

Secretary for Spiritual Formation

The vision for People and Culture is to help our staff flourish and to build strong teams that produce fruitful ministry. We've been very encouraged by the responses we've received as we've sought ways to implement a People & Culture plan. As we've listened to many in the fellowship, the need for attention to spiritual formation has been mentioned often. This makes sense because the quality of our relationship with God is fundamental to everything we do. It is with enormous gratitude and hope, therefore, that one of our first initiatives is to appoint Sabine Kalthoff as Spiritual Formation Secretary, a ministry of People and Culture.

(John Criswell)

"Until Christ is formed in you" (Galatians 4,19)

This is at the core of spiritual formation. We not only want Christ to be working through us, but also in us. We not only want to serve God, but encounter him ourselves. Spiritual formation is not about our ministry (though it will strongly affect our ministry); it is about us as people in our walk with Jesus.

In IFES, we are good at working hard. Staff are very committed, willing to invest much time and energy. That is a gift. And it makes us busy people. We need to stop, listen, open our hearts for Jesus and his Word. We need spaces in which God can meet us, feed us, shape us – individually and as teams.

As Spiritual Formation Secretary, my desire is to help create spaces for this by:

- modelling holistic Scripture engagement that invites into an encounter with God;
- shaping staff retreats - particularly within existing events (e.g. half-days);
- providing spiritual accompaniment to individual staff for a limited time and/or inviting individual staff for a personal retreat to Marburg/Germany;
- strengthening spiritual formation in our IFES culture (through conversations, at events, in publications, etc.)

The focus of this role is to serve IFES staff and staff teams. With an openness to serving national movements as time allows.

This is a new role in IFES, but not a new area of ministry. There is much already happening. I look forward to being in conversation about our joys and needs with regard to spiritual formation – and how you think that I can serve best.

Sabine Kalthoff
sabine.kalthoff@ifesworld.org

June 2021