

**THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN FORUM**  
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## **NEWS 2 – MARCH 2007**

### **Global Christian Forum – Nairobi 2007**

The preparations for the Global Christian Forum gathering from 6 – 9 November 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya are progressing well. A local organizing committee has been set up in Nairobi with representatives of the National Council of Churches of Kenya, the Evangelical Fellowship of Kenya, the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, the Association of Evangelicals in Africa, the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Organization of African Instituted Churches and the United Bible Societies/Africa Region. The chairperson is the Rev. Julius Karanja, Moderator of the African Christian Church and Schools one of the large African Instituted churches in Kenya. The Global Christian Forum – Nairobi 2007 will convene at Jumuaia Conference and Country Home located in Limuru, about 25 kms north-west of Nairobi, which belongs to the National Council of Churches of Kenya. For more information see [www.globalchristianforum.net](http://www.globalchristianforum.net)

### **The Forum in Asia**

The Evangelical Fellowship of Asia (EFA) has accepted the invitation from the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) to join the Asian Movement for Christian Unity (AMCU). When the Asia Consultation on the Global Christian Forum met in Hong Kong in May 2004, the participants urged the three regional bodies to take responsibility for follow-up in Asia. This led to a meeting in September 2006 in Bangkok, where representatives of the three bodies met and recommended that the Evangelical Fellowship of Asia be invited to join the already existing cooperation between the CCA (ecumenical) and the FABC (Catholic). At its meeting last January the Executive Committee of the EFA decided to respond positively to this new opportunity to witness to Christian unity in Asia. The first step will be the participation of evangelical and pentecostal representatives in the fourth assembly of the Asian Movement for Christian Unity which will take place from 11 – 14 June 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the proposed theme « *Our Common Witness in Contemporary Asia* ». For more information see [www.cca.org.hk/ccanews](http://www.cca.org.hk/ccanews) and documents posted on [www.globalchristianforum.net](http://www.globalchristianforum.net)

### **Christian Churches Together in the US**

At a meeting in Pasadena, California, on 6 – 9 February 2007, Christian Churches Together in the USA was officially launched by its 36 founding churches and national Christian organizations. CCT USA embraces the Evangelical/Pentecostal, Orthodox, Catholic, mainline Protestant and Ethnic/Racial church families, and is thus the broadest most inclusive fellowship of Christian traditions in the USA. The five groupings are

represented by the presidents of the new body: Bishop James Leggett of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (Evangelical/Pentecostal), Dr Larry Pickens of the United Methodist Church (historic Protestant), Cardinal William Keeler (Catholic), Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky of the Orthodox Church in America (Orthodox) and Rev. William Shaw of the National Baptist Convention USA (Racial/Ethnic). CCT participants at the founding meeting identified two areas of common concern for future work: evangelism and the need to eliminate poverty in the USA. They issued a statement on the issue of poverty. The process of formation of Christian Churches Together in the USA started in 2001. It is based on considerations and convictions very similar to those that have inspired the Global Christian Forum. For more information see [www.christianchurchestogether.org](http://www.christianchurchestogether.org)

### **National United Christian Forum, India**

On March 3, 2007 the National United Christian Forum in India organized a public protest against the rejection of the demand for equal rights of Christians and Muslims of Scheduled Caste origin. According to a News Flash of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, nearly 65% of Christians in India belong to scheduled castes and continue to experience exclusion and denial of equal opportunities for education, livelihood and dignity on the ground that untouchability is peculiar to the Hindu religion only. Dalits who convert to Christianity or Islam are therefore excluded from reservation, a government status which provides special provisions for education and employment and protection against violence and discrimination.

The National United Christian Forum in India brings together the National Council of Churches of India (NCCI, ecumenical), the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) and the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI). It is a new cooperative arrangement reflecting the principles of the Global Christian Forum.