



Global Christian Forum



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Newsletter for the GCF: March 2021



Global Gathering 2024

We're delighted to announce that the next Global Christian Forum Gathering will take place in the first quarter of 2024. The location is yet to be decided, but will be finalised soon.

Given that we are still facing the challenge and grief of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is heartening to see that throughout it all, the work of GCF continues. There is never time to stop the work towards Christian unity and we hope you will be encouraged by our news.

We bless each one of our readers, wherever you are on your journey as an ambassador for unity in Christ, and we thank you for your participation in the life of the Global Christian Forum.



International Committee Meeting February 2021

GCF's International Committee met virtually over two days. Amongst the business that was attended to there was a discussion about the need to start focussing on the 4th Global Gathering. As always, the sharing of faith stories was a highlight of our time together, allowing us to glimpse God's faithful presence with one another in these challenging times. The full narrative report of the meeting is on our website.

<https://globalchristianforum.org/report-from-the-international-committee-2/>



New Staff Member: Helen Aupperlee

is the new communications associate for the Forum, working ten hours per week. Helen lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband and two children. Originally from England, Helen completed her undergraduate studies in Ireland and her MDIV at Regent College, Vancouver. She has spent the past five years living and working with the Pilsdon Community in southwest England, an intentional community committed to welcome, work and prayer.



Saying Farewell: Ms Georgine Kengne Djeutane

We want to thank Georgine for serving on the International Committee as the representative of the World Student Christian Federation. Georgine has been a gift to our work and our fellowship and we will miss her.

Speaking about her time with GCF, Georgine said she has been honored to have experienced this ecumenical friendship.

Saying goodbye to Georgine, one Committee member remarked, "You have embodied the joy of the Gospel, the never-ending sense of the Gospel and it's never-ending newness."

We bless you on your journey in Christ, Georgine, and thank you for walking with us as you have done.

Saying Farewell: Dr Aiah Foday-Khabenje

We also want to thank Aiah for serving on the International Committee as the representative of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa. We have been grateful for Aiah's presence and perspective and he will be missed.

Aiah told the Committee that he found his involvement with GCF to be a real spiritual pilgrimage. He said that being part of this community has enriched his life and been a blessing in many ways.

We send you with our prayers and blessings Aiah, and we look forward to seeing what God has in store for this new chapter of your life.



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Week of Prayer on Covid-19 Pandemic

One year on from the start of this deadly pandemic, Christians around the world are pausing to pray and reflect. March 22-27 2021. Please join this unified response. Resources can be found at:
wvi.org/weekofprayer

GCF Secretary Casely Essamuah's Message

Christians are people of hope! We live in between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Between the worst of humanity and the best of God. Whilst we celebrate Easter, we know that we still live in the “in-between times.” [I Corinthians 15, Romans 8].

Writing in March 2021, the world seems to be at the dawn of a new era – the worst of COVID, we hope, is over, and we are yet to know the “new normal.” But most people yearn to boldly craft a new normal that leaves behind some, if not all, the inequities and disparities so blatantly revealed by COVID and our national responses. For starters, we now know, without any equivocation, that we were not meant to live life alone. We were created for meaningful friendship, family and community. We can no longer take any of that for granted. Disease anywhere is a threat to health everywhere.

And so, what does the future hold? Our future is as bright as the promises of God, and we press on into it in the name of the One who overcame death and promises us abundant life. [John 10:10].

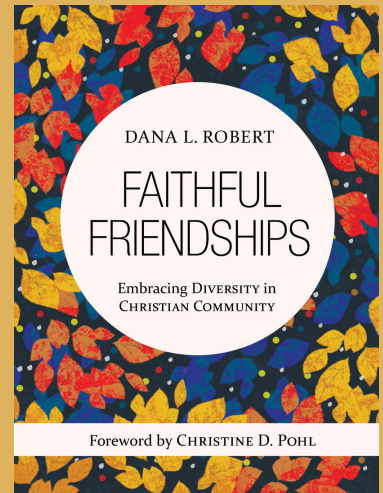


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New Books to Foster Christian Unity

***Faithful Friendships: Embracing Diversity in Christian Community* by Dana Robert**

'This book reminds us that Christian friendship "carries in its core the joy of resurrection" (166). Faithful friendships are not too little, too late. Instead, they are surely among our best hopes for reconciliation, healing and Christian witness.' (From the forward by Christine D Pohl.)



World Christian Encyclopedia *3rd Edition*

This 3rd edition, co-authored by Dr Todd Johnson and Dr Gina Zurlo, was named one of the 10 outstanding books of 2019 by the *International Bulletin of Mission Research*. It is a vital update on what is considered the most extensive survey of Christianity ever attempted.

WORLD
CHRISTIAN
ENCYCLOPEDIA
Third Edition

TODD M. JOHNSON AND GINA A. ZURLO