

ADN Impact and Innovation Forums 2021

The Role of Faith in Philanthropic Giving to Africa

July 14 Session Summary- Highlights - Action Steps



**2021 African Diaspora Network
Impact and Innovation Forums**
Healthcare, Education, Finance, and Connectivity

Webinar: The Role of Faith in Philanthropic Giving to Africa
Wednesday, July 14, 8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 3:00 PM GMT



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Hosted in collaboration with the
King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS)



KING BAUDOIN
FOUNDATION
UNITED STATES

Context:

On July 14, African Diaspora Network (ADN) and the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS) hosted the virtual webinar, “The Role of Faith in Philanthropic Giving to Africa.”

Faith is often a motivating factor in giving. Research [shows](#) that individuals who are religiously affiliated are more likely to make a charitable donation. For members of the African diaspora, faith often influences their decision to give back to the home continent. London School of Economics Fellow Edward Edemolu, PhD, in his [research](#), underscored the impact of how “religious identities and ‘narratives of faith’ all play a role” in diaspora engagement in philanthropy.

The conversation will explore how faith and spiritual/religious values drive charitable giving; why is giving to Africa important; and how faith-based organizations and individuals go about deciding where and to whom to give.



“The Role of Faith in Philanthropic Giving to Africa” began with a beautiful harp performance by Destiny Muhammad. She set the tone for the discussion on faith by singing a song on prayer. Almaz Negash, Founder and Executive Director of the African Diaspora Network, welcomed the audience before introducing

Loksan Harley, Executive Director of Homelands Advisory and member of ADN Executive Advisory Council, who hosted the event on behalf of ADN.

Loksan thanked King Baudouin Foundation United States for their partnership over the years. He made several ADN-related announcements including:

- Debra Pacio, ADN'S new Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Manager, has joined the ADN team full-time.
- ADN has received 107 applications for the new Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program. The selection committee is now reviewing the applications and the top 15-20 entrepreneurs will be announced in late August.



Loksan then introduced Hafeeza E. Rashed, Senior Advisor of Communications & Outreach at KBFUS, who moderated the panel session. Hafeeza told the audience more about KBFUS, which facilitates thoughtful, effective giving to Europe and Africa, enabling U.S. donors to support their favorite causes overseas. KBFUS provides European and African nonprofits with cost-effective solutions to raise funds in the U.S. through the American



Friends Fund tool. If you are interested in learning more, you can reach out to Hafeeza at Hafeeza@kbfus.org.

Hafeeza then explained the context of the event and introduced panelists Keith and Kimberly Edmunds, Co-Founders of SadlerAllen and HopeFeathers Foundation. SadlerAllen is focused on helping companies improve the experience of customers and employees. Over 60% of the profits from

SadlerAllen are directly channeled to the charitable efforts of HopeFeathers, a foundation started by Kimberly and her husband Keith. HopeFeathers has given over \$800,000 in grants to efforts supporting children in poverty-stricken countries in the areas of shelter, food, and education.

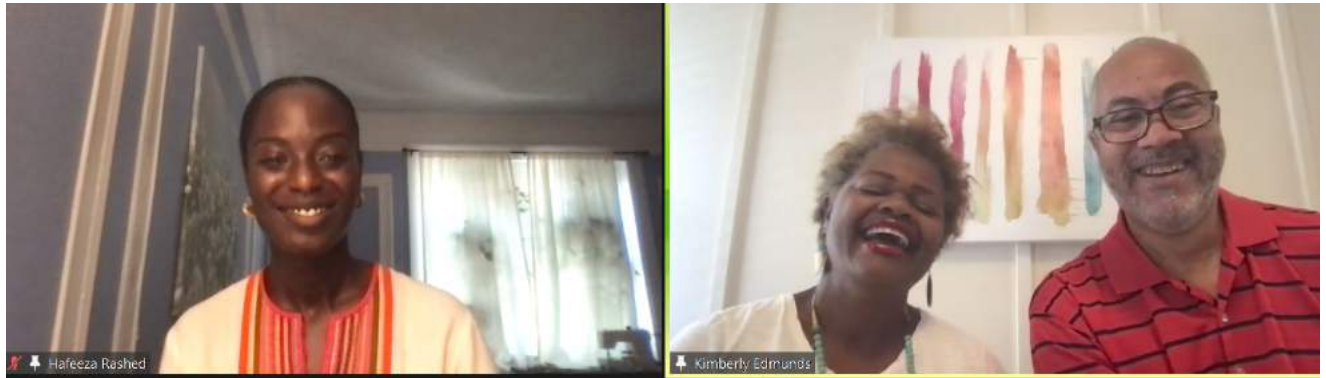
Kimberly shared, "We started giving to Africa in phases. Over the time we have been involved with Africa from a philanthropic stand point, we have become better people. We started out just giving to our church for missionary efforts. Then we



actually had the privilege to get very connected with children in Ghana. That connection changed everything for us. We began to understand as believers it's not just about writing checks, but it is about understanding why our faith really mandates that we support and care for the poor. We moved from being sympathizers to empathizers. We began to be co-laborers and co-creators in our projects in Africa. We began to walk with the communities we were supporting in ways that increased our faith and made it real."

Keith added, "We are the church. Building relationships and being involved built our faith. With many of the kids we worked with, we got to see them grow up and go to high school. That tie is really a heart tie and speaks to what we try to do as Christians each and every

day in that walk. I was told by this very wise person once that all you are responsible for is all that you can hold in your hand. What we have been attracted to is just those things and to be conscious of that because it can become overwhelming. These particular relationships that we built and forged have really been a God-thing.”



Suggested Action Steps:

- **Consider areas you would like to give to:** If you feel like you are in a position to give financially, consider where or to whom you would like to give to. What are you passionate about that you would like to support?
- **Give!:** If you have decided you are at a place that you can give financially, do not question whether your gift amount is too much or too little. Just give!
- **Give your time-form relationships:** Beyond giving financially, form relationships with the people you support. How else can you support them?

Highlights

- Faith inspires people to give.
- Giving to churches is important, but it is equally important to give to people or organizations that are close to our heart.
- Building relationships is even more important than giving financially.
- Ordinary people can make an impact.

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- In America, it can be easy to assume that people in Africa going through difficult situations are unhappy, but many people are able to find joy even in challenging times.
 - It is important to see past a person's condition, to see them as a person. Learn about their hopes, dreams, and fears. What do they consider 'peace'? This will lead you in the right direction with your philanthropic giving.
 - It is easy to be overwhelmed by how much to give. What is too much or too little? What is important is to just start giving.
 - When deciding where to give, go with what you are passionate about.

See the entire session recording [here](#).

Resources:

Click [here](#) to learn more about African Diaspora Network's Impact and Innovation Series.

Get to know the speakers better. Visit their organization websites.

- [SadlerAllen](#)
 - [HopeFeathers Foundation](#)
 - [Homelands Advisory](#)
 - [KBFUS](#)
 - [African Diaspora Network](#)
- Session recording:
<https://youtu.be/0BxffyHh9Jo>

Thank You!

The African Diaspora Network and KBFUS are grateful to the Edmunds for sharing their insight on the role of faith in philanthropic giving! Thank you to everyone who joined!

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