



# COUPLES FOR CHRIST

**Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth**

CFC International Council Statement  
April 30, 2009

## **MOVING FORWARD AND LETTING GO**

After much prayer and discernment, the CFC International Council has come to a major decision, one that defines another transition in our life as a community. We wish to announce that Couples for Christ has recognized the need for a distinct GK Board, which may include CFC members, to focus on the expanding work of GK within and outside the country. Thus the CFC IC has decided to let go of the governance and corporate structure of Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation Inc., and allow for the immediate transition of GK leadership to such a distinct board.

As the work with the poor is a fundamental element of the fullness of CFC's mission, CFC will continue to serve the poor and will collaborate with GK to bring a life of dignity to the least of our brethren.

Why are we taking this step?

The upscaling of GK, particularly in recent years, has highlighted some fundamental and deepening differences in approach and implementation.

CFC is pursuing the fullness of the mission, as defined in our mission of Building the Church of the Home (family life renewal) and Building the Church of the Poor (our work with the poor) in oneness with the Catholic Church. GK is focused on nation building and on poverty alleviation that will necessitate that it mainstreams and partners with all sectors of society. It is poised to enter non-Christian countries (such as India, Indonesia and the Middle East) as a non-religious organization.

Moreover, by culture, tradition and policy, leadership of CFC over all its ministries and programs resides in the International Council. However, GK leaders struggle with constraints inherent in its organizational structure so long as it remains under the authority of CFC IC whose seven members sit in, and form majority of, the GK Board.

There has been honest divergence of opinions because of these fundamental differences. We have tried to resolve these differences in various ways especially in the last two years, including the attempt to strengthen oneness of leadership through the changes in the organizational structure. However, despite our common best efforts and intentions, unity continues to be elusive under the present structure.

We believe that the work with the poor should not suffer because of our differences. We believe that allowing GK to operate independently of the authority of the IC is the right step to take for CFC, GK and the poor.



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We would like to enjoin all CFC members presently serving in GK to continue the work as volunteers. CFC will not abandon the GK sites in order that the poor will not suffer because of this change. We hope to see a closer collaboration with GK in the work with the poor that is now free from unnecessary constraints and conflicts.

We will work to have the transition to the new leadership proceed smoothly and with dispatch.

We look forward with hope to a greater and intensified work for the poor as we pursue similar dreams cognizant of the strengths and values we bring to the work.

Let us indeed move forward in Christ!

May God continue to bless our life and mission!

Sincerely in Christ,

JOE TALE  
CFC Executive Director  
For the CFC International Council