



Global Christian Forum



GCF Newsletter June 2024

Greetings from the Global Christian Forum! Our hearts are full of gratitude, as we give God thanks for the Fourth Global Gathering. Over five days in Accra, Ghana, participants gathered to share their faith-stories, explore the GG4 theme, and journey together with Jesus. Participants gathered under the theme "That the World May Know" from John 17:23.

We are grateful for your prayers, support, and encouragement for this important undertaking. Participants left with their faith renewed and Christian unity in their hearts.

May the world know the good news of Jesus Christ through our love and fellowship!



GG4 participants get ready to join the opening worship service in Accra Ridge Church.

A Message from Casely

At the close of the Fourth Global Gathering, Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah, the GCF Secretary, had an encouraging word for the entire GCF community:

“My heart is full of gratitude to God for what has been a very successful Fourth Global Gathering of the Global Christian Forum. We gathered in Accra, Ghana for five days. I can still hear the singing and even some dancing.

What is it that the world may know? The gospel of Jesus Christ.

And giving opportunities for men, women, and young people from different denominations, traditions and confessional groups to sit around the table and share their faith stories. What has your life been with Jesus Christ? How has God led you from where you were to where you are now? It has been a very warm, encouraging time together.”



Message of the Fourth Global Gathering **“That the World May Know”**

The rain came with a cool breeze, driving away the humid heat through the open windows of the church. An auspicious blessing from God! So began the collective story of the 4th Global Gathering of the Global Christian Forum in Ghana, a country where Christianity is vibrant and thriving. An outpouring of hospitality and generosity characterised our time together from 16-19 April, 2024.

The very first youth gathering in GCF’s history preceded the main Forum from 13-15 April. The diversity and vision of the young adults gave energy to their own conversations about justice, hope, and reconciliation.

This is the 25th Anniversary of the Global Christian Forum, something we celebrated joyfully. Throughout its existence, the GCF has been a unique space for all major streams of Christianity to be together for encounter and prayer. It is the broadest expression of Christian faith and one that reflects the movement of the majority of churches from the global north to the global south.

“That the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.” John 17:23

One in God

We want the world to know and to do so we must live the gospel in unity.

The charism of the Global Christian Forum is the sharing of faith stories. These personal stories act as bridges that help us foster mutual respect and embrace diversity by recognising Christ in the other. They help us move beyond a posture of “us” and “them.” To share our personal stories is to witness to the resurrection of Christ together.

Broken in Humanity

Nevertheless, the world will not know Christ merely by our words, but by our actions.

During our time together in Ghana, we walked in the footsteps, on the sweat and blood, of millions of enslaved, dehumanised African men, women, and children at the Cape Coast Castle. We stood in the dark, stifling dungeons, spaces made more horrifying by the presence of a church directly above. Those above invoked blessings for the ships that would forcibly take the captives to the Americas, Caribbean, and Europe as objects of lucrative trade...

Healed Through Christ

We are empowered by the Spirit to act for the restoration of the world. The church must raise its prophetic voice.

The gifts of joy and hope also flourish in our contexts and churches. We shared these with one another and we raised our hearts and voices in prayer and fellowship as a witness to God’s reconciling grace.

You can read the complete message from the Fourth Global Gathering [here](#) .



The sharing of faith stories is at the heart of GCF. Participants at the global gathering were seated in table groups that shared their stories with each other throughout the week to deepen relationships and build connection.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

-1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

