

WAGF CONNECTION



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GLOBAL CONCERT OF PRAYER 2022

9TH WORLD AG CONGRESS



AN INTERACTIVE PUBLICATION



From the World Assemblies of God Fellowship Office

By Acting Chairman David Mohan

We are living in the last days and even in the last few minutes. Jesus is returning soon. We need to realize the hour we live in. Our Heavenly Father is preparing His Church for a greater move.

Mark 13:32-33 says that no one knows the day or hour of Jesus' return, including the angels in Heaven, but only the Father himself. We need to be alert while we watch and pray. I encourage all our churches to pray for His coming. The gospel of His Kingdom will be preached across the whole world before He returns. Every congregation must work to reach the unreached. Missions should be our top priority.

The Bible says in Acts 1:6-7 that the disciples were expecting an earthly kingdom, but Jesus said that they needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be a witness to the ends of the Earth. Hence, all our churches must wait upon God daily, asking that they receive the Holy Spirit and be a witness wherever they go. Our churches should be engaged in evangelism and teaching the Word of God while equipping saints from across the globe to do the same. Through this, we will see great miracles, signs, and wonders happen all over the world.

In February 2022 at the Executive Council meeting, the MM33 (His Mandate, Our Mission) covenant was signed by the executives of WAGF. The council promised to see the unreached be reached. It's our mission to make God known as the one true Savior. We look forward to seeing what God



has in store for us as we work together, hand-in-hand, for the Kingdom's glory.

We anxiously await the Global Concert of Prayer, which will take place from June 27-29, 2022, for I believe that as all our nations join in intercession before God, we will see a piece of Heaven on Earth. Prayer is key for revival, so let's pray for it in one accord.

Our 6th World Missions Congress is coming up September 27-30, 2022, in Medellin, Colombia. All leaders are encouraged to attend and declare their MM33 goals. It will be a great time of fellowship and learning while we gather together in His presence.

We also ask that you begin preparing for the upcoming WAGF World Congress in Madrid, Spain, happening October 12-14, 2023. Please pray for the team working diligently to make this conference memorable. Further details will be provided in the days to come.

Finally, I would like to urge you to pray for the war in Ukraine to end. To see our own suffer is truly heartbreaking. Likewise, pray for the people of Sri Lanka as they struggle through this period of political turmoil and the nation's resulting shortage of necessities. May God bring an answer to both these countries, and may His peace fill their lands.

I believe that prayer changes everything because the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. God promises us in His Word that He hears every syllable we pray. He is waiting, ready, and willing to listen to us if we will simply take that one step forward. Therefore, my dear brothers, meditate on the gift of prayer. Have that encounter with God today, and experience His awesome power in your life.

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Church Health Commission — A Fresh Perspective for Pastors on Congregational Change

By Rev. Mike Clarensau, Commission Member, Church Health Commission

Have you ever tried to resolve a debate by only listening to one side? Most of us know that's not going to work out too well. My new book, *Subject to Change: What People Want Their Pastor to Know Before Asking Them to Change*,* approaches a familiar subject from an unfamiliar angle — the wisdom available from the other side of the pulpit, where those we're often trying to change sit each Sunday.

In truth, only an effective partnership between pastor and people can bring the kind of change many established congregations desperately need, and that requires mutual respect and sharing of similar goals. In the book, I identify more than thirty insights that await pastors once they see their people as an integral part of the future rather than a hindrance to their dreams.

Some of these insights center on ideas and strategies like, “*Yours isn’t our first vision*,” and, “*It will help if you can make your plans fit what we can do*.” Others speak to the emotions of a developing relationship, such as when they say, “*We’re going to need time to trust you*,” and, “*We’ll go where you go if you’ll come where we are*.” Still others may speak to a history of hurt that predates the current leader like, “*We need you to stay long enough to help us reach the targeted destination*,” and “*Most of our resistance is more about us than you*,” as well as, “*Unfair expectations work both ways. We know we do it to you, and sometimes you do it to us*.”

The percentage of plateaued and declining churches continues to climb, and surrounding cultural challenges regularly add layers of complexity. Achieving successful change in established congregations has become critical but can be difficult even in the

most ideal circumstances. Still, the possibilities of renewal and even a new lifecycle for the local church deserve our attention and plead for our best effort. As we seek recipes for desperately-needed success, open and encouraging communication between pastor and people may prove to be our most essential ingredient.

Congregations spend much of their time listening to their pastors, but they also have some valuable things to say, and pastors can find some great insight and wisdom when they listen to their people — those who are often *subject to change*.

*Available from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and other book suppliers or at www.clarensaucommunications.com



Next Generation Commission— Power of God in the Darkest Days

By Rev. Héctor Escobar, Commission Member, Next Generation Commission

The eyes of the world are on Eastern Europe. Since February 24, we have witnessed the devastating effects of war. Day by day, we hear about millions of Ukrainians leaving what has always been their home. Millions of others are trapped in the country and resisting Russia, facing an onslaught of bombings. The reality of war has become evident in the midst of an era that has seen some of the greatest technological advances in history.

For Europe's younger generations, war is no longer just pages in our history books or stories from our parents and grandparents. It's the reality of our daily lives. The pain of Ukraine has shaken the world, most especially Europe.

Political and militaristic strategies aside, what is certain is that the ordinary citizen feels the burden and weight of needing to do something. It has been extraordinary to see the mobilization of societies to help the Ukrainian people. The youth of Europe have mobilized in every country by promoting and supporting initiatives to help refugees. Many Assemblies of God congregations in Europe have promoted initiatives in which young people have played a key role.

If there is a country that is undoubtedly at the forefront in the great task of compassion and receiving the Ukrainian people, it is Poland. Pastor Zibi Zarozny, the national youth director of the Poland AG, reports that churches in the nation's larger cities have been flooded with refugees. He points out that many of them come with a heart full of spiritual needs. The Church must be prepared

with wisdom and the anointing of the Holy Spirit in order to be able to give not only physical but spiritual food to the thousands who arrive with a heart broken by war.

Once again, history shows us that the problem of mankind is in the heart. That problem cannot be repaired with political maneuvering or resources of human origin. The problem at the heart of mankind continues to be answered by the love of God and the message of the Cross, preached with the backing of the Holy Spirit.



Pentecostal Commission on Religious Liberty— Religious Freedom Under Threat in Eurasia and Africa

By Rauli Lehtonen, Commission Member, Pentecostal Commission on Religious Liberty

During the pandemic, many countries made it more difficult to travel and developed new methods to control their citizens. In the beginning, it was not expected that restrictions meant to stop the spread of COVID-19 would limit churches and hinder Christians from living out their faith.

Many churches started to stream their services through the internet. This made it easier to reach new groups for the gospel. The religious activities outside churches, however, are often limited by the law in Islamic or former Communist countries.

Evangelism, missions, and proselytism are forbidden in many countries. When online services are not directed only to church members, streaming becomes forbidden and can eventually lead to fines, trials, and prison for believers.

Secular media entities have started offensive campaigns in Belarus, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East against protestant churches, who, it is argued, have spread “religious propaganda.” Some of these churches were closed because of the “illegal activities.”

When the invasion of Ukraine started, the situation for Evangelicals got even worse, especially in Belarus and Russia. Ten Evangelical Christians were recently sentenced to three to six years imprisonment in Belarus. One of the Pentecostal churches in Minsk was closed.

Many Pentecostal pastors in occupied Ukraine have been under pressure as authorities accuse them of not supporting President Putin. Some Christian leaders have left the country. Others have disappeared, and whether they are dead or alive is unclear. Pastors from occupied territories have been arrested and deported to Donbas.

Several states in India have introduced “Freedom of Religion Acts.” Initially, these laws were meant to protect people from forced conversions, but today, they are used as a tool by Hindu nationalists. Some believers, who peacefully shared their faith and distributed Bibles, have been charged in court. In a state in North India, the penalty for unauthorized conversion can be up to ten years in prison.

In a state in South India, local leadership has decided that all churches and missionaries should be registered. No “unauthorized” missionary activities may continue. Their aim is to prevent gatherings and hinder house churches.

In a state in Central India, a digital paper, *The Wire*, recently reported how a Hindutva leader, in front of senior politicians, expressed that minorities in India, such as Christians, should be beheaded!

Pray for

- Pastors and Christians under threat in Russia
- Evangelicals in Belarus who are in prison
- Disappeared pastors from occupied territories in Ukraine
- Christians in India who are facing new restrictive laws

Commission on Sexual Exploitation, Slavery, and Trafficking

By Co-Chairs, Rev. Dominic Yeo and Rev. Dr. Sandra Morgan

The work of the SEST Commission touches the lives of the most vulnerable, those often living in despair and hopelessness. Equipping our churches to see victims and have tools to respond with God's love is essential. Philippians 1:9-11 emphasizes that love will abound with *knowledge and insight* and bring discernment that brings glory and praise to God:

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the *fruit of righteousness* that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

As our SEST Commission joins Mission and Mandate 2033 to reach our world for Christ, we do so with the example Jesus gave in ministering to the most vulnerable. He touched the lives of children, widows, women, prostituted women, the disabled, and the sick. The “fruit of righteousness” brings justice and care to the very least of these and brings glory to God. Equipping our churches to enter the public square and touch the lives of abused and exploited people opens doors to be salt and light in our communities.

As a commission, we are committed to serving our fellowship by bringing the unique *knowledge and insight* that prepares us to model Christ's love for victims of human trafficking in every

country. A recent survey representing our members from regions across the globe offers a snapshot of the needs churches

have in *knowledge and insight* for understanding sexual exploitation, slavery, and human trafficking. To start, our website provides three fifteen-minute introductory videos with an overview of our three-prong strategy: Awareness, Action, and Advocacy.

At the 6th World Missions Congress scheduled for September 27-30, 2022, in Medellin, Colombia, we will provide a ninety-minute workshop for leaders and conduct a survey to learn from them. Many other resources are available. Please email sest@worldagfellowship.org to request regional resources.





Global Concert of Prayer 2022 — Fires of Revival

By Rev. Dominic Yeo, WAGF Secretary and Chairman of GCOP 2022

In 2021, when the pandemic was raging, the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) divinely pivoted plans from the on-site World Assemblies of God Congress (WAGC) in Spain and gave birth to our inaugural online Global Concert of Prayer (GCOP). The event enabled 152 nations to gather online as national leaders from WAGF took turns to lead in prayer for fifty continuous hours.

“Our entire Christian community was gathered in prayer and worship. The call to prayer extended beyond the Assemblies of God as other denominations prayed along with us,” said Rev. Moisés de Prada Esquivel, General Superintendent of AG Cuba.

“Though *Unlimited* could not be celebrated in person due to the pandemic, what God did through the prayer concert was an unlimited move through His anointing,” shares Chairman of the 8th WAGC, Rev. Juan Carlos Escobar. “With GCOP 2022, we believe that we will be very blessed and strengthened to continue advancing in the expectation of what God wants to do within the Assemblies of God around the world.”

As the pandemic recedes, there is a battle for God’s restoration in individuals, families, churches, and nations taking place.



“We are believing that this global, concerted time of prayer, birthed by the Spirit of God, is His preparation for us as the Body of Christ to step into His mandate and see revival fires lighting up all over our world for His glory. God is doing something, and the Church cannot be ignorant or stand on the sidelines. We need to assemble

Global Concert of Prayer 2022 *continued*

for GCOP 2022 and usher in the Kingdom of God,” says Chairman of GCOP 2022, Rev. Dominic Yeo.

There is no revival without prayer.

“Prayer is the key for a great revival,” said Dr. David Mohan, Acting Chairman of WAGF, in his video address to AG General Superintendents. “We need to pray without ceasing. We are living in the last days, and churches must arise to pray together. We must humble ourselves. Seek the face of God. Turn from our wickedness. Then God will forgive us and heal our nations. Every Assemblies of God church needs to pray together. As we pray together, we will surely see the marvelous works of His revival!”

Mobilize your churches and ministries to join in! You can:

I. Gather in church.

Screen the prayer sessions in church, and have your congregation join in worship and pray on site.

II. Gather in small groups.

Encourage members to screen the time of prayer on a TV and host a group of believers to pray together.

III. Gather in homes.

Encourage members to screen the time of prayer on a TV and pray together as a family.

Don't miss GCOP 2022, Mon-Wed, Jun 27-29. It's time to pray. It's time for our lands to heal. It's time for a great outpouring of the Spirit. Let us be the fuel and stir the *Fires of Revival!*

More information and publicity kit are available on <https://worldagfellowship.org/Congress/GCOP>.



9th World AG Congress — **SHINE! Called to Influence**

By Rev. Juan Carlos Escobar, World Congress Host; President, Spain AG

It has been more than two years since we planned to hold our 9th World Congress of the Assemblies of God *Unlimited* in Madrid, Spain. The pandemic made it impossible to celebrate the event, and after an initial postponement, it was permanently canceled.

We know that the cancellation of the World Congress caused great difficulty for many brethren who had planned their flights and reservations. We had thousands of registrants from more than 110 nations, dozens of speakers and musicians, as well as 400 volunteers ready to work and make the event possible with the expectation that we were at the gates of a glorious time with the Holy Spirit.

Additionally, after three years of intense preparations, the decision to cancel created a huge logistical and financial upheaval for our organizers. However, at all times, we have felt the Lord accompanying us with His peace and wisdom, not to mention the understanding, prayers, and invaluable support of many brothers and sisters. Together with the executives of WAGF, we have managed to overcome the impact of not being able to celebrate



WAGC Unlimited 2020. Our team has always had the certainty that, although this Congress could not be held, the Holy Spirit has been preparing us for something more glorious, which was already on the divine agenda.

So, with the support of the WAGF Executive Committee, we have begun to work from Madrid to celebrate the 9th WAGC 2023: *SHINE! Called to Influence* to be held from October 12-14, 2023.

Our theme, *SHINE! Called to Influence*, invites us to consider the need for the Church to arise, awaken, and manifest the glory of God

9th World AG Congress *continued*

in this world. Several texts have inspired us in the lead up to this World Congress, in particular Isaiah 60:1-3 and Matthew 5:14-16. We believe that the Lord wants His Church to rise and shine in this time of darkness and uncertainty. The Church must be determined not to live hidden or discreetly. On the contrary, it is time for the Church to prophetically lead these times. Jesus expressed this by saying that believers must be like a city set on a hill or like a lamp placed on high so that men may see their light and glorify God.

Some objectives of the Congress will be:

1. World Launch of the MM33 Vision

The MM33 Vision will be launched at this Congress in Madrid. The search for a new revival in the global Church is both a necessity and a priority, so we need to wake up and rise to shine His glory in our lives and nations.

2. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Following the pandemic, the Church is also in need of a visitation from the Holy Spirit. We want to have unforgettable times of worship. Together, we will look upon Jesus to pour down from the heavens His new wine, a new Pentecost. We long to experience miracles and for the Word of God, along with the moving of the Holy Spirit, to restore, heal, and awaken many believers and ministries that will surely come seeking to be revitalized by the Lord's presence.

3. New Generations

This Congress will be intergenerational. We believe that the Holy Spirit desires that the younger generations take a decisive role in this historic time.

Therefore, we will propose that within the WAGC 2023, the 1st World Youth Congress take place. We wish to bring together hundreds of youth leaders from all around the world so that together, they can unite to promote a global agenda for an unprecedented revival.

4. Workshops

Our program will include a variety of workshops and lectures that will help us keep up with our responsibility to be better-prepared leaders. The pandemic has brought a sense of hastening and has challenged us on the need to be current with our Christian practice and be better prepared to connect with the community. Dozens of keynote speakers will be ready to provide us with training and tools in topics appropriate for the 21st-century Church.

5. Opening of Registration

Registration for the 9th WAGC 2023: SHINE! will open on September 26, 2022. The Congress website is: <https://shineworldcongress2023.com/>

You may also share the link to this promotional video: <https://youtu.be/OfwBoCuB2u4>

We encourage you to save the date, register, and join in prayer that we will have a face-to-face encounter with God that will shape the future of the Assemblies of God and the Church worldwide.