

The logo for Africa Speaks 2018 is contained within a black speech bubble shape. The word "AFRICA" is written in large, bold, black capital letters at the top. Below it, the year "2018" is written in a smaller font, followed by a red five-pointed star. To the right of the star, the word "SPEAKS" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. The background of the entire page is a textured, abstract pattern of yellow and orange colors with white geometric lines forming a network of triangles and polygons.

AFRICA
2018 ★ **SPEAKS**

ACCORD

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY,
BANNOCKBURN, ILLINOIS

PAGE

1/2

5–8 MARCH 2018

We have come together as an informal, international network of professionals committed to a flourishing Christian publishing industry in Africa.

We thank God for his gift of the written word. We believe publishing—in its broadest sense—is a powerful tool to give voice to the heart and hope of Africa.

We believe a flourishing Christian publishing industry in Africa is an important component of fulfilling the mission of God and will benefit the people of Africa and the whole world.

We believe in the strategic role of publishing as a means of transforming lives, nurturing the church, influencing society, and shaping culture with biblical truth and values.

We acknowledge that we are not keeping pace with the need for excellent, contextual Christian content to serve the African continent’s growing church and to provide hungry readers with a message of hope and Good News. For us it can no longer be “business as usual.”

THEREFORE, IN A SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION, WE COMMIT:

- a. To pray for one another and foster an environment that encourages prayer for the publishing industry.
- b. To maintain conversation with one another for mutual encouragement and collaboration.
- c. To foster strong relationships of trust, mutual encouragement, and collaboration between publishers throughout Africa. When one of us is strengthened, all are stronger.
- d. To foster a love of reading among our young people and within our families, communities, and churches while respecting and building on the rich culture of orality.
- e. To foster a culture of writing by providing strong encouragement and support for African authors.
- f. To expand the number and quality of publications by African authors.
- g. To identify needs of the many and diverse market segments, language groups, and cultural contexts throughout the continent in order to develop appropriate content to address those needs.
- h. To develop and promote excellent, relevant, well-researched, contextual, biblically sound content by authors who speak wisely and knowledgeably to the hearts and minds of readers.
- i. To distribute our authors’ works as broadly as possible by exploring cooperation with distributors and publishers in other nations and languages.
- j. To address logistical challenges by pursuing solutions such as shared shipping, offset printing on the continent, and print on demand.

