



SEPTEMBER 2010

Second Global Christian Forum Gathering

At its meeting on 16 – 17 June in Chicago, USA, the Committee on the Global Christian Forum confirmed the dates of the second Global Forum Gathering and decided on the venue.

The second Global Christian Forum Gathering will take place on 4 – 7 October 2011 at Hotel Seruni in Cisarua, near Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. The gathering will bring together some three hundred participants from the widest possible range of Christian traditions and from all parts of the world. It will focus on stories reflecting what the Spirit is saying to the churches, on the rapidly changing and multiple faces of world Christianity today and what these mean for Christian unity and common witness. The gathering will also be asked to provide guidance for the GCF beyond 2011. In deciding to go to Indonesia the GCF Committee wants to recognize once again the shifting of the center of Christianity to the global South (the first Global Forum Gathering was in Limuru, Kenya, in November 2007). Four national church bodies in Indonesia : the PGI (Ecumenical), the PGPI (Pentecostal), the PGLII (Evangelical) and the KWI (Catholic) will join forces to receive the second Global Forum Gathering and to take care of all the local arrangements.



Two Foundations to support the GCF

The GCF Committee has approved the setting up of two Foundations to further the process of the Global Christian Forum in the areas of fundraising and administration.

Since its inception some twelve years ago the Global Christian Forum has been a movement, or a process, and the committee has affirmed on several occasions its resolve not to institutionalize it as an established international organization. With the growing response to the initiatives of the GCF and the expectation that it will continue for some time into the future certain constraints regarding its financial sustainability and operational capacity have surfaced. In order to respond to these needs the committee has decided that two Foundations will be created, in Switzerland and in the USA. As legal entities these Foundations will be entitled to raise, receive and manage funds on behalf of the Global Christian Forum and to provide other legal support as may be required. The authority to guide and direct the GCF will remain with the committee.



Pentecostal World Conference - Greetings

For the first time in history a General Secretary of the World Council of Churches addressed his greetings to a Pentecostal World Conference.

At the invitation of Bishop James Leggett, the outgoing chairperson of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, the Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the WCC, spoke words of greetings to the participants at the 22nd Pentecostal World

Pentecostal World Fellowship – A New Chairperson



The 22nd Pentecostal World Conference took place in Stockholm, Sweden, from 24 to 27 August. On this occasion a new chair of the Executive Committee of the Pentecostal World Fellowship was elected

Dr. Prince Guneratnam, Senior Pastor of Calvary Church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is the new chairperson of the Pentecostal World Fellowship. He served since 2001 as Secretary of the Executive Committee. Dr. Guneratnam attended the Global Forum Gathering in Limuru in November 2007 and became a member of the GCF Committee in 2008. He was part of the GCF Team that visited the Middle East last year. Dr. Guneratnam is also Vice-president of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.



Pentecostal World Conference – World Evangelical Alliance



Relations between Pentecostals and other Evangelicals are strong says the International Director of the WEA.

In his address to the Pentecostal World Conference Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, the CEO of the World Evangelical Alliance thanked Pentecostal leaders for their “tremendous contribution to the life and growth of the Church around the world” and praised them for being active participants and leaders in most of the WEA’s 128 national Evangelical Alliances worldwide. Incoming chairperson Dr. Prince Guneratnam reiterated the commitment of the PWF to participating in the work of the WEA and strengthening relations.

Conference gathered on 24 – 27 August in Stockholm, Sweden. Rev. Fykse Tveit mentioned the blessings he had received in his life through close relations with Pentecostals in his family in Norway. He said he was deeply convinced that member churches of the WCC and Pentecostal churches were in need of closer bonds to one another. He pointed to the work of the Global Christian Forum as “A wondrous sign that we are one in Christ” and went on to say : “The Global Christian Forum brings together Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical and Pentecostal Christians to share their faith in Christ and to learn more about one another. The WCC is particularly grateful to the leadership of Bishop James Leggett and Dr Prince Guneratnam in the life of the Global Christian Forum. You can count on the continued support of the WCC in this endeavour and we trust that we can count on your participation.”



Pentecostal World Conference – new opportunities

The 22nd Pentecostal World Conference on 24 – 27 August in Stockholm, Sweden offered important opportunities for new contacts with the Global Christian Forum.

The outgoing chairperson of the Pentecostal World Fellowship Bishop James Leggett, who is a member of the GCF Committee, had invited the Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America and who represents the WCC and the World Communion of Reformed Churches on the GCF Committee, to attend the conference. Rev. Granberg-Michaelson was given the opportunity to meet with several members of the PWF Advisory Committee and other Pentecostal leaders and to speak with them about the work of the Global Christian Forum. In a reflection on the conference he points to the fact that one out of every four Christians in the world today is Pentecostal (or Charismatic) but that for many mainline and evangelical Christians the Pentecostal world is like a “different planet that they rarely even visit”. That needs to change. Rev. Granberg-Michaelson also notes that the Pentecostal movement is not only growing in numbers. Theological work is expanding and being given a high priority. More attention is being given to social compassion and justice, and there is more openness to ecumenical dialogue and interchange.

Rev. Dr. Cecil M. Robeck, another member of the GCF Committee was invited to inform the Executive Committee of the PWF about ecumenical and inter-Christian initiatives involving Pentecostals. R. Robeck is a minister of the Assemblies of God and teaches at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, USA. He reviewed in his presentation the various theological dialogues, e.g. Catholic – Pentecostal (the oldest), Reformed – Pentecostal, Lutheran – Pentecostal and the Joint Consultative Group of the WCC and Pentecostals. He presented the Global Christian Forum which he named “the most hopeful ecumenical initiative” that is currently around.

Copies of the Greetings brought by the Rev. Fykse Tveit, the Reflection by Rev. Granberg-Michaelson and the paper presented by Dr. Robeck are available on request at gcforum@sunrise.ch



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Global Christian Forum Secretary

GCF Committee

- Mr. Femi Adeleye
International Fellowship of Evangelical Students
- Rev. Fr. Gosbert Byamungu
Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
- H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios
Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Rev. Anne-Cathy Graber
Mennonite World Conference
- Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson
World Council of Churches / World Alliance of Reformed Churches
- Dr John Graz
Seventh-Day Adventist Church General Conference
- Rev. Dr. Robert Gribben
World Methodist Council / Uniting Church in Australia
- Rev. Fr. Mikhail Gundiaev
Moscow Patriarchate
- Dr Prince Guneratnam
Calvary International Ministries / Assemblies of God
- Rev. Dr Han Sang-Ehil
Church of God (Cleveland)
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World Evangelical Alliance
- Rev. Dr. Richard Howell
Asia Evangelical Alliance / Evangelical Fellowship of India
- Dr Kathryn L. Johnson
Lutheran World Federation
- Dr. Dimitra Koukoura
World Council of Churches
- Bishop James D. Leggett
Pentecostal World Fellowship
- Rev. Nicta Lubaale
Organisation of African Instituted Churches
- H.E. Metropolitan Mar Gregorios
Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
- Rev. Dr Judy W. Mbugua
Association of Evangelicals in Africa
- Lt.-Colonel Richard Munn
The Salvation Army International Headquarters
- Rev. Pirjo-Liisa Penttinen
World Young Women's Christian Association
- Rev. Dr Cecil M. Robeck
Pentecostal
- Rev. Sarah Rowland Jones
Anglican Communion
- Rev. Dr Fausto Vasconcelos
Baptist World Alliance
- Mr. Hubert van Beek
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