

Global Christian Forum

Newsletter for the GCF: July 2021

Book Launch & Bogotá (virtual) Reunion

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Global Christian Forum

Let Mutual Love Continue

(Hebrews 13:1)

Report of the Third Global Gathering
of the Global Christian Forum
Bogotá, Colombia, 24-27 April 2018

Edited by Larry Miller



On April 27th, 2021, 120 of us gathered from around the world for a virtual celebration to remember and reflect on all that the Third Global Gathering has brought into being, as well as to launch the 2018 Global Gathering Report: *Let Mutual Love Continue*.

We were encouraged by each other for the ongoing work of building mutual love among all God's people.



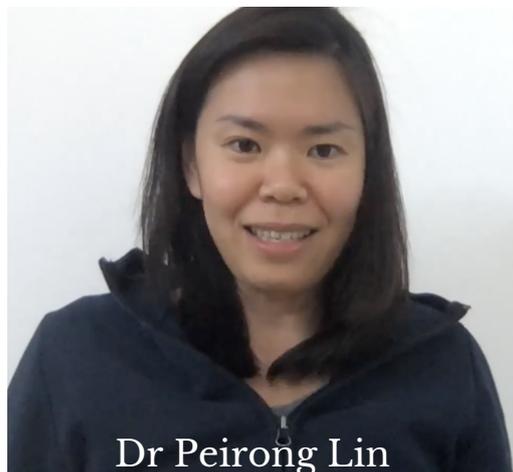
World Evangelical Alliance

"WEA did not only help to start the Global Christian Forum, is not only just a pillar, but will stay a pillar and the Global Christian Forum will stay a very central thing for us."

Bp. Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher

"Those that gather along the same road that God calls us to gather on, sharing in mutual love and trust and respect, for me those were the greatest gifts from Bogotá."

Dr. Rosalee Velloso Ewell



Dr Peirong Lin



Rev. Dr. Frank Hinkelman

World Council of Churches



"In times of global threats, widespread fear, growing inequalities, xenophobia, racism, we are called as Christians and churches to pray together, to walk together, to work together, locally and globally."

Rev. Dr. Odair Pedroso Mateus

"The ways of being one in Christ are many, even in these challenging pandemic months and years...we can still be united. The universal Zoom picture is a testimony of this unity...still able to see each other on the screen and share our faith, love and hope."

Dr. Ani Ghazaryan Drissi



Pentecostal World Fellowship



"1 John chapter 4 verse 16 says 'God is love.' God loves the world infinitely, and protects us all the time. It is my sincere prayer that God's overflowing love and guidance come on all of us as we gather together."
Dr. Younghoon Lee

"We thank God for the Global Christian Forum which strengthens Christian unity in the world, and especially in Africa." Prof. Dr. Opoku Onyinah



"Significant changes are being made among Pentecostal churches in promoting the work of Christian unity. I do think the work of the Global Christian Forum has a lot to do with these changes."
Rev. Dr. David Han

One of the strengths of GCF "is to allow intergenerational influence related to the value we place on the unity of the church of Jesus and the blessing that it brings, especially in broadening our perspective." Rev. Dr. David Wells



"It was a real honor to be in Bogotá...to sit around tables with new friends and hear your perspective on the work of the Holy Spirit in your communion...I was blessed, I was sharpened, I was encouraged, I was challenged."
Dr. William Wilson

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity



"The Global Christian Forum calls us in our relationships to give more importance to the things that unite us than to the things that divide. For me this has been the calling of the Global Christian Forum from the beginning - a journey from separation and conflict to mutual understanding, respect and solidarity, eventually to the restoration of the original fellowship of Christ followers. We must live in hope, knowing that the goal is hugely important for humanity's wellbeing and future."

Bishop Brian Farrell

"In the United States and elsewhere, ethnic minority communities bear the terrible, violent burdens of racism and discrimination. In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, Christians have come together to witness that black men, women and children are created in the image and likeness of God, their lives are sacred. Much work remains for our churches to do together for justice and peace."

Katherine Shirk-Lucas



"...if we have indeed learned in the Forum that shared testimony and mutual love of older churches and younger churches can be both 'a good road to a sound theology' and 'a starting point for deeper theological engagements,' is it not important that the Forum bear witness to these learnings? The GCF has not been called to develop sound theologies or to issue statements on theological controversies. But it has been called to testify to its own journey with Jesus Christ."

Rev. Dr. Larry Miller



"And there is no greater need within our living history for us to come together as there is now. When we look at Christian unity, many of us look at who is working towards unity as a luxury, but in actual fact, when we look for our work towards justice, it is a necessity."

Archbishop Angaelos

"My favorite Global Christian Forum Bogotá experience was to get to know many Christians from different countries through their stories of faith. I love what God has done in them and it was a possibility to experience that presence Jesus promises to those who are gathered in his name."

Beatriz Sarkis



"My hope, and my prayer is that the next global gathering will enable us to celebrate and experience our togetherness not only as a summit moment - but as a reality on the flat stretches - and even the lower parts - of the common journey we will travel following that gathering.

Because it is there - in the concrete contexts in which our churches, our communities and organizations go their different and often divergent roads - that the Forum should take shape.

It is in the actual situations - at the regional level - at the national level - and why not also locally - that our togetherness - our unity should become a reality.

Not only during a few days at a global summit - however gratifying that is - but in an enduring way - in the daily situations of our churches - in their daily struggle to faithfully witness and serve our common Lord - that is where the world around us is watching us - where we are called to be one."

Huibert van Beek





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"We are invited at this Gathering to listen as if we do not already know; to listen generously with open minds, hearts and spirits; to listen with our theological disquiets put for the moment on the side; to listen for the surprizing work of the Spirit of God. In the holy moments, as stories are spoken into the space between and among us, the Spirit of God is at work. And that Spirit is the Spirit of unity, the unity Christ desires for those who follow him."

Dr. Kathryn Johnson

"Often in ecumenical gatherings we say, 'Unity is to be discovered, not made.' I can say that in the stability of our community life we experience the truth of this. It's like when you are in a swimming pool and, needing to rest, you reach down with your feet and find the floor is there. The Church, the one Church, is there." Brother Paolo, Taizé

"We talked about the shift of Christianity to the Global South, and a challenge that I think still stands before us as a Forum and as particular churches and individuals is this: in what way is that shift really being reflected in the power structures of our churches, and in the agendas that are set? Who is setting the table for our gatherings? Is the money determining the agenda? Who sits around the table? Whose voices are being heard? So as we go home, we need to ask ourselves, 'What story are we living into?'"

Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst

"Building relationships, sharing one's story of a spiritual journey, and embracing one another as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ have been the distinct ethos of the Global Christian Forum...Telling and hearing real stories is more than making time for exchange; it requires a mutual commitment to participate in other people's joy as well as sorrow."

Prof. Dr. Wonsuk Ma

