



FaithInvest's March 2022 newsletter

In this edition:

- Martin Palmer: Reflections on a sense of déjà vu
- Nana Francois: The newly renamed 'Investment Solutions Team'
- Lorna Gold: Our world seems to be on fire
- FaithInvest at the UN Environment Assembly
- A new resource from GIIN: the Faith-based Investing Repository

Lessons from the past about a whole new way of being faithful

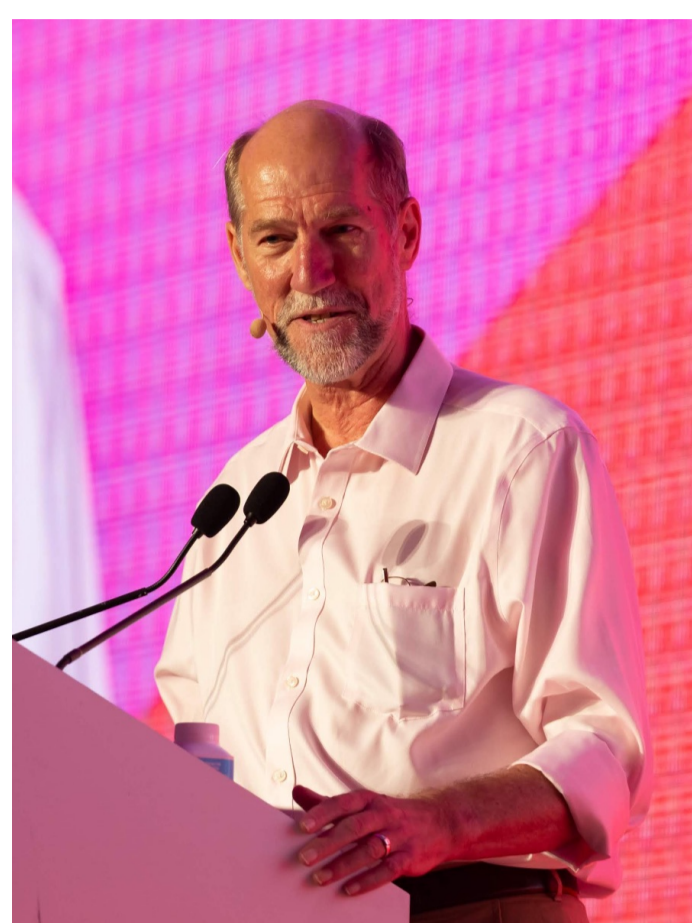
FaithInvest's CEO **Martin Palmer** writes:

I sometimes get a sense of déjà vu! The reason is I have sort of been here before.

In 1986 we hosted, through WWF International, the first ever meeting of the major environmental groups and five of the major faiths in Assisi, Italy. At that time, the idea that religions had anything to do with the environment was unheard of and seen by many as frankly pointless, if not ridiculous.

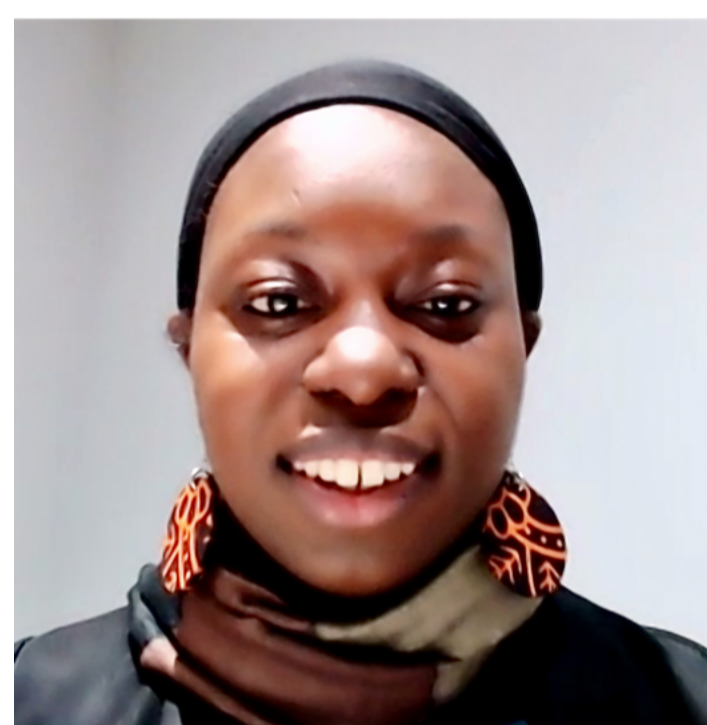
Today there isn't a significant faith group which hasn't issued a statement or declaration about why they consider that care of people and planet is fundamental to their faith, and there are millions of faith projects on the environment globally.

As I look at what is happening on the topic of the faiths as stakeholders, especially in the sustainable use of their assets, land, buildings and investments, I feel a sense of déjà vu. So what can we learn from the success of 1986 to help us create a whole new way of being faithful when it comes to our investments and assets?



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What's in a name? Why we're now Investment Solutions



Welcome to the newly renamed Investment Solutions team, writes *Director of Investment Solutions* **Nana Francois**.

The new name reflects our focus as we work on issues relevant to faith-based asset owners and support them to align faith beliefs and values with investment actions and outcomes.

As we have got to know members' priorities, and the key performance indicators they care about, this year we are focusing on solutions-building in two main areas: Faith-Consistent Investing and Impact Investing.

We've already had a wonderful start to the year with a multifaith gathering that included our good friend Professor Atul Shah, taking us to the heart of faith-based beliefs and motivations in this age of modern economics and hyper-consumerism. The upshot of this gathering is described by Professor Shah in his blog post, [Faith and Finance - A Reunion](#). It is from this foundation that we are building our efforts in the year ahead.

Click below to read more from Nana including:

- White papers & toolkits
- Global Investment Forum
- Just Transition Fund
- We're recruiting!

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'Our world seems to be on fire... but there's a crack in everything'

Director of Movement Building **Lorna Gold** reflects on a difficult few weeks:

The past few weeks have been tumultuous in so many ways. The pandemic, finally, seems to be receding and life is returning to normal after two years of strange hiatus.

But just as we were beginning to smile again, war has come to the shores of Europe. It has come with a brutal force, everyone has been left stunned.



Meanwhile, the dire warnings of scientists in the latest [IPCC Climate Report](#) could not be starker: the physical impacts of climate change are already being felt by more than 40% of the world's population – and many, if not most, are already suffering. Our world seems to be on fire.

At FaithInvest, the war in Ukraine and the looming climate crisis both point in the same direction: the need to re-double our efforts to encourage faiths to invest in the world God wants – a world of peace, harmony, unity, respect, generosity and compassion. This is the world we need to invest in! There is no time to lose in ensuring that our investments are consistent with that future.

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FaithInvest at the UN Environment Assembly, UNEA 5.2



FaithInvest took part in the [Faith for Earth dialogue series](#) as part of the UN Environment Assembly's Fifth Session, UNEA 5.2.

- Martin Palmer participated on a panel in a session entitled [What the World Expects from FBOs and What We Should Do](#). Why are the faiths engaged in caring for the earth? 'What we know, and what we understand, is what is locked into the structures, the beliefs, the values of the faiths. The faiths are engaged because it comes from what we believe,' he said.
- Catherine Devitt and Lorna Gold took part in the session entitled [Local Challenges, Local Solutions: Faith Groups for Climate Action](#). Lorna observed that 80% of the world's population – six billion people – belongs to a faith. She asked how it was that we were facing ecological destruction: 'We have to face the fact that these 6 billion faithful may also be contributing to the problem. Despite the incredible work of the last few decades, there is still a profound disconnect.'

New repository of faith-based investing resources

Our friends at GIIN, the Global Impact Investing Network, have just launched a helpful new resource, the [Faith-based Investing Repository](#).

The repository includes research, case studies, webinars, books, and other resources to enable and motivate faith-based actors and organisations on impact investing through their theological underpinnings. FaithInvest, along with many other organisations in the community, contributed content for the repository.

FaithInvest supports faith-based asset owners to align their investments to their faith values. We support the rapidly growing movement of faiths actively using their investments and other assets to create a better world – for the benefit of people and planet. Visit www.faithinvest.org for more information.



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