stories) that made me think about certain elements in our ecumenical journey.

The theme was: **Mission – Common Witness and Apostolic Discipleship**

1. **Truth:** I narrated the experience with a Lutheran where I was told that they are the true Christians. My conclusion: Jesus is the Truth, we as diverse denominations share in that truth. If one denomination thinks that it has the fullness of Truth then it will harm the ecumenical mission that calls for common witness.
2. **The miraculous can be moments of common witness:** I again narrated the experience of my mother who was cured of her back ache in the prayer service of another denomination where there were also Christians of various denominations. If all of us allow the miraculous true events to bring us together it would lead to ecumenical unity and common witness. The real presence in the Eucharist is confirmed by miracles. Can these be moments of common prayer gatherings and witnessing to our Faith as Christians?
3. **Jesus has got this (he is under control of this mission):** I say this because the way he converted Constantine at a certain point in time and changed the course of Christianity, he can surely do something like that for the ecumenical goal.
4. **Similar goals of others:** Vassula Ryden the well-known mystic had the similar goal of bringing the Churches together. There may be discrepancies about the published writings etc. But could we take advantage of this situation and work together with those who are working for the same mission of ecumenism? Those who are not against us could very well be for us. The WCC is already an association symbolizing such work together.
5. **Some problems in South Asia:** There are problems in India for example where due to caste, gender and color inequality ecumenical work suffers.