

**COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION**  
**DARE GLOBAL FORUM 2020**

**30 OCTOBER – 3 NOVEMBER, 2020**  
**ACCRA, GHANA**

### CWM AND DARE 2020

CWM is an international mission organization that serves its member churches and collaborates with ecumenical and global partners. From its beginning the mission of CWM extended beyond the confines of faith communities into public arenas where services that attend to education, health, welfare and ecology are provided, assessed and re-envisioned.

Since the 1970s, CWM has wrestled with how to decolonize mission – its theology and praxis – and to proclaim and nurture communities that live the urgency of emancipation when life-in-general is threatened. Through its “Mission in the Context of Empire” (2010), CWM sought to expose powers (empires) that feed, connect and mask oppression at local and global levels.

From 2020 onward, CWM seeks to nurture and empower exiled and enslaved communities to break out from “Babylon” (the label that Rastafarians give to systemic powers that enslave and exile) and to *rise to life*. Following this mandate, DARE GLOBAL FORUM 2020 will gather committed and creative thinker-practitioners to *chant down* Babylon for the purpose of emancipating peoples, churches and academies from mental and spiritual slavery. To appropriate the words of Maya Angelou, *Babylon may write us out but still we rise*.

Put simply, Babylon does not have the final word. Or the final world.

### DARE and Mission

*Discernment* and *radical engagement* are woven into the fabrics of mission, theology and biblical studies, understood here as events that *dare to discern and make sense* of divinities, scriptures, traditions, responsibilities, destinies, practices, experiences and blind spots. *Discerning and making sense* of texts, subjects and objects, are *radical* exercises in themselves (because one seeks to make those “talk”); they are radical (in its adjectival sense) also insofar as those are the “fundamental” tasks of mission, theology and biblical studies.

Mission, biblical and theological studies are more radical when they do more than simply discern and make sense (in order to understand). *Radical* theological and biblical studies involve *engagement* (therefore, mission agents, interpreters and theologians cannot be distant and disinterested). Engagement is necessary in order to make biblical and theological studies manifest their radical souls. Radical biblical and theological studies are *more than* just faith seeking understanding. In this connection, the mission of DARE is conceived at the coming together of

- (1) the *radical soul* of discernment and sense-making in traditional and constructive theology and biblical criticism
- (2) with the yearnings for *signifying engagement* that rise out of the valleys of despair and the slums of modernity,
- (3) and the commitment to redemption songs that *inspire disturbance* at the hubs of power.

In the ripples of two shifts in religious studies—toward interdisciplinary studies, and toward becoming affective (in practical, organic and public ways)—the DARE program seeks to rekindle the passion to discern, to be radical and to engage. Initially, there are two arms of the DARE program: (1) DARE resources and (2) DARE Global Forums.

**DARE Resources** are tools for biblical and theological reflection on the themes of CWM. These resources are intended for church members, for their private or communal study and reflections.

**DARE Forums** are platforms for conversations on critical scholarly concerns. The Forums shift CWM's commitment to education into another gear: CWM built and supported schools and seminaries throughout the world, and with the DARE Forums CWM contributes to the shaping of biblical and theological scholarship for the future.

### DARE Resources

DARE resources unpack matters relating to the mission of CWM. The resources arise from specific regions, but they seek to be relevant for all regions. These resources are intended for lay members as well as mission agents. Through the **DARE resources**, CWM serves its member churches and ecumenical neighbors with common platforms and shared narratives for *rising to life* in the twenty-first century.

#### Outcomes

- Jonah: An Earth Bible Commentary** (Bloomsbury, 2020)
- Losing Ground: Ruth in a Changing Climate** (SCM, 2020)
- Chanting for Palestine: Theological and Hermeneutical Responsibilities** (Diyar, forthcoming 2020)

### DARE Global Forums

The DARE Forums are platforms for scholars and activists from different parts of the world to address critical concerns of the current time. The DARE Forums welcome and encourage participants to engage those concerns radically, creatively and justly, and to create resources that can shape the future of biblical and theological education.

#### Outcomes

- 1) In 2017, the inaugural DARE Forum was held at Bangkok, Thailand (May 28–June 02), with a focus on empires. Several of the papers are in five collections edited by Jione Havea (published by Lexington Books & Fortress Academic):

- Religion and Power (2018)**
- Scripture and Resistance (2019)**
- People and Land: Decolonial Theologies (2019)**
- Vulnerability and Resilience: Body and Liberation Theologies (2019)**
- Mission and Context (2020)**

2) In 2018, the second DARE Forum was held at Mexico City, Mexico (May 23–26), around separatist cultures and mindsets. Some of the papers have been revised for publication:

- ❑ **Theologies on the Move: Religion, Migration, and Pilgrimage in the World of Neoliberal Capital** (edited by Joerg Rieger, with Lexington and Fortress Academics)
- ❑ **Doing Bodies: Indecent Proposals for Postcolonial Theologies** (edited by André Musskopf and Nienke Pruiksmá, with Lexington Books and Fortress Academic)
- ❑ **Mediating theologies** (edited by Jione Havea, with Wipf & Stock)
- ❑ **Bible blindspots: Dispersion and Othering** (edited by Monica J. Melanchthon and Jione Havea, with Wipf & Stock)
- ❑ **Religion and supremacy** (edited by Steed Davidson)

3) In 2019, the third DARE Forum held at Taipei, Taiwan (June 11-22) turned toward *trans*-sectional theology and interpretation (“trans” as cross over, as well as transgress). Some of the papers are being revised and edited for publication:

- ❑ **Faith, Class, and Labor: Intersectional Approaches in a Global Context** (edited by Joerg Rieger and Jin Young Choi, with Wipf and Stock)
- ❑ **Resisting Occupation: A Global Struggle for Liberation** (edited by Miguel A. De La Torre and Mitri Raheb, with Lexington Books and Fortress Academic)
- ❑ **Earth Speaks Back: Indigenous and Subaltern Challenges to Eco-theology** (edited by S. Lily Mendoza and George Zachariah)
- ❑ **Theologies for the Technocentric World** (edited by Miguel M. Algranti and Seong-Won Park)
- ❑ **Race: Transgressions of Theology** (edited by Vuyani Vellem and Y. T. Vinayaraj)
- ❑ **Gender Troubling Theology** (edited by Tony Franklin-Ross and Maricel Mena Lopez)

4) In 2020, the DARE Global Forum in **Accra, Ghana on 30 October to 3 November**, will bring transectionality to the CWM theme of “rising to life” and the commitment to the future of theologies that liberate and enable people to *rise up*. See the Call for Papers.

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