

# THE WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

SPRING 2020



*I extend my warmest greetings from WEA! Allow me to share some good news from our General Assembly which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia last November. It was a marvelous time in which 800 delegates from 92 countries met for 10 days. These global events are so critical for the bonding and defining of mission and relationships.*

*In this overview, I want to highlight new developments and initiatives, and update you on the vision and calling of WEA.*

—Secretary General, Efraim Tendaro

**The General Assembly is critical in generating momentum and providing a platform to grapple with global and regional issues. As members meet from around the globe, this important event allows for the crystalizing of vision and the building of momentum, as delegates return to their countries to serve.**

**M**ost importantly, it renews and edifies the global body of Christ and our valuable friendship. Evangelicals don't have their "Rome." But we do need people, places and global networks to provide continual reaffirmation of historic Evangelical commitments. We should never assume a continuity of biblical faith. We need this kind of oversight that calls for

diligence and a thoughtful applying of steady prayer and evaluation of ideas, movements and declarations.

Gratefully, we do have trusted people globally whose understanding, integrity of faith, and wisdom are rooted in biblical faithfulness, glued together by the Spirit and fueled by our passion for Christ. These provide us with needed elements to affirm and also beget spiritual continuity.





## A New Way to do Leadership Training

Through the Global Institute of Leadership, WEA launches training for staff and leadership of National Alliances.

Crucial to our global influence is leadership at the regional and national levels. The local alliances face constant challenging and complex issues. Leaders of National Alliances speak to national governments offering significant solutions to critical social problems. This leadership requires not only training, but ongoing peer mentoring, community problem-solving and “just-in-time” resources to address the dynamic needs they face.



**The Global Institute of Leadership is designed to accomplish the following goals:**

1. To create leadership- centered experiences for our 135 National Alliances, boards and staff.
2. To provide curriculum along with leadership models which inform and inspire younger leaders as they serve the church and give witness to the Gospel.
3. To empower, through National Alliances, congregations, church denominations and associations in their public advocacy and witness of Christ.
4. To strengthen Regional and National Alliances in fulfilling their mandates of being a voice, providing identity and being a platform for common service and action.

## New Center of the African Evangelical Alliance

The AEA Plaza, featuring the new central headquarters of the Africa regional alliance opened in Nairobi. Aiah Foday-Khabenje, General Secretary, drove this idea, developing the valuable land owned by the AEA. This multi-storied building houses the AEA offices and research facilities, of which part is leased for professional offices. **This Regional Alliance serves some 40 countries in Africa.**



*Aiah in front of the new AEA Plaza* ➞





*The General Assembly helped me understand the global scope of the WEA ministry. This was a most wonderful opportunity in which I could meet with and learn from the wider WEA family. I'm grateful that I can be a part of this movement.*

—Yamini Ravindran, leadership team of the National Alliance in Sri Lanka

## WEA's global advocacy on behalf of Christians

Over 200 million Christians are in areas with extreme levels of persecution. As Open Doors reports that 1 in 12 Christians reside in countries where their Christian faith is "illegal, forbidden, or punished."

28%

In **28 percent of countries**, there was a **"high" or "very high" level of government restriction on religion**, according to a report by The Pew Research Center. Following the Cold War, there was a move to open the borders of commerce, education and communication.



## Senior Leadership Meet in Bonn, Germany for Planning

WEA, as a global network, has within its orbit 9 Regional Alliances and 135 National Alliances. As well, there are a number of commissions, task forces and initiatives which includes among others, Missions, Religious Liberty, Women's Commission, Peace and Reconciliation and human trafficking. Our global leadership is made up of the Secretary General, the Deputy General Secretary of Ministry and the Deputy General Secretary of Operations. The administrative office while based in Deerfield, Illinois, most of the leadership team live and work out of their respective countries.

## The Geneva Center of Global Advocacy

Here, the WEA takes public advocacy to an international level. With its **special consultancy status** at the United Nations, the WEA staff engages and faces countries in violation of human rights and freedoms. Building coalitions among governments, the WEA staff helps create a bulwark of defence, speaking on behalf of Christians.



The March 2020 gathering in Bonn, Germany was the annual meeting of its Senior Leadership Team.



**John Wesley and William Wilberforce were important leaders in the formation and mission of Evangelicals.**

*WEA has been a major force for uniting evangelicals. My earnest prayer is that it will be used in an even greater way in the future to draw evangelical Christians together as we seek to proclaim Christ in these ominous and exciting times.*

—The late Billy Graham

## ITS BEGINNING

WEA was birthed in 1846. British Christians were disturbed by growing social injustices, especially poor working conditions and child labor. The Second Great Awakening (1791-1842) generated a desire for Christian fellowship and unity across the boundaries of denominations and geography. In September 1846, some 1,000 Christian leaders from Europe and North America, representing 53 different Christian communities, met for two weeks in worship, preaching and in organizational planning.

## TODAY

Renewed in 1951, there are now 135 National Alliances and 9 Regional Alliances. Its global infrastructure provides a unique and remarkable worldwide community, representing Evangelicals to other major Christian groups, the United Nations and media.

The world Christian community is made up of three bodies: Roman Catholics (1.2 billion), the World Council of Churches (500 million) and the World Evangelical Alliance (600 million).

