

THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN FORUM

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GCF NEWS 11 – JUNE 2009

Team Visit to the Middle East

A team of the Global Christian Forum will visit three countries in the Middle East from June 20th to 30th. The purpose of the visit is to meet with the leaders of a wide range of Churches in order to listen and learn about the situation in the region and the relationships between the churches, and to inform the church leaders about the purpose, the objectives and the working methods of the Global Christian Forum. The team will go to Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. In each country it will have discussions with Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican and Protestant (Evangelical) church leaders and other Evangelical and Pentecostal leaders. It is the first time the Global Christian Forum organises such a team visit. It is hoped that the visit will result in more participation of the churches in the Middle East in the Global Christian Forum. The members of the team are: H.E. Archbishop Makarios of Kenya, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa, Rev. Dr. Prince Guneratnam, Assemblies of God Malaysia, Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Reformed Church of America (USA), Rev. Pirjo-Liisa Penttinen, World Young Women's Christian Association (Finland), Engineer Fouad Youssef, Evangelical Fellowship of Egypt, Rev. Fr. Gabriel Hachem, Greek Catholic Melkite Church (Lebanon) and Mr. Hubert van Beek, GCF Secretary.

Book on Limuru Global Forum

A book on the Global Forum gathering that took place on 6 – 9 November 2007 at Limuru, Kenya is expected to come out next month. The book will contain the papers that were presented at the gathering, summaries of group discussions and plenary presentations, stories of faith journeys, the Message issued by the gathering and the Proposals for the Future, the Bible studies, conference material as well as a narrative on the origin of the Global Christian Forum and the process from 1998 onwards, and the reports of the three evaluations carried out in 2008. The book is meant to preserve the record of the event and to be a resource for all who are interested in the Global Christian Forum. It will be published by Regnum Books, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, UK. The publication and instructions for ordering copies will be announced on the GCF website www.globalchristianforum.org and in the next GCF NEWS bulletin.

Africa Regional Meeting

As part of the Three – Year Programme of the Global Christian Forum an Africa Regional Meeting is scheduled to take place in November of this year in Ghana. The first GCF consultation in Africa was held in Augustus 2005 in Lusaka, Zambia. The purpose of the upcoming meeting will be to provide follow-up and to broaden and deepen the impact of the GCF in Africa, to foster the organisation of national forums, to establish an active GCF network in the region and to enhance relationships and cooperation at the continental level. The meeting will focus on a limited number of countries in order to facilitate follow-up at the national level. Further information on the dates, venue, composition and programme will be made available on the GCF website and in the next news bulletin.