



Global Christian Forum

GCF Newsletter: **January 2024**

Greetings from the Global Christian Forum as we begin this new year! During the Christmas season we proclaim the good news that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5 We pray that you have begun this year walking in the light of Jesus Christ. The promise of the gospel is that there is no form of violence or division, no suffering or injustice, no power in this world that can ever overcome the light of Christ.

As we begin 2024, the Global Christian Forum is excited about preparations for the Fourth Global Gathering which will take place in Accra in April. The Global Gathering hopes to testify to the goodness of God through a visible show of Christian unity, to let the light of Christ shine through the witness of Christians breaking bread together across every boundary and division.

May the light of Christ illumine your lives and your discipleship.



Remembrance and Prayer:
Global Gathering Plans Visit to Cape Coast Castle

Recognizing the unique history of Ghana and the role it played in the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade, the Global Christian Forum leadership have set aside Wednesday, April 17th to visit Cape Coast Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Cape Coast Castle is one of the fortresses built by European colonial powers which was used as a final point of departure for the men, women, and children who were sold into chattel slavery. The participants in the Global Gathering in Accra will depart from the city early in the morning to visit the Cape Coast Castle, take a tour of the grounds, spend time in prayer and reflection, and have space to consider their own relationship to the history of slavery. After the tour, the participants will join together in a worship service of lamentation and reconciliation. The team members who are planning the Global Gathering recognize the ways that the injustices of the slave trade still impact our world today; they recognize the modern forms of slavery that continue to exist, and they acknowledge the complicity of many churches and Christian leaders during the era of slavery.

The visit to Cape Coast Castle will provide an opportunity for Christians from across the world, representing various traditions to walk together through the pain of history, to listen for the voice of God who heals all wounds, and to move forward with the peace of Christ.

Join the Global Christian Forum in prayer!

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

-John 17:20-23 (New International Version)

John 13-17 are considered the Farewell Discourse of Jesus. They include the final words that Jesus speaks to his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. But as we come to John 17, the last words that Jesus speaks to his disciples are not instructions or teaching, instead he says a prayer over them. Jesus himself knew the power of prayer, and he lifted up his disciples in prayer. At the same time, Jesus lifted up in prayer “all who would believe in him through them.” As followers of Jesus Christ, we can trust that Jesus was praying for us as well.

Jesus prays that all of his followers in every time and every place “may be one as we are one.” Jesus prays that we might be united as brothers and sisters in his love. He prays that we might be surrounded by and drawn into the love of the Father and Son. What a gift to know that Jesus has prayed for us! We also pray that the global church might join hearts together to worship the Lord, “one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all,” as the apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians.

Our prayer this first week is that the Global Gathering theme “That the World May Know” will take root in the hearts of the participants. We pray that Christians may stand together in the love of Christ, so that the world may experience the goodness and grace of Almighty God.

Prayers for Week One:

- 1) Pray for the theme, “That the World May Know” so God’s message might transform the hearts of participants.
- 2) Pray that the Global Gathering might be a sign of hope and Christian unity for the world. In the midst of conflict and division, the gathering might show the peace of Christ.
- 3) Pray for the participants who will attend the gathering, that they might be commissioned to further the work of Christian unity wherever they live and serve.

Download the Fourth Global Gathering [prayer calendar](#)

Support the Unity Fund

As participants register for the Fourth Global Gathering, GCF is committed to making the gathering accessible to all those invited to participate.

We need your help to support participants from Christian traditions who do not have the resources to sponsor their participation.

All money donated to the unity fund will be used to facilitate participants who cannot afford to attend on their own.

Any questions can be directed to:
info@globalchristianforum.org



Donate

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

-Ephesians 4:4

