

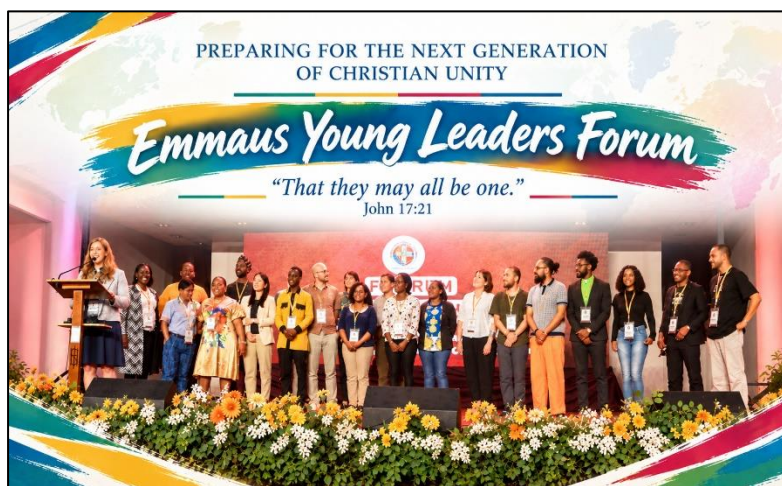
Global Christian Forum News

September 2026 Edition

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Romans 15:5-6

About this Edition

Welcome to this latest edition of the Global Christian Forum newsletter, as we enter a busy and exciting season of activity across the Forum and look ahead to many plans and possibilities in the months and years to come.



In this issue, we share short news stories—from our first International Committee Quarterly Prayer Fellowship and our Secretary’s visit to Ghana, to the upcoming 2027 Francophone Christian Forum. We also celebrate the fruits of the German-speaking Christian Forum and hear reflections from the Emmaus Young Leaders Forum.

At the heart of this newsletter are stories of faith, friendship and Christian witness from around the world. We invite you to share your own stories with us: where are you seeing Christians coming together, building relationships and witnessing to the hope of the Gospel?

We also invite you to join us in prayer using the prayer points in this newsletter as we accompany one another and the Forum’s work around the world.

Thank you for being part of this growing global community.

In this issue:

• GCF Short News Stories:

- Praying Together: A New Rhythm of Fellowship in the GCF
- Renewing Friendships for Christian Unity in Ghana
- A Third Francophone Christian Forum in 2027

• Faith Stories

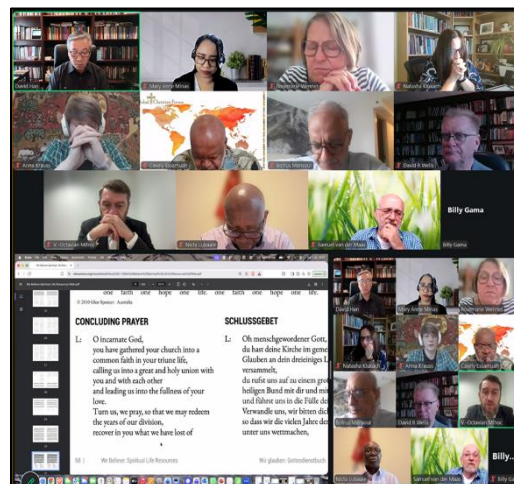
- Harvesting Fruit from the First German Speaking Christian Forum in Switzerland
- Emmaus Young Leaders Forum Reflections

GCF Short News Stories

Praying Together: A New Rhythm of Fellowship in the GCF

The Global Christian Forum International Committee has begun a new quarterly rhythm of prayer, creating a simple space for members to pause, listen to God, and pray together across traditions, cultures, and continents.

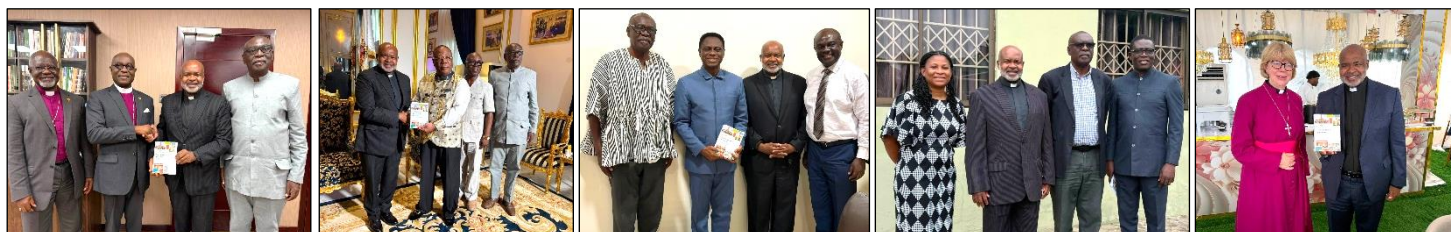
The first Quarterly Prayer Fellowship was held online on 7 July 2026. The time included Scripture, responsive prayer, shared intercession, and Spirit-led concert prayer—a beautiful expression of Christians from many traditions praying with one heart for God's Kingdom. Members lifted the ministry of the GCF, its staff and leadership, the persecuted Church, and the witness of the global Church. They also brought before the Lord concerns from around the world, as well as personal prayer needs within the International Committee.



The Quarterly Prayer Fellowship will continue on a voluntary basis, with the next gathering scheduled for 6 October 2026.

We give thanks to God for leading the GCF into this new rhythm of prayer and for the encouraging response from members. It is a reminder that the Forum's journey of Christian unity is nurtured not only through conversations and gatherings, but also through prayer and fellowship in Christ.

Renewing Friendships for Christian Unity in Ghana



The relationships nurtured through the Fourth Global Gathering of the Global Christian Forum in Ghana continue to bear fruit.

During his July and August visit to Accra, Rev. Dr. Casely Baiden Essamuah, Secretary of the Global Christian Forum, met with church leaders and partners who contributed to the 2024 Global Gathering. Accompanied on several visits by Mr. Kwame Adu, former General Director of Scripture Union Ghana and a member of the Ghana Gathering Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Casely expressed gratitude for their warm welcome and partnership. He met with leaders of the Methodist Church Ghana, Action Chapel International, The Church of Pentecost, and the Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council, and also had the privilege of meeting with The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, during her visit to Accra.

Copies of the Fourth Global Gathering Report were shared as a gesture of gratitude and a reminder of the relationships that continue beyond the gathering itself. Books were also delivered to the offices of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), which brings together Catholic bishops' conferences across Africa and Madagascar, the Apostolic Nunciature (Vatican Embassy to Ghana), and Trinity Theological Seminary.

The encounters were marked by warm fellowship, conversation, prayer, and reflection on Christian unity and mission—creating opportunities to listen, deepen understanding, and continue discerning how Christians from different traditions can walk and serve together.

We give thanks for the churches and leaders in Ghana who continue to share in this journey. May these friendships bear fruit for Christian unity, mission, and the greater good of God's Kingdom.

A Third Francophone Christian Forum in 2027



Following the Francophone Christian Forums in Lyon, France, in 2018 and Liège, Belgium, in 2024, a third Forum is being prepared for 20–23 October 2027 in Leysin, Switzerland, with the theme, “Let your light shine before all!” (Matthew 5:16).

Rev. Dr. Anne-Cathy Graber, Secretary for Ecumenical Relations of the Mennonite World Conference, reports that preparations are underway with local organizing teams and the Francophone Christian Forum committee, as churches across the French-speaking world are being invited to take part.

The Forum will offer an open space for Christians from different traditions to meet, listen, build relationships, and discover the joy of their shared faith in Christ. A public evening in Lausanne is also planned to

commemorate the centenary of the Faith and Order movement.

We give thanks for this emerging opportunity and invite you to pray for the organizers, the churches being invited, and the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts for a time of encounter, fellowship, and shared witness.

Further information and updates are available at forumchretien.fr.

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”
– Proverbs 16:3

Harvesting Fruit from the First German-Speaking Christian Forum in Switzerland

Dr. Jean-Daniel Plüss

Chairperson, European Pentecostal Charismatic Research Association (EPCRA)

The first German-speaking Christian Forum in Switzerland took place from October 27 to 30, 2024, at the Theological Seminary Chrischona in Bettingen, near Basel. The more than 100 participants represented a wide range of Christian churches and associated ministries. The four-day event was embedded in common prayers and celebrations. The main emphasis was on sharing faith stories in small groups and facilitating space for open conversations. On one late afternoon, the participants were invited to seek out a person they had previously not known, perhaps someone coming from another church tradition, and go on an “Emmaus Walk.” It was an opportunity to discover Christ as the two were strolling and talking with each other. At the end of the Forum, the participants were enthusiastic to have personally experienced an ecumenical spirit in which not theological issues or historical divisions were discussed, but faith in Jesus Christ was at the center of their conversations. Many said that this Forum opened the way to other encounters with and among the churches. The Joint Working Group of Christian Churches in Switzerland reported on the Forum extensively.

<https://agck.ch/bettingen-2024/>



But would that sentiment last? Towards the end of 2025, a questionnaire was sent to the participants. What were their memories and impressions of the Forum that had taken place a year ago? Would they wish that a follow-up meeting could be organized? Would they, in such a case, be willing to play an active role? The feedback to those questions was very encouraging. The team that had organized the first Forum came together and decided that they would commit to

organizing another meeting in 2027. This time probably in a more local context, bringing representatives of churches together that minister in the same city.

There is another positive development that this gathering produced. A few guests from Germany and Austria had been invited to participate in the first German-speaking Forum in Switzerland, and they too caught on to the vision of the Global Christian Forum. On February 24–25, 2026, pastors, priests, and church leaders from Southern Germany gathered at the Diaconal Center in Bad Urach, with a focus on sharing faith stories and facilitating personal encounters across different church traditions. The gathering offered another opportunity to explore the vision of a Christian Forum in Germany, with the Working Group of Christian Churches in Germany considering possible next steps.

Emmaus Young Leaders Forum Reflections

As the Global Christian Forum looks toward the next Global Gathering, the Emmaus Young Leaders Forum is creating space for a new generation of Christians to build relationships, share perspectives, and grow together across traditions.

More than preparing young people for an event, Emmaus seeks to nurture the GCF charism in young leaders—encouraging them to listen, learn from one another, and discover new ways of witnessing together to Christ.

In the following reflections, mentors share their experiences, hopes, and perspectives on walking alongside this emerging generation of young Christian leaders as they begin their journey within the GCF.



Pastor Berto Kado

**Youth Pastor and Executive Assistant to the General Secretary,
Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA)**

What I am most excited about for the Emmaus forum is the opportunity to partner with others to pave the way for the future of the gospel. A Gospel that is already being entrusted to the next generation. The road to Emmaus paints an incredible picture of what my prayer is for this forum: a place where a hopeless and confused generation encounters the risen Christ, has the Scriptures opened to them, and to find their hearts burning with the fire of Christ within them as they encounter Him (Luke 24: 27-32) and like the disciples that their response may be to return to their communities to proclaiming the risen Christ! (Luke 24:33–35).

In the book of Judges 2:10, we get the most sobering warning of a generation that arose and *'knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.'* We are reminded that it is our responsibility to intentionally fulfill the scriptural mandate of Psalm 145:4: *'One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts'* (Psalm 145:4). My prayer is that the Forum will intentionally make room for young people not merely as the future of the Church, but as capable mission agents whom God is calling and using now; deeply rooted in Scripture, faithful to Christ, and courageously participating in Christ's mission until He returns.



Brother Jean-Daniel

GCF International Committee Member representing Taizé Community

What do you envision for the Emmaus Forum for Young Leaders?

I particularly like that this Forum is placed under the "*patronage*" of Emmaus. For me, the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus is one of the most honest stories of discipleship in the Gospel.

There is *disappointment, confusion, frustration, and brokenness* — but also the possibility of seeing things differently.

I can imagine the Emmaus Forum as a space where young Christian leaders can bring something of this honesty.

At the heart of the Global Christian Forum is the sharing of faith stories: listening to one another, not first to explain or defend our traditions, but to discover what God is doing in another person's life and the Church.

The disciples on the road needed someone who would listen to their story. Jesus did not begin by giving them solutions. He walked with them and gave them space to speak about what had happened, about their hopes and their disappointment. Only gradually did they begin to see their own story differently.

I hope we can experience something of this in the Forum. That it can be a place where we can speak honestly about what it means to be young Christian leaders today — the challenges, questions, tensions and sometimes the sense of being tired or lost — and discover that we do not have to carry these things alone.

And then, as in Emmaus, something can happen on the road. We may begin to recognize Christ in the midst of our stories and in the person walking beside us.

What excites you most about this new initiative?

It is definitely the possibility of meeting between young Christian leaders from very different traditions and contexts, and discovering what we already have in common.

At Taizé, I have seen how prayer, shared life and simple listening can make denominational differences less important. We begin to encounter the person before the tradition, and Christ before the things that separate us.

I am truly convinced the Emmaus Forum could create this kind of encounter among young leaders on a wider scale. We come from different churches, countries, and experiences, and yet many of the questions we carry may be surprisingly similar.

There is something very hopeful in discovering this together: that perhaps we are less alone than we thought, and that the Church can become wider when we listen to one another.

What do you see as important priorities for the Forum in its first year?

I would go with three.

First, a culture of deep listening. The sharing of faith stories should remain at the heart of the Forum. Not simply exchanging information about our churches, but allowing our personal stories to be heard.

Second, space to name the real challenges of young Christian leadership today. We should not be afraid of difficult questions or of speaking about our own struggles and limitations.

Sometimes simply being able to say, "this is difficult for me," in the presence of others who listen can already be an important beginning.

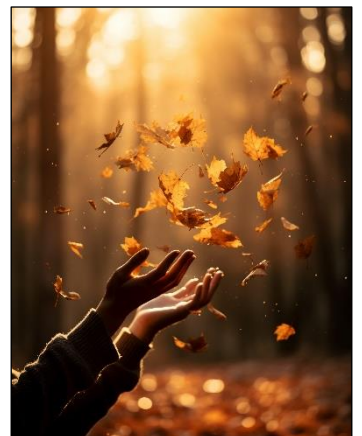
Third, a sense of sending. The disciples did not stay in Emmaus. They returned to their community with burning hearts and shared what had happened to them.

I would hope that something similar could happen through the Forum: that we leave not simply with new ideas or new contacts, but with something alive within us — a renewed hope, a deeper love for Christians of other traditions, and perhaps a new courage to serve and build bridges in our own communities.

Emmaus, then, is not only a story we remember. It can become a way of being together: walking, listening, discovering Christ, and returning with burning hearts.

Prayer Requests

- **For communities affected by disasters and conflict** — pray for those affected by the recent floods and landslides in Nepal and Tibet, especially families who have lost loved ones or are still waiting for news of the missing. Pray also for those affected by war and displacement in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, and many other places. May God bring comfort, protection, strength, and hope.
- **For the Emmaus Forum and young Christian leaders** — pray for God's guidance as we seek the young people He is calling to this initiative. May the Forum bring together diverse voices from established and emerging churches and different Christian traditions, and may the participants grow as bridges of unity and faithful witnesses for Christ.
- **For the Fifth Global Gathering and GCF initiatives** — pray for God's guidance over GG5 preparations, our task forces, and regional initiatives. May He continue to lead the German-speaking Forum, bless preparations for the 2027 Francophone Christian Forum, and raise up faithful people to serve the growing journey of Christian unity across different regions.



• **For the Global Christian Forum and its wider community** — pray for the staff, International Committee, committees, partners, and participants around the world. May God grant wisdom, strength, and grace as we build relationships, share faith, and walk together in Christ. Pray also for the continuing Quarterly Prayer Fellowship, that it may deepen our fellowship and unite us in prayer.

We welcome your prayers for your own communities and churches. May we continue to carry one another before God and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us as we walk together in Christ.

We want to hear from you!

How is Christian unity taking root in your community? Share stories of faith, friendship, and Christians coming together for witness and service.

Send stories and pictures to: communications@globalchristianforum.org

Support our Ministry of Christian Unity

Your gift, whatever the amount, helps the Global Christian Forum create spaces where Christians from different traditions can meet, listen, share faith stories, and grow together in Christ.

You may send your donation [\[here\]](#).

Together, we can help fulfill Christ's passion and prayer: "that they may all be one." (John 17:20–23)

The Global Christian Forum (GCF) is a unique gathering of global Christian churches and organizations 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.



“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
— Ephesians 2:10