***Introduction***

I am very happy to welcome you on behalf of the World Jewish Adventist Friendship Center, a service of the Office of Adventist Mission at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

It is a privilege for each one of us to participate in this fourth World Jewish Adventist Congress. The first congress was organized in 1999 in Brazil by Isaac Poseck, WJAFC’s director, and by Reinaldo Siqueira for the South American Division. The second one was organized jointly by the WJAFC and the Trans-European Division in Jerusalem in February 2006. And ten years after, the WJAFC and Adventist Mission are happy to organize this third congress, here in Paris.

The theme chosen for this congress is worship: “Let’s Worship Him.” This topic is at the heart of the three angels’ messages preached by Seventh-day Adventists for the past 170 years, and it is the most urgent message God wants to give to the world in order to prepare it for the soon return of the Messiah.

Worship is also one of the “gifts” God gave to Israel in order for the nation to be close to Him. Yes, worship is a gift from God, Rabbi Shaul, known as the apostle Paul, wrote in a form of doxology: “They are Israelites, and *to them belong*the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, *the worship*, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the [Messiah], who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen” (Rom. 9:4, 5, ESV). The text is clear,*“to them belong,”*which means to the Israelites belong all these gifts, and if they belong to us today also, it is because they shared them with us. In conclusion of this passage about the Jewish people, Rabbi Shaul adds, “As regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Rom. 11:28, 29).

This congress therefore is a Jewish Adventist Congress to witness our friendship to the Jewish people and our will to build bridges between Adventists and Jews in order, maybe, that we can lead them to the most wonderful gift we have received from God, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus the Messiah of Israel and the world.