



Lausanne Movement

Connecting influencers and ideas for global mission



## 2019 Global Workplace Forum Preliminary Impact Report

### Executive Summary:

'I realized that I've been thinking too small. Thank you for blowing my mind in good ways! You deepened my theology of work and broadened my thinking as to service, change, and expanding the kingdom. I came back prayerful and ready to expand my outreach and service worldwide.'

This participant speaks on behalf of most who participated in Global Workplace Forum (GWF). The gathering was a blessing to those who participated in many ways.

The purpose of GWF was to accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission through workplace ministry. This was done by bringing leaders together from the marketplace and a variety of workplace ministries, some of which have existed for decades, for the first time to connect and begin to collaborate on best practices, new ideas, and even to learn from what has not worked.

**Lausanne met or exceeded its objectives for GWF.** The planning team hoped to gather 500 to 750 key workplace influencers representing every region of the world; GWF had **848 highly qualified participants from 110 countries**, chosen from over 4,300 nominations, including 174 joining online through GWF Virtual. 65% of participants were from the workplace, 34% were women, and 35% were age 40 or under, all of which exceeded the respective goal percentages of >50%, >30%, and >30%.

GWF also resulted in 30 advance papers from issue network Catalysts, 30 workshops and tracks taught by Catalysts and other issue network leaders, and networking opportunities for all 12 regions of the world. As hoped, GWF has led to planning for **regional workplace ministry gatherings**, including Latin America and East Asia in 2020 and the remaining 10 regions by 2022, to involve additional thought leaders and practitioners.

Not surprisingly, survey responders rated spontaneous meetings at breaks and free times as significant (19%) or very significant (69%). When asked what were 'the most significant aspects of GWF for you personally', 64% indicated 'connecting with participants in my area of interest'. Overall, **GWF received high marks from participants, with 88% indicating the gathering met or exceeded their expectations.**

Lausanne was able to award 196,550 USD in registration and travel scholarships to 177 participants, an average of 1,110 USD per recipient. The investment of our financial partners helped many who would otherwise not have been able to participate.



**But we are far from done.** Because of its strategic importance in fulfilling the Great Commission, the Lausanne Movement has made workplace ministry one of its top priorities for decades to come.

Please visit [www.lausanne.org/gwf](http://www.lausanne.org/gwf) for a more detailed update and summary video of GWF.

## Full Report

### Overview

The Lausanne Movement’s mission is to connect influencers and ideas for global mission with a fourfold vision of ‘the gospel for every person, an evangelical church for every people, Christ-like leaders for every church, and kingdom impact in every sphere of society’. GWF helped advance this vision in impactful ways. As put by the Lausanne Church Planting Network Catalyst,

‘I have never been to a conference at which I have made so many meaningful connections. I will work on these opportunities that I trust will open the Church Planting Network in China, Pakistan, Egypt, and Ghana. The seminar/lab combination connected me to businesspeople and church-planting practitioners in Vietnam, Manila, and Latin America.’

One of the key strategies Lausanne uses to connect global influencers is convening. By conducting quality gatherings, Lausanne attracts leading influencers. Another participant wrote,

‘Lausanne is the magnet that attracts significant players in missions, and now in the workplace.’

These connections naturally lead to another key strategy, collaboration: from coordination to partnerships to networking. Lausanne’s purpose for GWF was to **energize** the global workplace movement, **equip** participants with the right tools and resources, and **engage** the global church in workplace ministry.

Lausanne met or exceeded its objectives for the Global Workplace Forum. Lausanne planned to gather 500 to 750 key workplace influencers representing every region of the world. GWF involved 848 highly qualified participants, including 174 joining online through GWF Virtual, chosen from over 4,300 nominations.

Our measurable goals and the results are as follows:

Goal Area	Goal	Result
From the workplace	>50%	65%
Women participants	>30%	34%
Younger leaders (40 and under)	>30%	35%
Advance papers from issue network Catalysts	33	30
Workshops or tracks related to issue networks	33	30
Regional networking opportunities	12	12



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Here are a few comments from the survey:

'Thank you for being so careful to be inclusive in your operations. I was genuinely blessed by this transformative experience.'

'I loved the diversity of people attending, a fabulous MC, and a welcoming environment to a first time Lausanne attendee.'

'From the moment I arrived I met and spoke briefly to several individuals. Coincidentally, they were all scholars! Principals of this, lecturers of that, educators in this field, co-founders of that theological school—and so I began to question: How could I fit in intellectually and socially here? Then Mr. Oh addressed the participants. His words flicked the switch! And I had what I call a *jamaïs vu moment!* I was immediately reassured, instantly reminded, and immensely revived, hearing that I, too, a single mother, a middle manager, a female leader in my organization, a praise and worship leader in my church, a woman of God who desired to learn more and be more and do more for God—had a place here!'

Overall, GWF received high marks from participants with 88% indicating the gathering met or exceeded their expectations. By all accounts and based on our ability to meet or exceed our objectives, GWF was a huge success.

'GWF exceeded my expectations overall. A huge THANKS to the planning team! I left GWF inspired, humbled, more equipped, challenged, amazed and filled with the awesomeness of God and His church!'

### **GWF Scholarships**

Many of those nominated to attend GWF were from the majority world, including younger leaders and women, who are often not in a position to afford the 790 USD registration to cover meals and program expenses, much less the airfare which could be over 2,000 USD. The GWF Scholarship Fund was started to help provide these necessary funds.

'No words could possibly express how happy I was when I was informed that I had been chosen and sponsored by someone to receive a scholarship. I feel so blessed to be a part of Lausanne Family. May the Lord reward you for your kindness.'

After initially budgeting for 80,000 USD in scholarships, that amount was doubled to 160,000 USD. Due to a stronger than expected financial position by spring of this year, we were eventually able to give out 196,550 USD in registration and travel scholarships to 177 participants, an average of 1,110 USD per recipient. Lausanne's financial partners made a significant investment in the lives of so many who would otherwise not have been able to participate, and in the lives of those who were enriched by their participation.

'Thanks to my participation in GWF Manila, I am boosted, propelled, catapulted and encouraged to go into another dimension of leadership. That's why currently, I have about thirty young leaders whom I contacted



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when I returned from GWF and with whom I plan to share the vision and experiences of the Lausanne Movement and thereby implant a core of Lausanne Movement in Chad and inspire a massive commitment of young leaders for the Kingdom of God. May God bless the Lausanne Movement and its financial partners!

The following expression of thanks to GWF Scholarship Fund donors is from a young woman in an undisclosed country in South Asia. **Her entire letter is in the appendix of this report.**

'A very, very big thanks to the Lausanne Team and donors for the scholarship, a very generous gift. Through your help, it has been possible to attend GWF 2019. It truly made a big difference for me and for my spiritual growth. I am extremely grateful to you all.'

An important side note is that nearly every scholarship recipient raised some of their funds in-country and also made contributions from their own resources.

### **Connections: How Lausanne Makes Them Happen**

At every gathering, Lausanne is intentional to arrange time and provide settings for influencers to meet formally and informally, primarily through break times and table groups. A committee of Lausanne's volunteer leaders for GWF paid careful attention to table group assignments, prayerfully putting people together based on common interests, but striving for diversity of nationality, gender, and age, as much as possible.

'It was wonderful to meet Christians enthusiastically committed to workplace ministry from so many different countries. The table groups were very well planned (six was the ideal number) and were a highlight of the forum.'

'The table group was very meaningful. Thank you for the opportunity to meet and learn from other kingdom workers.'

'I loved our table group—women in the finance sector in four countries. We plan to continue meeting online to encourage and support one another.'

Not surprisingly, survey responders rated spontaneous meetings at breaks and free times as significant (19%) or very significant (69%). Lausanne encouraged this by providing 30-minute breaks, one in the morning and two in the afternoon, as well as unstructured meal times.

'I appreciated the long coffee breaks as that gave time for further discussion and networking.'

'During break meetings I met [leaders from] three Christian organizations, that are involved in education for workplace ministry, possible partners.'



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A special app for mobile devices was also developed for GWF to facilitate purposeful connections. Participants used the Connector app extensively, generating over 19,000 new connections from the time the app was launched through the last day of the gathering.

'I met many influencers who could become my mentor[s] through the Connector app.'

### **Collaboration: Already Starting!**

How did GWF perform in the area of collaboration, one of Lausanne's key strategies? When asked, 'What were the most significant aspects of GWF for you personally?', 64% indicated 'connecting with participants in my area of interest'. Here are some comments from the open-ended survey questions regarding collaboration:

- I have a small group of 9 people who are connecting to continue looking at collaboration in the Faith & Work Movement. We are diverse and deeply thankful for the connections we each made at GWF. Some, I hope will be lifelong friends, influencing one another.
- The connectivity brought home the potential of collaborations which are in the initial phase of discussion. While the forum is finished, work will begin to see the fruit out of the GWF. Praise the Lord!
- Three weeks ago, I was praying specifically for a connection in Argentina. In the first day at GWF, I received an email from someone from Argentina that was at GWF sharing about a desire from the Lord to partner. We had breakfast and started praying during the conference for a joint effort towards starting something in Argentina.
- Unexpected global connections and opportunities with significant future potential...
- Great connections and met some people which the Lord clearly divinely connected us to just share our hearts, ideas, testimonies. Possible start to new relationships that may spark into a new partnership for the future.
- I met my fellow Ugandan involved in missions to hard to reach places. He has been seeking for partnership with the ministry I am involved with to bring the vision of discipleship to his field staff. I am looking forward to working with him.
- It was very important for me to get acquainted with the participants from my region—Russia and Russian-speaking representatives from Ukraine, Belarus, USA, Kyrgyzstan—and to outline ways of cooperation. I even managed to give an interview in Russian on the topic of my thesis, women's empowerment. I especially made friends with participants from Brazil, India, and Africa. The participant from Singapore inspired me to further cooperation.
- I met Courtney, the co-founder of SINAPIS. The vision God used to birth SINAPIS fits squarely with what I have been looking for to serve the youths in Cameroon. We are working out modalities for partnering and I couldn't be more excited.
- Having now connected with 10-15 influencers in the area of technology/media, there is an emerging community around how to live out our faith in a technology context, both within our organizations, but also between us for the purposes of Kingdom impact.



### **Special Meeting of Educators**

One of our programming goals for GWF was the desire to highlight the need for Christian academic institutions to provide options to learn about workplace ministry alongside theology. While many Christian colleges and universities have excellent opportunities in business education (marketplace) and other disciplines (nursing, engineering, etc.), those programs usually don't include the theological training needed, and seminaries are woefully lacking in this kind of education.

With this end in mind, an informal breakfast was provided on Friday for anyone involved in Christian education who wished to attend. Over 50 people, most of those who were invited, were able to attend. Many who participated described the discussion as 'robust'.

Strategic connections were made and a discussion of possible changes in seminary and Christian university offerings was begun. Promod Haque, who serves on the board of Biola University, said, 'I think we need a fundamental reform in our Christian education system.'

One notable connection was made between professors from Gordon Conwell Seminary and Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo. These two professors planned a follow up meeting in August to discuss the possibility of having Gordon Conwell students visit Cairo as part of their missions practicum to learn what qualifications would be especially helpful for Western missionaries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Many other connections and conversations have begun in this critical area of workplace ministry. Please be praying that these will lead to collaboration and eventually improvements in Christian education to support workplace ministry options.

Here is a thoughtful response from one of the educators who attended the breakfast:

'I think that many issues raised and discussed during the entire GWF point toward the need to reform the conception of the Church (we talked about the 99% vs. 1%)—and this implies the necessity to think over our theological degrees. We study theology and train students in highly specialized disciplines, whereas the 21st century will need to connect these disciplines. We train them to be ministers rather than 'minister-trainers' (Eph 4.10). Most often students sit in the room while the professor teaches in front—and so the pastors copy this and preach standing in front of a passive, sitting congregation. How can we rethink theological education so that it prepares future leaders to equip their members for the global mission and calling of the church?'

As a result of GWF, the [September issue](#) of *Lausanne Global Analysis* features two articles on the need for reformation of theological education.

### **Site Visits**

Among the most positive outcomes of GWF were the optional site visits to businesses in Manila operated by Christians with a strong desire to reach employees, customers, and vendors with the gospel. These practical examples provided insight and ideas that proved



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to be most inspirational for many marketplace and workplace leaders for furthering the gospel in their own organizations.

'The site visit to Human Nature had a great impact on me. How the founder has merged his Christian beliefs with the operations of his company is an absolute benchmark on how to be effective in the marketplace.'

'The visit to Eurofragrance opened my eyes to what a family in business can do. It illustrated faith and God's faithfulness when we trust Him.'

'The visit to Human Nature was the highlight of my time in Manila. It summed up the theme of GWF for me. People can indeed encounter Jesus and His Kingdom through Christians doing justice, mercy, and loving God through their work.'

'The site visit to Sea Oil was excellent! The Sea Oil employees and leaders were very prepared and organized for our visit. I learned a lot that I hope to apply.'

'For me, the most amazing experience was the visit to Human Nature. This company expressed all that all the speakers preached the whole week. Really impressive and inspiring.'

### **Special Younger Leaders Meeting**

YlGen leaders were surprised by an overflow crowd of younger leaders in a 100-seat chapel to attend a special meeting time set aside for encouragement and feedback for those who are already part of the Younger Leaders Generation, and to share information about YlGen for those who had not heard of it.

GWF had an impact on the younger leaders, on this young man perhaps more than most:

'I was a part of YLG2016 in Jakarta. When I came to YLG, I had no specific call as to what God expects from me. I was involved in lots of ministries in different areas. But during YLG, I attended a session by Mats Tunehag about Business as Mission. The call on missions and the desire to do business made me register a business when I returned home. GWF actually affirmed my call after meeting and listening to so many stories of how so many people are impacting the marketplace all around the world. The exposition from the book of Daniel was one of the best parts for me. I made many new connections and talked about partnerships within my country as well as other countries. After returning home, my wife and I are reading the book of Daniel and using the resources from the Connector app. I want to thank the Lausanne Movement for YLG2016 that laid the foundation and GWF that gave me an affirmation for kingdom impact in every sphere of society.'



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This comment was more typical from younger participants:

'I have many encouraging stories from the event, but overall as a result of this event, I feel as though the Lord has built in the next pieces that began in 2016 at the YLG. I am interested to see how He develops the vision that He has placed in my heart in the years ahead.'

### **Next Steps**

'We need to have a robust follow through by the Lausanne Movement to see the real effect of GWF.'

Because of its strategic importance in fulfilling the Great Commission, the Lausanne Movement has made workplace ministry one of its top priorities for decades to come.

'GWF was such a glorious experience and should be multiplied in the regions.'

Lausanne leadership also hoped that GWF would intentionally lead to the planning of post-forum regional gatherings to involve a larger number of thought leaders and practitioners. Plans are already underway for regional gatherings in 2020 in Latin America and East Asia. The other 10 regions will host workplace ministry gatherings from late 2020 through early 2022.

'The group of Brazilians that attended is already at work planning on how to bring the GWF message to our country, maybe even doing a similar event here, or a number of smaller events throughout the country. We have been meeting online to discuss that.'

### **Thank You!**

Without the prayers and financial support of many like you, Lausanne's Global Workplace Forum would not have happened. Thank you! May this report be a blessing to you! And may God richly bless you in all ways!





## **Appendix**

### **Letter to GWF Scholarship Fund Donors**

**and**

### **Quotes from Post-GWF Participant Survey**

#### **Letter to GWF Scholarship Fund Donors from a Scholarship Recipient**

I already had a desired heart to pay special thanks to Michael Oh and all the team who supported me to be a part of this Global forum.

I could not thank enough to GOD and all the Lausanne Team and my donor who made it best possible for me to have this wonderful opportunity.

Michael's first day speech touched my heart and I am soon expecting to share my 'I met' story as well. The conference really had a very, very deep impact in my life and God spoke to me so closely. I never thought that I can be a minister and my workplace can be a ministry. I am so much overwhelmed with the learning and worship I had [at] GWF.

One major inspiration from GWF I had is that I will work for Christ now. Will spread the good news and will work with youth and young couples as a counsellor. My Table 49 was a team of 6 amazing, amazing people. And I am glad that we still are in contact and we are sharing updates with each other what we are doing in our fields to spread the word and especially so much new things we have learnt from GWF.

I will keep sharing the updates about my life and sharing what I do with others which was actually inspired by GWF people. I am also looking forward to becoming a YLGen member to be selected and to get a mentor with whom I can excel more spiritually.

I must say [undisclosed country] really needs Christian leaders to save their community and Lausanne type conference which empower us so much that now it's obligatory for each of us to practically apply the learning.

If in any ways I can serve Lausanne Movement, I would be highly honoured. I have good management skills so would love to be a part of your team in future as a volunteer.

Last but not least, a very, very big thanks to the Lausanne Team and donors for the scholarship, a very generous gift. Through your help, it has been possible to attend GWF. It truly made a big difference for me and for my spiritual growth. I am extremely grateful to you all.'



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Looking forward for next GWF.

[Name withheld for her safety]  
[Undisclosed South Asia country]

### **Quotes from GWF Participant Survey**

'One long series of divinely orchestrated meetings from the moment I walked in.'

'You have encouraged and motivated me to understand my worth in my workplace. The afternoon sessions I chose and attended were just meant for me. I am fully assured and convinced that this event was planned and decided with lots and lots of prayers and waiting upon the Lord.'

'Coming into this without much expectation or knowledge of Lausanne, I was really blown away by the amazing people that were brought together. Thank you for facilitating conversation by bringing together the people that you did. And challenging how I look at God's big world.'

'The book of the prophet Daniel chosen for research at the forum became a source of great spiritual inspiration for me and gave me new spiritual strength and faith in God's omnipotence in this period of upcoming changes in service and life.'

'I would like to say thank you. I am a young CEO of a nonprofit called Hesabika (stand up and be counted), seeking to mainstream workplace ministry in the public sphere in Kenya. I left the forum inspired, fired up and ready to sacrifice all to see a new expression of Christianity in Africa. Once again, thank you for the choice of speakers and everything.'

'I was greatly affirmed in our efforts to conduct ministry in our workplace. Discussions on Theology of Work and Wealth Creation increased my commitment to focus on my workplace ministry and helped me deal with the sense of guilt that I'm not "doing more" for the church.'

'The theme of GWF was refreshing—that work is God's good intention for us. So often there is a perceived hierarchy with church-centred activities and employment at the top. It was like water to a dry land to hear about and to be with people who value work as God's intention for us. I am thankful for new connections that have been made through the GWF. I am thankful for good discussions in our table group and in a couple sessions as this helped to give me some insight about the gap between how much of the world "does church" and how people in the workplace live out their faith. I hope in the future that this gap will narrow and the church will flourish in ways that further God's kingdom.'