

Addis Ababa Ethiopia | Nov 7-11 2023

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# Conference program

	TUESDAY 7th	WEDNESDAY 8th	THURSDAY 9th	FRIDAY 10th	SATURDAY 11th	SUNDAY 12th	
7:00-7:45		Fitness: Family.Fit or Prayer. Fit					
7.45-8:45		BREAKFAST					
8:45-9:30		Worship & Bible Reflection				Depart	
9:30-11:00		What is GCF?	Families on Mission				
11:00-11:30		BREAK					
11:30-1:00		Families on Mission	Work Teams				
1:00-2:30		LUNCH					
2:30-3:00		Prayer Triplets			2.00-4.30 Outing	Prayer Triplets	
3:00-4:30		Set up work teams	Work Teams	Work Teams			
4:30-5:00		BREAK					
5:00-5:30		Arrive	Work Teams	Work Teams	Work Teams	FOM Report Presentations	
5:30-6:00						Closing Session	
6:00-6:30	Free Time			Prayer Triplets			
6:30-7:00	DINNER						
7:00-8:00	Welcome and Orientation	Prayer for Africa					
8:00-8:30							
8:30-9:00							

Green sessions: all together  
 Blue sessions: in our work teams



# Global Children's Forum (GCF)

## Who are we?

We are a global pioneering partnering community, striving to be more effective in reaching the children of the world with the Gospel of Jesus, by doing together what we can't do alone. It involves over 100 organizations, large and small, local and international, and began in 2008 to wrestle with these fundamental questions:

- How can we be more effective together in reaching children with the good news of Jesus?
- What can we do together that we cannot do alone?

The vision that unites and drives us is simple — to see children everywhere walking with Jesus. Digging a little deeper challenges us to see them through God's eyes, enter their world, see them grow on the journey, thrive through relationships and bring Jesus to others.

## What do we value?

- one another
- working together
- love and humility
- sharing generously
- courage and creativity



## 2023 Strategic Priorities:

The priority of GCF is to help God's people to make disciples among children and help them to experience God's *shalom*. Special attention is given to this within the context of family and children at risk. We believe the end-goal of this is to equip and encourage children to be active contributors to God's mission and their community.

1. Strengthen collaboration, especially around missional families
2. Integrate younger leaders
3. Develop Learning Community regional pilots
4. Grow the reach and scope of the GCF Leadership Experience (LE)
5. Roll out FlashLab and other innovation tools



children everywhere  
walking with Jesus



# Welcome and Introduction

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## An invitation to collaborate

GCF has always pursued the challenge of what becomes possible together that is not possible alone. At its heart therefore GCF is a partnering community, committed to Kingdom-focused collaboration.

To help us make the fullest use of our time, you will see that the program reflects a commitment to investing together in work teams (blue sessions). Some of these have already been active before this gathering and others will begin in Addis. Some are focussed around specific needs or partner networks, others will be shaped by you and the discussions that we have together on site around families on mission.

It is hoped that these groups will take on a role and life beyond our time in Addis, so please be prayerful about where you sense God may be encouraging you to get involved. The work teams will allow us to focus our involvement and collaboration, to do this, it is suggested that each person commits to just one team for the duration of the forum. There will be several opportunities to hear from each of the groups during the forum and for sharing and cross-fertilising between groups. This is one of the joys of being together in a collaborative space, being shaped by as well as contributing to the thinking and activity of us all.

More information will be shared on site in Addis, but do check out the group summaries listed in this booklet for an overview of the groups and hoped for outcomes. Remember that in addition to these, we will also get to shape several further groups together, around the families on mission theme.





# Conference Goals and Outcomes

	Goals	Outcomes
1	<p><b>Kingdom Collaboration</b></p> <p>We want to see movements and agencies who are focused on children and families to be in dialogue, and plan what we can do together that we cannot each do alone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trust and clarity</li> <li>• Strategic plan</li> <li>• Increased reach / impact</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Families on Mission (FOM)</b></p> <p>Together we will imagine the impact of millions of families thinking and acting missionally. We will design ways to equip them, connect them, and motivate them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity on definitions, challenges and strategies to equip families to be on mission locally.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Regional Developments</b></p> <p>A priority for the meetings in Ethiopia is to build connections, deepen relationships and create opportunities for Kingdom collaboration across the continent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearer vision for children and families across Africa</li> <li>• Relationships and teams built to serve the needs of Africa</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Work teams</b></p> <p>Out of these discussions will flow practical work groups to develop plans and practical projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plan for each work team to continue the process after the face-to-face forum.</li> <li>• Each team contributes content to a FOM guide.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Family shapes and stages</b></p> <p>Through the conference we will meet with others at a similar stage of life to wrestle with the threats and opportunities of this stage as they relate to FOM across Africa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each team contributes content to a FOM guide.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Share stories</b></p> <p>Together we will share stories of families on mission and be inspired.</p> <p><b>Pray</b></p> <p>Pray for families everywhere and pray for each other in our challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trust, joy, and celebration.</li> <li>• A bank of stories as examples of families on mission (audio-visual and written).</li> </ul>



**São Paulo  
Statement  
on Families on  
Mission**

God has created us to be in **communities**, the smallest of which are **households**. These combine with other families to form larger communities (villages, cities etc.).

**Together, Christian homes form churches.**

All these Christian families are called to be '**on Mission**': shaping both the lives of their own families and the lives of others, being **salt** and **light** in society and calling each other to **reflect the image of God**.

What if **every Christian household** embraced being on Mission? What if **all Churches** supported those households to be on Mission so that the Church became what God intended the Church to be, together **impacting wider communities**?

What if, together, Christian households were like '**cities on a hill**', shining light and bringing hope to others?

Such a vision calls for all Christian homes to be '**Families on Mission**', reflecting the purpose, identity, and calling of Christian families.

**We pray that we will let the love of Jesus  
into our homes to share His light with others.**



# About Families on Mission

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There has been growing momentum around the needs of families and how we can best serve them alongside children. Recent discussions posed the challenge of how we might see a million families around the world embracing what it means to think and act missionally. Looking at the needs around us in our world, and as Kingdom partners, we began to dream how we might see God open a way to equip and release 100 million missional families as we explore and serve together.

In March 2023 we met in São Paulo as a collaborative partnering forum bringing together teams from GCF, GOPlay, Go Health & Fitness, Generous Generation, family.fit and Rede Mãos Dados. Together we seek to serve children, young people, and families with a special focus on missional families, exploring how we can grow as learning communities, incubating infectious ideas together and including a special focus on investing in younger leaders.

The São Paulo forum initiated a number of working groups and projects. These included looking at local churches, the role of parents and grandparents, the regional, global and digital scope, and a special group exploring the whole area of generosity.

## Family on Mission Work Groups

This gathering we will do more work on this amazing Families on Mission theme looking at:

<p><b>1. Parenting</b></p> <p>The opportunities for parents and caregivers to shape missional households</p>	<p><b>4. Church leadership</b></p> <p>Exploring the role of the local church in envisioning, equipping and releasing families on mission</p>
<p><b>2. Families in a digital world</b></p> <p>Families exploring missional opportunities in and through an online world</p>	<p><b>5. Displaced people groups</b></p> <p>When homes have been lost and temporary 'homes' are created, what can be done for families on mission</p>
<p><b>3. Grandparenting</b></p> <p>The untapped role of grandparents in helping to shape and serve families on mission</p>	<p><b>6. Child led households</b></p> <p>Exploring the needs, challenges and opportunities for shaping mission from this context</p>

# Conference map & Important conference information

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The Conference is being held at the Grand Eliana hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- Be prepared for the high altitude. Addis Ababa is located at 2,370 meters (7,780 feet) above sea level, so it may take some time to adjust.
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Be respectful of Ethiopian culture and customs.

This beautiful hotel offers some things free of charge, and some with payment:

- WiFi, Swimming and Gym are free
- For Spa there is payment
- There are shops and ATM within the facility.

*Eliana mall* - located adjoined to the hotel is all in one destination for shopping. Eliana Mall is full of different shops, banks and agencies.

## Local food

Try some of Ethiopia's delicious cuisine, such as injera (a flatbread made from teff flour) and wat (a stew made with meat or vegetables).

## Security and safety

It is advisable not to walk alone in the evenings. Walk with another person or in groups. It is better not to take chances and use common sense to keep you and others safe. Preferable to hold bags in front of you.

## Mealtimes at the Eliana Hotel

Breakfast will be at the hotel where you are staying and all other meals are provided at the Eliana.

Please be mindful of mealtimes in the program. The restaurants are open for:

- **Breakfast: 6.30-8.45 am at the Soho Terrace Restaurant** (*until 10am on non program days*)
- **Lunch: 12.30-2.00pm at the Ballroom area** (tea breaks also in this area)
- **Dinner at the Soho Terrace Restaurant: 6.30–9.30pm**

## For those staying at the at the Churchill Hotel

Breakfast at the Churchill Hotel is from 6:00 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m. The dinner kitchen is open 24 hours at the Churchill.

**Distance between Eliana and Churchill: Distance** is about 0.5 km and walking can take between 6min. to 8 min. depending on how fast you walk. Please leave time to get to the program on time.

## Wifi

The WIFI strength is 100Mb and you will get the provision in all places such as rooms, halls, dining places and cinema.

## Market / store

The Eliana is next to the Eliana Mall.

Eliana Mall boasts a variety of shops, including international brands such as Zara, H&M, and Mango. Visitors can also find local Ethiopian brands and handicrafts, making it a great place to shop for souvenirs and unique gifts. The mall is also home to a large supermarket, where visitors can stock up on groceries and household essentials.

Note: Branded shops will take credit cards and most local shops will require cash.

## About Addis Ababa and Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, which means "new flower" in Amharic, was founded in 1886 by Emperor Menelik II. The city quickly grew in importance, and in 1936 it became the capital of Ethiopia. Today, Addis Ababa is a major center for diplomacy and international affairs. It is also home to the African Union headquarters and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Ethiopia has a long and rich history dating back thousands of years. Ethiopia is one of the oldest countries in Africa, and in the world, and has never been colonized by a European power.

Addis Ababa is the highest capital city in Africa, with an average elevation of 2,370 meters (7,780 feet). It is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest capital city in the world.

Ethiopia is home to the oldest known human fossils, including the famous "Lucy" skeleton.

Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee.

Ethiopia is the only African country to have competed in every Olympic Games since 1960.

Addis Ababa is home to the headquarters of the African Union.

Here are a few key phrases in Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia:

- Hello: Salam
- Thank you: Ameseginalehu
- You're welcome: Yewolkom
- Goodbye: Yene Habesha
- Please: Bezaf
- Excuse me: Yekeremeta

# Overview of the creative thinking process

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## Overview

Coming to a gathering like this is exciting but also a bit frightening. You may be asking yourself:

- Will I have anything worthwhile to contribute?
- What will happen in the creative process?
- What if we all have different ideas that don't match up because we are all so diverse?

Wonderfully, this is the work of the Holy Spirit. He was our first invited guest. In fact, He planned this whole gathering. Please pray for the Spirit's continual guidance.

The creative process is very dynamic and flexible. A small team of facilitators will be guiding us through the process to explore families on mission. We will look at it from many different angles so you will be sure to make important contributions from your experience and context. Working collaboratively is exciting.

Imagine the process like this (maybe close your eyes and engage all your imagination):

***The theme of Families on Mission is like a mountain – and we want to climb it.***

We can all see the mountain from a distance, simple and distinct, but when we get up close there are many aspects to consider — many valleys and challenges. There are many ways to climb it. The facilitators will be taking us all on an adventure to climb and understand this mountain — sometimes all together and sometimes in smaller climbing parties focused on a different path. Then our job is to make different types of tools and strategies to enable others to climb and enjoy the mountain.

## Roles within a work team

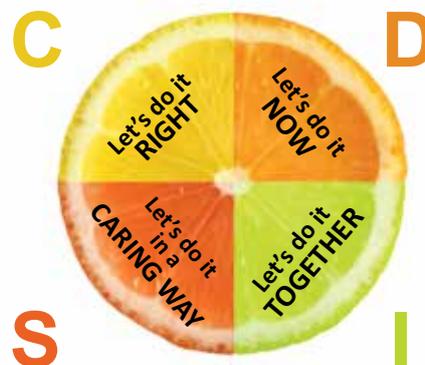
Come to the gathering ready to contribute your ideas. There will be many ways we will be doing this.

Remember to be confident but also have an attitude of humility. There will be people working in English as their second or third language. So, if you are a native English speaker, be a listener first. Give time and space for many ideas from others before giving your opinions.

<b>Facilitator</b>	Clarifies the vision, purpose and audience; supports the team and facilitates the writing process towards the end goal.
<b>Ideas people and visionaries</b>	Contributes ideas to be included as content.
<b>Practitioners</b>	(E.g. pastors, parents, youth workers, instructors, leaders, sons and daughters etc.) Contributes ideas to be included as content. May have multiple roles such as both parent and youth worker.
<b>Writers</b>	Logically document detailed notes of key ideas shared by the ideas people, visionaries and practitioners.
<b>Editor / Finishers</b>	Works with the writer to ensure that the content flows well and to ensure the completion of the resource by checking facts, grammar, spelling, punctuation etc.

## Different perspectives and ways of working

The make-up of your team is important. Each person will bring different strengths in how they work. You will find strength as a team as all these individual strengths combine. Here is a way to see how different team members value different things according to the DISC model. All are important.



## Group writing ideas



See the 'capacity toolkits' on *Active Family Discipling, Bible Handling, Effective Facilitation, Intercultural Facilitation, Team Writing and Creative Process*.

These can be downloaded from: <https://www.max7.org/en/library/capacitybuildingkits> or scan the QR code.

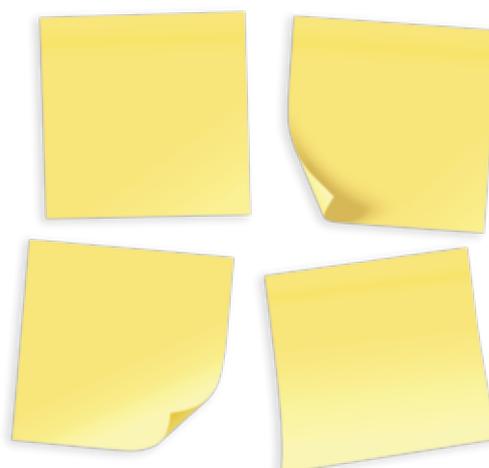


The tips below may also be helpful.

## Post-it note tip

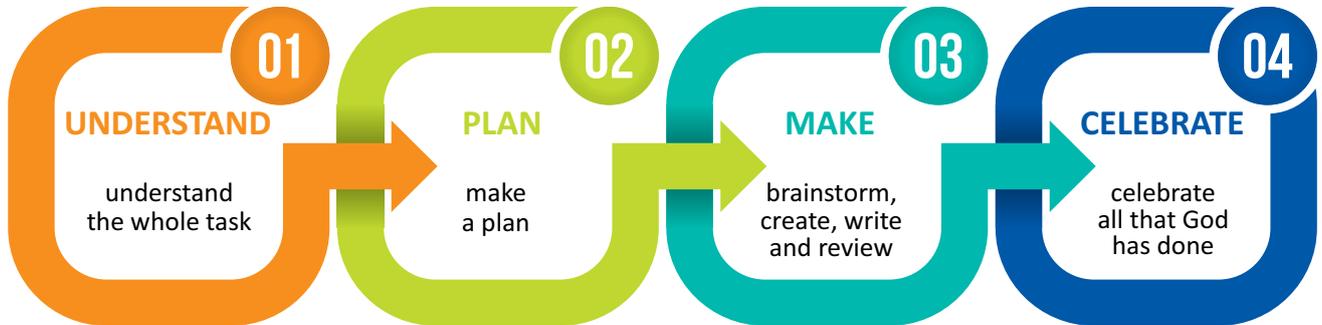
Sometimes we will be brainstorming with post-it notes. Remember to write your idea clearly and concisely with your name on it. For example:

- **UNHELPFUL:** "family money"
- **OK:** "earn money together and give it away"
- **BETTER:** "think of ways to earn money as a whole family, implement it and then decide together how it can be used for others."



# FlashLab writing process

Every work team will be starting from a different point, so each one will have different tasks to do. Some teams have no training sessions written in their broad topic, while other teams have most training sessions written. However, as we are creating new tools other than the training sessions, there will be many tasks for each team to do.



This writing process below is indicative only. Each team’s facilitator will be shaping a process that will uniquely work for their team. Your team will need to:

## 1. Understand the whole task

Audit and understand the content area your team is working on. Understand how the sessions / parts fit into the bigger picture of FOM discussions and strategy.

- What new components are you making? Why?
- What is the problem you are trying to solve?
- Understand the templates and how each piece fits together.



## 2. Make a plan

As you plan, ask yourselves these questions.

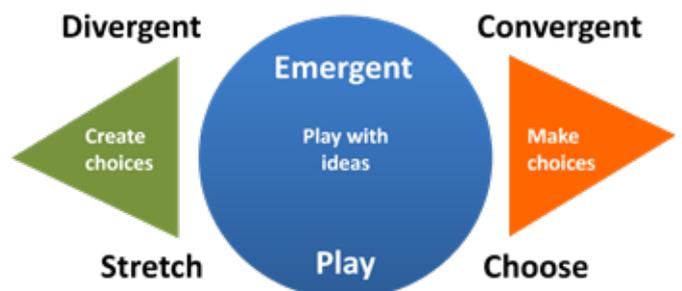
- What can we prioritize to do in this FlashLab time frame? (four days)
- What are the gaps and tasks to complete?
- What will be the teams and sub-teams? Roles?
- Who will be doing what tasks?
- How can we continue after Ethiopia?

## 3. Brainstorm, create, write and review

See the process of 1 to 7 (opposite page).

## 4. Celebrate all that God has done

Let’s see what God can do in our midst and for Africa as we labor together.

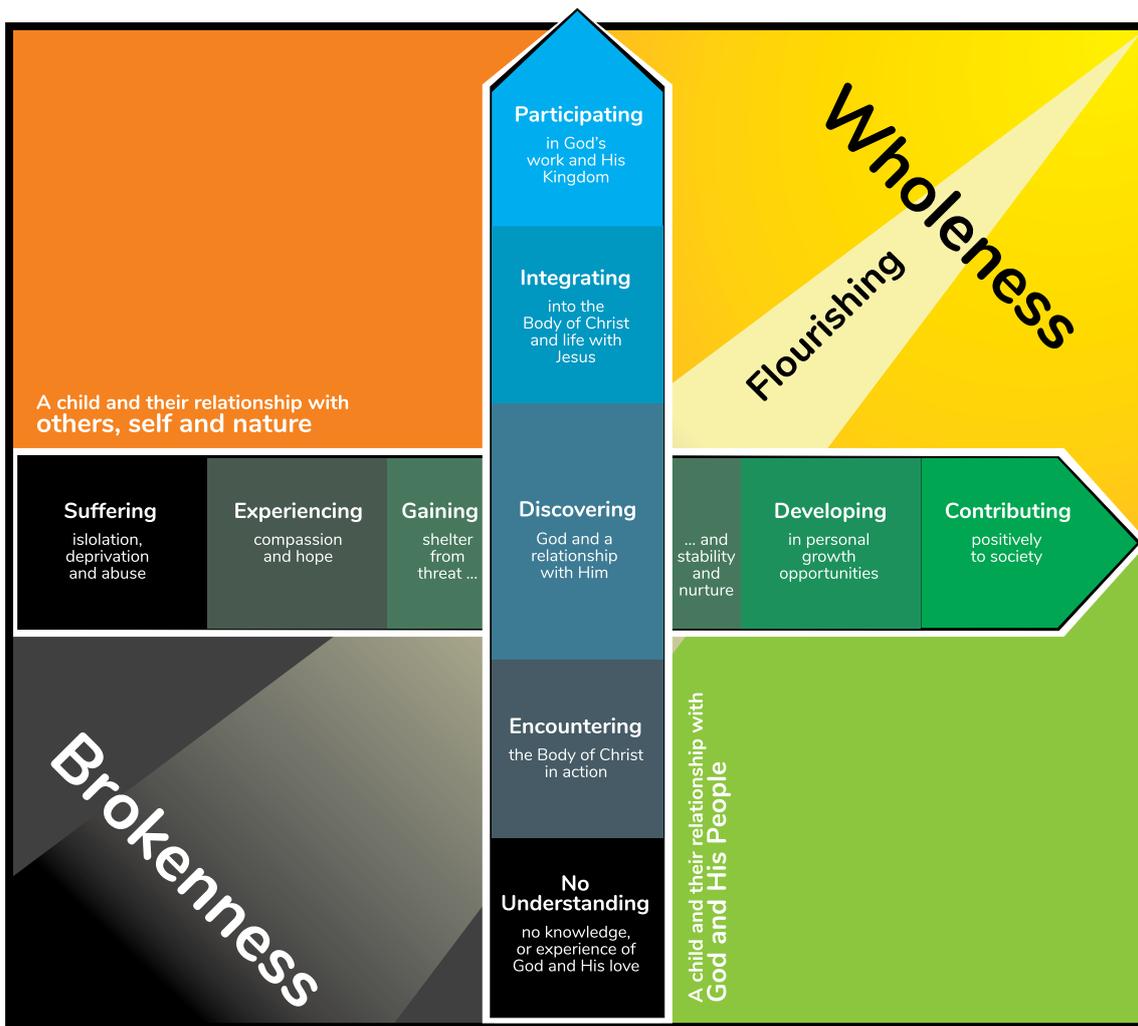


# Writing Process Diagram





# Brokenness to Wholeness Framework



**This diagram shows the path from Brokenness of sin to the Wholeness of shalom.**

The two axes represent the two spheres of brokenness:

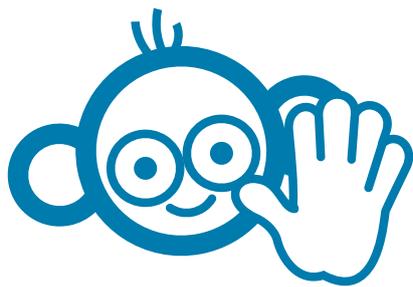
## Horizontal

Physical, personal, social brokenness is evidenced by poverty, war, abuse, sickness, etc. Aid and development programs can help bring these children into a safe and healthy environment where they are enabled to develop personally and contribute to society.

## Vertical

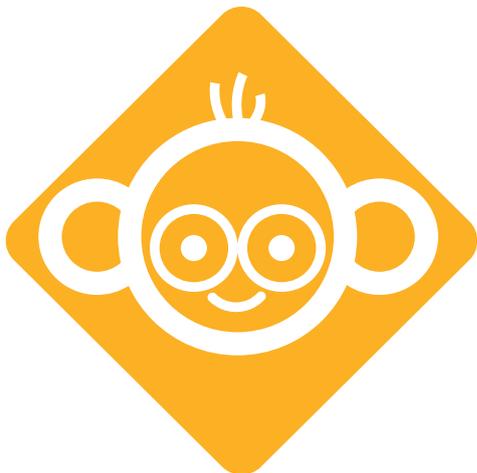
Spiritual separation from God through sin and ignorance is healed as the church reaches out, shares the Gospel and guides them into a relationship with God. As part of the community of His Body, their relationship with God is strengthened and they are enabled to become active participants in His work.

All children are currently somewhere on this matrix — experiencing different levels of brokenness and wholeness in different areas of their lives. Our goal is to move them closer to the complete wholeness of Shalom, found in the upper right quadrant.



# stop

How can we work with God to see children everywhere walking with Jesus?



## children

seeing them through God's eyes



Every child is uniquely made in God's image and loved by Him. We need to know and value them as He does if we are to help them walk with Jesus.



How well do I know the children around me, understand their world and allow their voices to be heard and acted upon?



## everywhere

entering their world



Broken environments lack the safety and nurture that children need. The Good Shepherd longs for children to walk among green pastures and quiet waters where they can thrive.



Are we creating environments of safety and nurture where children can thrive even in the midst of challenging circumstances?

# and think



## walking growing on the journey



Learning to walk with Jesus can happen anywhere, at any time, with anyone – or alone. Both formal and informal learning experiences are vital to developing deep roots in God that will enable children to stand strong.



**As I explore life and faith with children, do I demonstrate creativity, relevance and a confidence that God speaks to them through the Bible and prayer and life experiences?**



## with thriving through relationships



God seeks a relationship with every child. As we walk along with them, we support them and help them to make sense of life and faith.



**Do I see my relationships with children as opening possibilities for them to have life-changing experiences with God?**



## Jesus bringing Jesus to others



As children walk with Jesus, they bring Him and His message of hope into their world. They can share Him in places and ways that adults can't.



**Am I overlooking the contribution children can make to the Great Commission?**

We achieve the goal of children everywhere walking with Jesus through ...

# Walking with Jesus

## families that ...

1. Celebrate the unique gifts and journeys of each child.
2. Ensure that the family is a safe place for children to grow and learn.
3. Model and pass on faith in everyday circumstances.
4. Serve God together in church and community.

## churches that ...

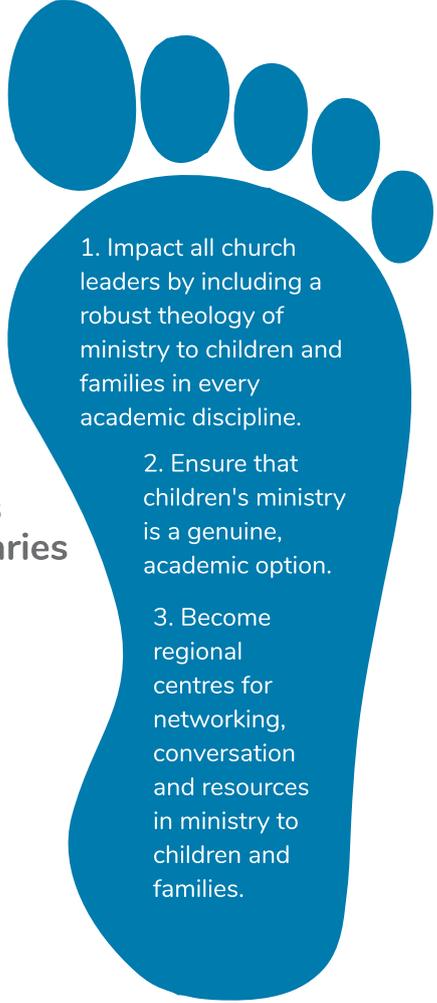
1. Welcome children and families into a safe and nurturing community which serves their holistic needs.
2. Support and equip families to be centres of faith development.
3. Pray, learn, serve and celebrate together across the generations.
4. Create opportunities for children to explore their God-given gifts and walk alongside them as they learn.



## children that ...

1. Know that their gifts are valued and have opportunities to use them.
2. Share their faith with others in creative ways.
3. Are active participants in building God's Kingdom.

## theological institutions and seminaries that ...

- 
1. Impact all church leaders by including a robust theology of ministry to children and families in every academic discipline.
  2. Ensure that children's ministry is a genuine, academic option.
  3. Become regional centres for networking, conversation and resources in ministry to children and families.

## partnerships among Christian and secular organisations that ...

- 
1. Meet children's practical needs for food and shelter, health and education.
  2. Advocate for children's rights at all levels of community and government.
  3. Explore innovative approaches that address the changing, often difficult, realities for today's children and families and ensure that these are adequately resourced.
  4. Encourage children to contribute to the well-being of the community.



**children everywhere walking with Jesus**



# global children's forum

a servant-hearted game of skill, strategy and sacrifice

PRE-2004:  
VIVA AND OTHERS  
SHOW THE WAY IN  
GLOBAL PARTNERING  
INITIATIVES

2004

LAUSANNE  
OCCASIONAL PAPER  
ON CHILDREN (LOP 47)

LAUSANNE FORUM  
PATTAYA - CHILDREN'S  
ISSUE GROUP 18

PATTAYA  
SCALE

ONE BODY, MANY MEMBERS  
NOT ALL MEMBERS HAVE  
THE SAME FUNCTION

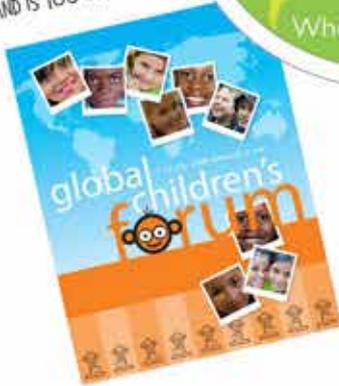


GCF 2.0  
Pompano Beach  
FL USA



START HERE: IF YOU AGREE  
THE SCALE OF THE NEED  
IS TOO GREAT FOR  
ANY SINGLE AGENCY  
AND IS TOO IMPORTANT

Wheaton IL USA



LEARN THE PARTNERING  
EQUATION!

2 BILLION CHILDREN:  
GCF INSPIRED ONE PARTNER TO CREATE "THE DOTS"

10,000 DOTS ACROSS MANY SHEETS OF PAPER, EACH ONE REPRESENTING 100,000 CHILDREN

CONTINUED

IF WE KEEP DOING THE SAME THINGS,  
CAN WE EXPECT A DIFFERENT RESULT?

HOW DO YOU EQUIP 1 MILLION CHURCHES  
WORLDWIDE? (AS A STARTING POINT)

RESOURCE DISK  
IDEA BIRTHED

HOW DO YOU SHIFT  
PARADIGMS?

UNDERSTAND  
THE PARTNERING  
CONTINUUM

2010

HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER?

4 LEVELS OF PARTNERING INTENSITY  
CONNECTING - COOPERATING - COORDINATING - COLLABORATING



2005  
AM LOWER VIDEO

2006  
MAX7 STARTED

2007  
INITIATING GCF

WE ARE ONE!  
DEMONSTRATED IN THE  
PREPARATION TOWARDS  
THE LAUSANNE  
CAPE TOWN  
GLOBAL CONGRESS

IFORSO  
LAUNCHED

KIDSHUBS  
LAUNCHED

ADVOCACY PAPER:  
"THERE ARE NO  
UNREACHED CHILDREN"

TODAY VIDEO  
2FISH5BREAD DISK

GCF 4.1  
Colorado Springs  
USA

SHARPENING  
OUR VALUES  
ENGAGING &  
SERVING WEA

KIDSHUBSTV  
LAUNCHED

2009

1FOR50  
IDEA BIRTHED

EMPOWERING CHILDREN  
TRAINING  
RESOURCES  
ADVOCACY

TACKLING  
FOUR  
PRIORITIES  
FIRST

CHILDREN  
ONE VOICE AT  
GLOBAL CONGRESS

2011

ALL KIDS MOVEMENTS  
AND AGENCIES UNDER  
ONE BANNER "CHILDREN"  
FOR THE GLOBAL CONGRESS  
15,000 DISKS DISTRIBUTED  
MAIN STAGE PLENARY  
4 WORKSHOPS  
ENDED WITH "CHILDREN"  
BEING 1 OF THE 6 MAIN  
PRIORITIES FOR THE CHURCH  
IN THE CAPE TOWN COMMITMENT!



GCF 4.0  
Pompano Beach  
FL USA



# Key GCF Websites

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GCF has a number of amazing websites that serve the goals of seeing ‘children everywhere walking with Jesus’.

## **GCF Community Site** <https://gcf.community>

Visit this site to see many of the projects of GCF. You’ll find:

- It’s a good place to start for an overview of why GCF exists and the things we do.
- The Tools/Directory (password protected) for bios of those who are coming.
- Content related to the Addis gathering
- Project summaries
- Overview of the main campaigns of GCF
- Events
- Subscribe to stay in touch
- Tools – including the recent FlashLab
- AI Learning Community (under tools)



## **Children Everywhere site** <https://childreneverywhere.com/>

GCF’s main campaign site serving the vision to see children everywhere walking with Jesus. We need to really see children as God does. We need to understand what He thinks of them and be more aware of their lives so that we can better serve them and walk with them as they walk with Jesus. The goal of the journey is to become like Jesus – to be complete and whole in Him. Seeing children join with the Body of Christ in ‘being Jesus’ hands and feet’ here on earth. We have the opportunity to help them take Jesus into their everyday lives and use their God-given gifts and abilities to serve Him.



## **Max7 Resource Library** <https://max7.org>

Max7 has been created by GCF and operating over the last 17+ years. It is a servant site of free, accessible and unbranded ministry resources to serve the church worldwide. The main site will give you access to:

- Over 11,700 ministry resources in many languages
- Bible curricula, videos, songs, training resources and much more
- You can share and upload your resources
- You can freely download at no cost and without even registering
- Max7 also has a YouTube channel.



**Family.fit** <https://family.fit>

Family.fit is an all age program that is ideally suited to help your family grow together in faith and fitness. family.fit has been created collaboratively by many global movements with over 1,500 sessions available across 21 languages. Each session is available both on the website and as a downloadable PDF.



**Leadership Experience** <https://gcfleadership.org>

The GCF Leadership Experience is a unique one-year experience that provides the opportunity for leaders to learn together with other emerging leaders from around the globe. It is a unique opportunity to invest in the leaders of your children’s ministry so that they become people who can influence and transform our communities for the sake of children.



**KidsHubs** <https://kidshubs.com>

KidsHubs is a global disciple-making strategy. It is a way that leaders can pass on a Godly way of living in a small group around a particular interest.

KidsHubs is about discipling, mentoring and building relationships with children through:

- teaching them relevant and purposeful skills
- growing their faith by pointing them to discover Jesus through the Bible
- leaders and children authentically sharing their lives with each other encouraging a sense of belonging to a faith community



**1for50** <https://1for50.net>

1for50 is a global grassroots movement that started at one of the first GCF gatherings that connects, equips, and mobilizes local leaders around the world to impact the next generation for Christ. There are 2.3 billion children in the world, and 2 out of 3 children do not know Jesus. By equipping one leader for every 50 children, we have the potential to reach every child.



# The Simple GCF Partnering Process

... and values that guide us.

Partnering Values

Bible, global, academic, practical, holistic, contemporary

Ministry Values

Quality Input

Disruptive and innovative thinking

Ideas

Models

Contextual prototypes

Publish & Release

Relationships and trust

Sacrifice

Humility

Servanthood

Kingdom-focused

Global

Free & Open

Empowering

Goal: Children everywhere walking with Jesus

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORLD



# some global children's movements

Ever since Jesus said, "Let the children come to me ..."  
we have been learning what that means. The Body of Christ  
has been discovering many things from God about children.

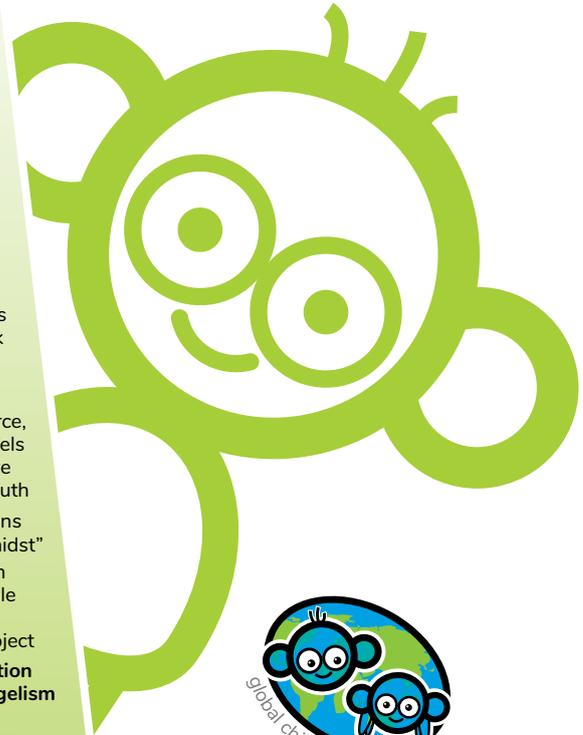
Below is an incomplete picture reminding us that  
this is God's work and not ours.



- Sunday School Movement 1780** Children's evangelism and discipleship
- Mary Jones and her Bible 1799** Making Bibles more accessible and affordable

## SOME RECENT ONGOING GLOBAL PARTNERING EFFORTS

- VIVA movement 1996** Partnering agencies to serve kids at risk
- Children's Prayer Network 1996** Calling Children to Pray
- Sports Movement 2000** Pioneering open-source, globally-created models using sports to serve children, families & youth
- Child Theology Movement 2001** Raising up Theologians to put children "in the midst"
- Lausanne Forum 2004** The Great Omission Paper & Pattaya Scale  
Aim Lower video  
Max7 open-source project
- Global Children's Forum 2008** **Initiating thinking, action and partnering on evangelism and discipleship (Advocacy, Training, Resources, Family and Empowering Children)**
- 4/14 Movement 2009** Raising advocacy to churches, governments and leaders
- Lausanne Congress 2010** Lausanne states that children are one of 6 imperatives for the church in the 21st Century (2fish5bread disc)
- Children at Risk 2014**
- Young Leaders Gathering 2016**
- The World Needs a Father 2011** A movement to solve the urgent issue of fatherlessness
- Converge 2014/15** WEA youth-focused partnering
- World Without Orphans 2016** A Global Movement for every child to grow up in a nurturing permanent family, and to know their Heavenly Father
- Multi-Movement Dialogue 2016** An initiative to bring movements closer
- Global Family Alliance 2017** A focus back onto families and their primary place in God's Kingdom
- family.fit 2020** A multi-movement of family fitness, fun & discipleship borne of the pandemic.
- InCommon 2022**



### Resulted in multiple projects:

- 1for50 Initiative
- Open-source projects: Max7 & 2fish5bread disc
- Advocacy Tools and Paper
- Aim Lower Journal and App
- KidsHubs & KidsHubTV
- global Young People's forum
- Family Conversations & Alliance
- Children@Risk
- Leadership Experience
- Serving Lausanne & WEA
- Global prayer initiatives
- family.fit
- ThinkRamp & FlashLabs
- ... and much more!



children everywhere  
walking with Jesus

"... you have hidden these things  
from the wise and learned,  
and revealed them to little  
children".  
Matthew  
11:25

# Gen-G (Generosity, children & families)

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The Gen-G vision is to ignite and cultivate a global movement of children who joyfully demonstrate God’s love through radical biblical generosity, thereby healing the world through their giving. This workgroup will collaboratively explore:

- How to incorporate the Gen-G vision and serve other areas and ministries within the GCF family.
- Reviewing the nine experiences we currently have and incorporating them into various GCF activities.
- Create a Parents/Leaders Toolkit to empower leaders to implement the Gen-G experiences.
- A distribution strategy to deliver Gen-G Keystone Experience Kits to organizations, churches, Christian home schools etc. in each of the five targeted regions in Africa over the next 12 months.
- Consider what else will be needed to empower parents and leaders to easily access Gen-G resources.



## Children-at-Risk/Vulnerable Children (Lausanne)

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Together we will listen, strategize and collaborate around the issue of children-at-risk/vulnerable children in Africa. We want to see a strong network in Africa and globally that will facilitate and encourage child participation in mission.

- Gain a wider understanding of the biblical and theological significance for including children-at-risk as key collaborators in mission.
- Understand practical models and best practices for facilitating contextually relevant child participation.
- Consider the barriers to including children-at-risk in mission and discuss how to create spaces where children can have meaningful, safe, appropriate and life-shaping experiences of participation in mission.

## Children and Families (Lausanne)

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Of the more than 2 billion children in the world, most are unreached. There is great need for intentional focus on long-term discipleship to help children understand the big picture of the Bible and their part in God's big story. As members of a local church body—comprised of pastors, church members, children's workers, school teachers, grandparents, parents, youth, and children—what can we do to help children become growing, active disciples of Jesus for a lifetime?

We want to see a strong network in Africa connecting children's leaders and influencers with ideas, resources, and each other in order to see children everywhere walk with Jesus.

- Work on plans for the CnF network
- Develop the pathway to L4
- Prepare Africa leaders regional meeting



## Leadership Experience (LE)

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The GCF Leadership Experience (LE) is a one-year life-changing leadership development program for emerging children’s ministry leaders. This workgroup will collaboratively explore how to (1) effectively multiply regional expressions of LE, particularly in the African setting, and (2) adapt the curriculum for academic settings.

- Generate creative and sustainable models for regional expressions of LE.
- Begin putting plans in place for LE Regional - East Africa 2025 and LE Global (Asia/Oceania) 2025.
- Expand the conversation surrounding LE and Academia.



## Global collaboration

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In the spirit of fostering a harmonious collective vision and igniting a resounding call to action, it is imperative for the Church to unite and collaborate both locally and globally. This plea extends to all evangelical ministries, movements, and networks, urging all to embrace and champion shared values and priorities, which bind us together and ignite a common purpose. This workgroup will focus on the following objectives:

- Solidify the focus on Family on Mission
- Examine InCommon as an organizing framework for this collaborative space
- Identify the shaping voices and influencers in the global & regional space
- Reach clarity on people, roles, actions, and outcomes
- Agree our shared narrative to aid clarity and connect with others and serve them



## Child safety

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Globally child safety is being seen as a pressing issue. As practitioners walking alongside children and teenagers helping them on their journey from brokenness to wholeness, child safety plays a critical role in this process. Whether preventing possible harm, or responding where children have already experienced harm and abuse, practising child safety should be intrinsic to the DNA of our ministry practice.

- How can contextual awareness be raised in our local, national and international settings regarding child safety?
- Do Christians have a role to play in child safety? If so, what can be done to enable this role to be fulfilled?
- How can child safety be positioned as an element which enables ministry to happen rather than creating barriers preventing ministry from happening?
- What is the role of child safety in regards to Families on Mission (FoM) and Children everywhere walking with Jesus (CEWWJ)?



## Academia

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The Emerging Goal: More institutes, colleges and seminaries including children, youth and family as a topic of serious reflection and equipping in their programs SO THAT more leaders are equipped with God's heart for children, SO THAT more children everywhere have the opportunity to walk with Jesus from brokenness to wholeness.

- Asset map academic resources, programs and leaders in children and family
- ministry
- How can we multiply academic resources?
- How can we multiply academic programs?



# CHRISTMAS IN THE JUNGLE



## Families on Mission

WORKSHOP-TRAINING GUIDE



## Think Big, Start Small

Tasty and bright - Be a family on Mission

## One Little Tissue

Improving leaders' awareness through the world



### How to use this guide

Age	Duration	Resources
4-6	15-20 mins	Worksheet 1
7-9	20-30 mins	Worksheet 2
10-12	30-45 mins	Worksheet 3
13-15	45-60 mins	Worksheet 4
16-18	60-90 mins	Worksheet 5

### Families on Mission

ALL AGES WORSHIP SERVICE

## familyfit

Family fitness facts for

Tasty and bright - Be a family on Mission



## FLASHLAB Method

How to make stories in a flashlab

## AI Training Session

Story about the family of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.



## Examples from the Toolkit

Bing Create.



## GEN-G GENEROUS DESCRIPTIONS

### Generosity Adventure

God gave Jesus Greatest Gift of All



## Examples from the Toolkit

Google Bard.



## FlashLab

### GENEROUS CHILDREN STORIES

Please share a simple story of a child being generous.

## AI Examples from the Toolkit

Google Bard.



## FlashLab 2023

## GENEROSITY PLAY

Use prompts that are all going

## 1 God made everything

1-10-23



## AI

## AI

# FlashLab – 105+ new resources

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Over the course of 6 weeks, a huge number of ministry resources have been completed. This document will give you an outline of these and where to find and download them. Please share them with anyone who will benefit from these amazing resources.

Over 800 people joined one of the FlashLab groups. 320 people attended at least one zoom call. Over 160 participated in working teams. It is likely that these resources have been created by over 130 people from 40+ countries.

## New Resources Created

- **Family on Mission** (30 new resources) including training materials, fabulous animations, church resources, advocacy booklets and more.
- **Family.fit** (2 new weeks) more fabulous resources based on families on mission.
- **Children’s Ministry** (12 new resources) booklets, curricula, stories, lessons on identity and more.
- **Gen-G and generosity** (17 new resources) including booklet of stories, promo video, Generosity adventure, animations, new song and more.
- **Youth Leadership Development** (2 new resources) stories and toolkit.
- **Computer Gaming** (1 new resource) based on the very popular game, Fortnite.
- **Running a FlashLab** (35 new resources) for running your own FlashLab.
- **Learning to use AI (artificial intelligence)** 10 new tools for getting started and getting more effective with AI.

## Where to find the resources

**Max7 FlashLab Library** – (Search FlashLab on Max7.org)

<https://www.max7.org/en/library/flashlab>

**Max7 YouTube** – (Search Max7.org on YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCicKoMwVhT3jlvrrBHR06uQ>

**GCF Community** - <https://gcf.community/tools/flashlab/>

**Gen-G** - <https://generousgenerations.org/>

**Family.fit** - <https://family.fit/en/>

**AI learning community** - <https://gcf.community/tools/resources/>





# Friday afternoon options

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There are four options available for participants for the outing program. You may prefer to take a brain rest or to choose from one of the following local guided trips:

## 1. Holy Trinity Cathedral

Also known in Amharic as Kidist Selassie, this is the highest ranking Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo cathedral in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was built to commemorate the Ethiopian victory over Italian occupation and is an important place of worship in Ethiopia. There is a small charge for entry.



## 2. Leather shops

Ethiopia is known for leather products. There will be some around Addis Ababa stadium area for those who will be interested in shopping leather products.



## 3. Craft shops

Churchill Avenue where the hotel Grand Eliana is located, has a good selection of local crafts. Participants can explore the avenue for various curio shops.



## 4. Coffee

Ethiopia is known for and is a global destination for coffee. Tomoca coffee is one of the oldest coffee shops. There is a Tomoca coffee shop just 3 minutes' walk from Grand Eliana hotel.



# My planner

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## Tuesday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Wednesday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Thursday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Friday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening

## Saturday

Morning
Afternoon
Evening









