



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD IMPACT ANNOUNCES THE RESIGNATION OF CEO AND PRESIDENT, EFREM SMITH.

Los Angeles, CA, June 16, 2017

The Board of Directors of World Impact announces the resignation of CEO and President, Efrem Smith. The Board accepted the resignation on May 12, 2017 and implemented a plan whereby Efrem will continue as CEO and President until June 30, 2017 to lead an effective transition.

In accepting the resignation, the Board thanked Efrem for his vision, leadership and pastoral gifts that moved World Impact to a higher level of effectiveness. During his tenure, the Executive Leadership Team crafted World Impact's One Focus of Empowering Urban Indigenous Christian Leaders, bringing alignment to all segments of the ministry. World Impact has engaged with Best Christian Workplaces to create open communication and build trust with the entire network of staff nationwide. A major capital campaign was also implemented to pursue their 2021 Vision and Initiatives.

It is a bittersweet transition, but the Board celebrates with Efrem God's calling upon him to pastor a local urban church. Smith states, "Based on a strong sense of call from the Lord I am returning to the role as a pastor in a local urban church within my home denomination. It has been an honor to serve as President and CEO of World Impact for almost four years." He represents the outcome of World Impact's Vision as an empowered urban indigenous Christian leader. It is a win for World Impact and for the Kingdom.

The World Impact Board has affirmed a succession plan that calls for Rev. Dr. Alvin Sanders, Senior Vice-President of Ministry Mobilization to serve as Interim CEO and President beginning July 1, 2017. The Board has great confidence in Alvin's proven leadership strengths and experience, in collaboration with the Executive Leadership Team, to lead a healthy and God-honoring transition that continues to progress toward their Vision. Sanders describes his calling, "Since joining World Impact two years ago, I've been embraced as family. I believe God's hand is upon World Impact, and as interim president I plan on continuing our one focus strategy of empowering urban leaders. Efrem is an urban pastor at heart, and as both a colleague and friend I am grateful that he is being obedient to God's call."

The World Impact Board has also begun a national search process for the next President and CEO.

World Impact has a 46-year legacy of serving and empowering the urban poor along with transforming cities through indigenous leaders. They believe their greatest strength is their staff, who are committed and called by God to see the empowered urban poor advancing the Kingdom in every city through the local church. They believe God's hand is on their ministry and he is leading them with greater clarity and focus to accomplish his purposes in the city.

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