

Efraim Tendero: Greeting to Global Christian Forum

April 24, 2018

Greetings! On behalf of the World Evangelical Alliance, I wish to thank all of you for attending the Global Christian Forum's third Global Gathering and to assure you of my prayers for the great success of this event.

We are grateful to the churches of Bogota, Colombia for extending a warm welcome and excellent hospitality to everyone. I hope that this Global Gathering will build stronger connections between the Latin American church and the worldwide family of believers.

I have been looking forward to this great event for many months. Unfortunately, some personal matters that arose just last week have forced me to change my plans. However, you will be in my daily prayers this week and I know that Bishop Thomas Schirmmacher, the WEA's Associate General Secretary for Theological Concerns will represent us superbly. The WEA also has several International Council members, Senior Leadership Team members, and other leaders participating in this Global Gathering.

The Global Christian Forum has been a precious gift from God to all of us at the WEA. We take seriously Jesus' call to mutual love and unity among all who recognize him as Savior, but we also know that we must avoid compromises that would undermine our faith. The GCF is a place where we can go with confidence, knowing that our collaboration with brothers and sisters from church bodies around the world will uphold the historic truths of the Christian faith and will strengthen God's kingdom on earth. May the sharing of your respective faith journeys mutually encourage and edify each other and enrich our appreciation and respect for one another.



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When we participated last year in the discussion at Bossey, Switzerland on the GCF's future, we strongly supported its continuation. We saw the GCF's unique effectiveness in bringing together believers of many traditions at the powerful 2015 Tirana conference on the persecution of Christians. The GCF has helped us raise worldwide awareness of this crucial concern. It has enabled us to achieve consensus and collaboration on key issues while providing a platform for us to openly discuss sensitive matters, such as the current GCF process on proselytism.

We are deeply grateful for the service that Larry Miller has provided as GCF Secretary for the last six years. With grace, respectfulness, and responsiveness, he has achieved amazing things and made enormous contributions to the GCF's effectiveness. Larry, the WEA will miss you very much! We wish Larry Godspeed in his next steps and look forward to being equally blessed by the service of incoming Secretary Casely Essamuah.

Thank you again and may you be deeply blessed by the powerful expressions of mutual love that I know you will experience this week.

Sincerely,

BISHOP EFRAIM M. TENDERO

Secretary General/CEO

World Evangelical Alliance