

# Global Christian Forum News

March 2026 Edition

**“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth. It shall not return to me empty but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” - Isaiah 55: 10-11**

## About this Edition

Christian unity is a gift and a calling. The charism of the Global Christian Forum is the sharing of faith stories to build relationships across differences, so that the fruit of encounter might flourish.

In this newsletter, we bring you stories of unity and the deepening of Christian relationships in different contexts around the world. These stories come from those in the GCF family, showing the ways that global experiences of faith sharing can flourish closer to home.

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## Current GCF Activities

We have been busy developing new initiatives and finding ways to strengthen the identity of the Forum for the future. In the coming months, we hope to:

- Develop new ways of communicating the GCF story
- Launch a youth forum initiative
- Share the theological work we're undertaking
- Start planning for a meeting of the International Committee and a local Forum gathering in the Latin America region in 2027

The International Committee will meet in April in Rome at the invitation of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. Also, at the beginning of April, we will welcome back our Secretary, Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah, after his well-deserved sabbatical.

# European Meeting in Paris

Br. Paolo,  
Taizé Community, France



I was in Paris for over four months working with people in local parishes to find accommodation for the participants and to prepare a local programme of prayers, small-group meetings and visits. Approximately 10,00 young adults came from outside Paris for the European Meeting, 28 December - 1 January, and practically all were accommodated in the homes of inhabitants of the Paris region. Beyond the times of common prayer and the theme workshops, it is this welcome by families which touches me most about the European Young Adult Meetings which we organise every year in a different city. It is a profoundly counter-cultural sign for people to open their homes to welcome young adults whom they do not know in advance. It is also a step of trust and out of their comfort-zone for young people to arrive at a meeting in a foreign country with their sleeping-bag and to let themselves be assigned to stay, fairly randomly, with people unknown to them. For me, it is this readiness to welcome the stranger in the name of Christ which helps many people deepen their understanding of what the Church is deep down.

For more about the Paris meeting, please visit <https://taizeparisidf.fr>

# Practising Faith Sharing: The Canadian Council of Churches

**Rev. Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan,  
Immediate Past President of the Canadian Council of Churches**



Photo: Canadian Council of Churches

The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) has incorporated the Global Christian Forum (GCF) methodology of faith-sharing into its work. Since the turn of the millennium, the CCC collaborated with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada to expand the ecumenical movement. As part of this initiative, leaders of both organizations shared their personal faith journeys.

Later, inspired by the GCF's work in Limuru and Manado, the CCC introduced "circle" conversations at its Board meetings. This practice was further encouraged by the visit of Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah to a Governing Board meeting. His presence, combined with the ongoing practice of faith-sharing, led the CCC to adopt faith-sharing as one of its five operating guidelines for the 2021–2024 triennium.

Peter Noteboom, current General Secretary of the CCC, wrote:

"We called it *Practising Faith Sharing*. This means that we look for ways for member churches to meet each other more intimately through sharing faith stories, opening space for dialogue on sensitive topics, and challenging each other and being challenged by the interaction. I think we built that practising faith sharing and sharing faith stories into the design of Governing Board Bible studies, President's Circles, Commission devotionals, even staff meetings. So much so that I think it is part of our culture now. And we no longer named it as an explicit operating guideline for the 2024-27 triennium."

This example from Canada demonstrates how GCF-inspired practices can foster deeper connections, dialogue, and mutual growth among churches.

# Praying to Be Supporting Ligaments in the Body of Christ

Mary Anne Minas,  
GCF Staff Member and Servant Leader at HOPE Fellowship, Philippines

*“Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament... promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” - Ephesians 4:15–16 (NRSVUE)*



Since joining the Global Christian Forum as a part-time staff member in March 2024, just before the Fourth Global Gathering, I have come to see more clearly how God is at work uniting His children as one Body in Christ. Through the truth of Jesus at work within us, spoken in love during our gatherings, I have witnessed how the GCF creates sacred space for encounter, listening, and faith-sharing that fosters reconciliation. I am humbled and blessed to serve alongside colleagues and committee members who faithfully carry this vision.

At the same time, I am part of a simple church network called HOPE Fellowship—“House of Prayer for Everyone”—inspired by Isaiah 56:7. HOPE is not so much a name or brand—it is a description of our calling. We are an organic, inter-Christian community of Jesus followers from different traditions who gather simply in homes and shared spaces. Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, Baptists, and independent believers sit at the same table. No one is asked to leave their church; rather, we gather around Christ.

In every gathering, we share faith stories—echoing the very heart of the Global Christian Forum. We listen to one another’s journeys with Jesus, read Scripture together, and pray Jesus’ prayers—for God’s Kingdom to come and His will to be done, for Christian unity,

and for more laborers where they are needed—alongside our personal concerns. We gather in groups of two or three, and in slightly larger groups of up to fifteen. From these small circles of prayerful listening, shared mission flows naturally.



On December 5, 2025, Christians from fourteen churches representing diverse traditions—Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, Baptists, Evangelicals, and Independent House Churches—gathered for a school outreach in Angeles City, Pampanga. We came together in prayer and service, sharing the love of Christ with more than 500 elementary students and their teachers through Gospel storytelling, feeding, and the giving of school supplies and Christian resources. That day, churches that often served separately worked as one—sharing resources, embracing responsibilities, and offering their gifts freely. We experienced not only cooperation but communion. It was a joyful and profound witness of reconciliation—a lived expression of our belonging to one Body in Christ. By the grace of God, this was the fifth time we have served together in this way.

You may watch the video at: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2344040959376924>

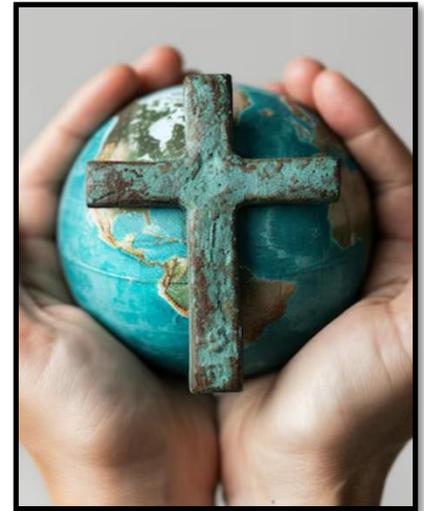
Since becoming part of the GCF family, I have shared its ministry and faith-sharing practice within our fellowships. Our prayer is that we may serve as “supporting ligaments” in Christ’s Body at the grassroots level—strengthening relationships across Christian traditions through sharing faith stories, blessing communities together, and nurturing koinonia as a rhythm among Christians where they go in their daily lives—in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools—and embodying unity so that the world may believe. We also pray that this shared ministry and experience may extend to our Christian friends in other countries.

Thanks be to God that, in both large global gatherings and small neighborhood homes and shared spaces, the Spirit continues to knit us together in love.

## Prayer Requests

In light of what is happening in our world today, especially conflicts in the Middle East and other regions, we invite you to join us in prayer for our world and for the Church's witness of unity and hope:

- **For peace in areas affected by war** — for comfort for the grieving, protection for civilians, wisdom for leaders, and a path toward peace.
- **For compassion and unity in the global Church** — that Christians everywhere may grow in love for those who suffer and stand together in prayer.
- **For more initiatives that build Christian unity and hospitality** — including the Taizé Community and the Canadian Council of Churches that encourage welcoming the stranger in the name of Christ
- **For more local leaders who live out this spirit of unity** — like Mary Anne Minas. May many others share the GCF story and practice faith sharing in their local communities.
- **For the Global Christian Forum and its work** — for wisdom and grace for the committee members and staff, and for upcoming gatherings, including the International Committee Meeting in Rome (April 2026), that they may strengthen relationships and deepen Christian unity.



Please also let us know how we can pray for you and your community. We would be grateful to stand with you in prayer.

## We want to hear from you!

Please share stories of how faith sharing can bring communities together for common witness and service. The spirit of the Forum is not in an organisation; it's in seeing how the charism and vision of broad Christian unity thrive in new places and in new ways.

Send stories and pictures to: [communications@globalchristianforum.org](mailto:communications@globalchristianforum.org)

The Global Christian Forum (GCF) is a unique gathering of global Christian churches and organisations bringing together all the major streams of world Christianity. It is an open space where all Christians can meet to nurture unity by fostering mutual respect and understanding, as well as by addressing together common challenges. The GCF Secretary is Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah.



**“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.” - John 15:4-5**