

# WAGF CONNECTION



DECEMBER 2022

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2022 WORLD MISSIONS CONGRESS UPDATE

2023 WORLD CONGRESS



AN INTERACTIVE PUBLICATION



# From the World Assemblies of God Fellowship Office

By Rev. David Mohan, World AG Fellowship Acting Chairman

**G**reetings to you in Jesus' name!

We had a great Missions Conference in Medellin in the month of September. We got to meet world mission leaders and South American churches, pastors, and believers during our time there. We also had the World Pentecostal Conference in Korea in October, where we all witnessed a great fire of the Holy Spirit in all the sessions. God truly made His presence known in both these conferences and blessed pastors worldwide.

During this month we will celebrate Christmas and New Year, so let us join our hearts and work together with only one goal in mind: Win souls for Christ. There will be a harvest of souls coming in the following seasons and we need to prepare ourselves as we are living in the last days. We not only need people who are eager and bold, but we need people with tongues of flaming fire.

Elijah offered a prayer of 63 words on Mount



Carmel and a fire came down from heaven and instantly licked the 12 barrels of water, wood, stones, dust, and the sacrifice itself. The same Elijah uttered 19 words to a captain of 50 soldiers and the fire from heaven instantly consumed them all. Elijah spoke and barren wombs were opened. When he spoke the dead came back to life because he had a tongue of fire.

Isaiah received a live coal of fire from the altar of the Most High on his lips. So, when Isaiah spoke, kings trembled, and a few were even slain. When Isaiah spoke, nations were either destroyed or brought from insignificance to prominence. When he spoke, Hezekiah's death sentence was withdrawn, and instead his life span expanded. When Isaiah spoke, the entire solar system was put in reverse gear.

Jeremiah 5:14 (NET) says, *"I will make the words that I put in your mouth like fire."* Like Isaiah, when Jeremiah opened his mouth, nations rose or collapsed. He spoke against the false Prophet Hananiah and that very year he died.

When we read about John the Baptist, not only were his lips on fire but his entire body was engulfed with fire. Jesus himself testified that John the Baptist was a burning fire in John 5:35. When he spoke, King

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## Greetings *continued*

Herod trembled. When John spoke the word of God, even though he was in the wilderness, all the people from Jerusalem, Judaea, and Jordan came to hear him in spite of the harsh desert conditions.

When Jesus spoke to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they confessed that their hearts burned within them (Luke 24:32). Sickness, disease, and demons all came crying out at Jesus' command because He had a tongue of fire. On the day of the Pentecost, cloven tongues of fire rested upon the 120 people, and when Peter stood up and preached, 3,000 people were converted.

We, as believers, pastors, and leaders of the Assemblies of God must receive this kind of anointing. The tongues of fire represent the presence of God and the purifying work of the Holy Spirit carried out in our lives. We need to have the same passion and fire that these amazing men of God had, to see a great revival in our lifetime. Keep praying for a great move of God in all our churches.

Kindly pray for our forthcoming WAGF Congress in Madrid, Spain between October 12-14, 2023. Pray for good health and grace upon Rev. Juan Carlos and his team as they plan and coordinate for the conference.

Don't forget to pray for MM33 and promote it within your regions to see a life-changing experience of the Holy Spirit movement.



# Church Health Commission — *Compelling Vision*

*By Alton Garrison, Church Health Commission Chairman*

**N**o church has a future if its memories are bigger than its dreams. To realize your full Kingdom potential, your church must identify and develop God's preferred purposes and plan. Proverbs 19:18 (NIV) "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Three verses later, the writer says, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Churches that are not motivated by a strong and compelling vision, may become inward-focused, and frequently become plateaued until they sink into decline. Vision is the antidote for a church that is struggling with inward-focused members who are more concerned with their own preferences than they are with fulfilling the Great Commission with Great Commandment love.

Vision is the current understanding of God's preferred future for a congregation. What would your church look like if God was in charge and could do whatever He wanted to do? If our impact is less than we dreamed it would be, does our vision need to be recharged?

Vision isn't about buildings, plans, or numbers. It isn't about programs or ministry tools. Vision is about being the kind of people and the kind of church God wants us to be. The best vision statements combine the passion of the leaders, the abilities of the people, and the needs of the community or city in which the church is located.

A vision catches God's dream for your church. It will incorporate love for God and love for others, and it will be lived out in the five

functions outlined in Acts 2:42-47: evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and worship.

Vision answers the questions, "Where are we going?" and, "Why are we moving in that direction?" Vision understands who we are and what we are uniquely designed to do. Vision unites people around a common plan and gives people clear focus on an intended destination. It assists in establishing the priorities of the church. It determines how the church will invest its resources.

Don't be discouraged or intimidated by setting a vision for your church. Vision isn't a scary word. It isn't something to go find; it's something we discern, discover, and then develop. It's in the heart of God. He offers it to your spirit through His Spirit, and He's waiting for you to draw it out and act on it.

With a compelling vision, people flourish.



<https://linktr.ee/acts2>





# Next Generation Commission

*By Jules Compaore, Next Generation Commission Regional Director, Africa*

**T**he Next Generation Commission, consisting of Youth and Children's ministries across the Assemblies of God of Africa, acknowledges the fact that God has kept his promise to lead and protect his people. The Christian Church is growing during health and security challenges in a few nations in our region. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and security situations, the Next Generation movement throughout our continent is doing great. Though this pandemic was a big threat to the African Church in general, and our youth in particular, Jesus' love and faithfulness gave us victories and we thank God for His care.

I want to express appreciation to the **African Assemblies of God Alliance (AAGA)** for their advice and guidance to the youth and children's ministries during the peak time of the pandemic. Although we have witnessed some churches being closed due to the pandemic, the church and youth activities did not stop. Though many church buildings were closed, house churches started flourishing. This pandemic was a time when Christians came to fully understand that the church is not just a building, but a body of believers. I heard one minister say he never knew his 9-year-old daughter could lead worship the way she did when they were forced to meet at home.

Someone said, "Satan was happy to have closed many churches during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Jesus was victorious as He opened many churches in family settings." We learned that everything about the pandemic was not negative — there were opportunities to use social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Zoom

calls to stay in touch with other believers and to spread the good news of the Gospel to the unreached.

We rejoiced with Benin as they celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of their youth department. We were able to have some national gatherings such as youth and children camps, youth conventions, concerts, and open-air outreaches. In West Africa, countries like Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, African Central Republic, and Gabon were able to organise youth conventions. These conventions were opportunities to share God's Word and to build and encourage our youth toward the MM33 Vision. We believe youth are the vital force that can partner with our spiritual fathers to achieve this vision.

We are working to mobilise, encourage, equip, and provide whatever is necessary for our youth to fully engage in fulfilling the Great Commission. The Next Generation leaders are already looking at possibilities of having a Continental gathering and joining the Global Congress in Madrid in October 2023. We would appreciate your prayers as security is still a major concern in some countries in Africa. We are confident that God will keep his children safe.





# Pentecostal Commission on Religious Liberty— Confusing or Challenging?

*By Arto Härmäläinen, PCRL Chairman*

**A**t least 360 million Christians are in danger. They are seriously persecuted or experience discrimination. This is not something new. Remarkably, the number of people in danger is increasing.

In my childhood, I lived in Finland close to the Soviet Union. The road to the border of the iron curtain was just 20 kilometers from my home. From our schoolyard, my classmates and I saw the condensation trails of the Soviet military jets. As a child of a Pentecostal family, I knew that behind the iron curtain many believers were in prison because of their faith. During those regimes, millions of our brothers and sisters lost their lives.

Later, traveling through Eastern Europe, I personally met people who were persecuted for their faith. One of them was Pastor Rudolf Bubik from what was then called Czechoslovakia. I was there to teach young people the Bible in a remote mountain location. Even though the Pentecostals submitted over 100 applications, the meeting was not registered and was considered illegal. We knew that the policemen could come at any time and detain us. Recently Pastor Rudolf was released from prison, and I invited him to Finland. It was a ridiculous idea. Pastor Rudolf did not even have a passport because no one thought he would travel abroad.

I wrote an article about the difficulties of the churches in Czechoslovakia to our Pentecostal newspaper referring to the lack of a passport. Soon, a policeman came to visit Rudolf. He asked whether the pastor would be interested in traveling abroad. Yes, but how can

it take place without a passport? “It is not a problem,” he said. “We can arrange that.” Pastor Rudolf was able to visit Finland to preach at our big summer conference to over 20,000 participants. That was miraculous in those times. We know that the visible reality is not the only reality. God can do miracles even during the darkest time. This story can encourage Christians to act. Communist authorities many times were quite sensitive to public criticism. They did not want to lose face. Although religious freedom was written in their constitution, sometimes it was violated in practice.

I remember a sister in Austria who had suffered during WWII. During her time in a concentration camp, she lost the ability to give birth. Recently I met a younger sister from Iran who had been in a disreputable prison and suffered there. I have met pastors from different parts of Asia who had been imprisoned for decades.

We talk about hundreds of thousands and millions of victims. But those numbers make it difficult to comprehend. But, when you have been sitting together, eating together, drinking tea or coffee together, sharing experiences, and learning about families, then you cannot forget. Soon you start to think about what you can do for them. We can always do something! Let us pray! Let us inspire others to pray by sharing information, and sometimes we should even help by giving money.



# Commission on Sexual Exploitation, Slavery, and Trafficking

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

**D**id you miss the 6<sup>th</sup> World Missions Congress in September 2022 in Medellin, Colombia? Among the exemplary preaching and teaching, three elements uniquely overlapped this Commission's role to build *Awareness*, *Action*, and *Advocacy* on sexual exploitation, slavery, and trafficking.

The first Congress theme was the call to serve the unreached in challenging places. Global reports show us that the same hard places with high numbers of unreached people are *also* home to high numbers of exploited people. CSEST offers valuable compassion



CSEST workshop: Sandra Morgan, Carla Marroquin, Virginia Contreras, and Paul Frimpong-Manso

resources and education tools about exploited people to support our global missions efforts. Some resources include online podcasts in English and Spanish on **Endinhumantrafficking.org** and **Terminandoconlatrata.org**, Bible college certificates (Continental Theological Seminary and Vanguard



WAGF 6<sup>th</sup> Mission Congress leaders

University), and links on [Worldagfellowship.org/Commissions/SEST](https://Worldagfellowship.org/Commissions/SEST) or email [sest@worldagfellowship.org](mailto:sest@worldagfellowship.org).

The second theme of best practices was evident in multiple plenary sessions offering guidance for financial transparency, church planting, and sending missionaries. Compassion ministries that often complement missions work will also benefit from learning best practices, but what are we doing and how are we documenting and reporting? The Commission provided a 90-minute workshop presented by Rev. Dr. Virginia Contreras and Rev. Dr. Sandie Morgan that provided a strategic framework for leaders to build resilient communi-



# Commission on Sexual Exploitation, Slavery, and Trafficking continued

ties and combat sexual exploitation and slavery. The Commission also launched a survey to better evaluate our knowledge and learn about our ministry practices in serving human trafficking victims. Ghana's past Superintendent, Rev. Paul Frimpong-Manso closed our second day with a prophetic call to smart and strategic action! Patricia Herrera, a member of the Congress planning committee, won everyone's respect and love as she translated and encouraged participation. Commission member, Rev. Carla Marroquin hosted an exhibit table and our CSEST Research



Patricia Herrera and Paul Frimpong-Manso

student introduced our CSEST survey to Congress participants.

Finally, the World Missions Congress's focus on prayer was a significant theme in the CSEST workshop. According to a report by Ambassador John Richmond, a human trafficking survivor told him the only thing her traffickers *could not take away from her was the ability to pray*. One of the things she prayed was that people would do more than have distant compassion but would take *smart and strategic action*. We want to be the answer to her prayer. Our goal is to educate, equip, evaluate, and inspire our WAGF community.

Survivors are counting on us! The battle is on!



CSEST members: Carla Marroquin, Dominic Yeo, and Sandra Morgan

**CSEST members:** Arif Multi Ardania (Indonesia), JoAnn Butrin (International Ministries), Virginia and Gilbert Contreras (Argentina), Juan Carlos and Fiona Escobar (Spain), K K Deveraj (India), Paul Frimpong-Manso (Ghana), Beth and David Grant

(10 countries), Philip Kitoto (Kenya), Mary Mahon (ChildHope), Carla Marroquin (Nurture Hope), Sandra Morgan (Global Center for Women and Justice) (co-chair), Catherine Tolleson (Canada), Brad Walz (WAGF Missions), Dominic Yeo (Singapore) (co-chair)





# 2022 World Missions Congress Update— *Reflecting on a Historic Congress*

By Rev. Brad Walz, Missions Commission Chairman

**B**efore I reflect on the 6<sup>th</sup> World Missions Congress held in Medellin, Colombia, we are working hard on the first-ever “Senders Summit” for May of 2023 in Minnesota, United States. Please make sure your missions director will represent your country there. If he is unable to attend, please come yourself so that someone would represent your country!

The World Missions Congress is not only “history,” but also a historical event! It was the first large WAGF event since the onset of COVID-19. Despite restrictions in some countries, there were 1,410 delegates from 57 nations! We considered it a “miracle” during the challenges of this time.

Below are two links where you can view a summary of the missions congress and testimonies as well as videos of the plenary sessions and workshops.

- Summary and testimonies:  
<https://sway.office.com/mhtJ5nDCKiwczDvA>
- Videos of the plenary sessions and workshops:  
<https://colombia2022.com>

The 6<sup>th</sup> World Missions Congress was an incredible moment in time, not only because of the fiery praise and worship under the Latin American influence but because of the fire of the Word coming from each speaker.

These short extracts will not do it justice, but allow me to share a few nuggets:

- “Missions is not the size of the church, but the size of impact; partner with other nations to accomplish missions.” Rev. Dominic Yeo, Singapore
- “We get consumed with the masses and forget the power of one!” Dr. Billy Wilson, ORU
- “We need to respond with a ‘supreme commitment’ in fulfilling the great call.” David Mohan, India

We also want to share some testimonies of the impact of the ministry times.

- “First of all, I thank God for allowing me to attend the Congress in Colombia! The spiritual atmosphere was really high. One could feel the moving of the Holy Spirit at each session. The focus was very direct, not allowing any division of thought. The fellowship among the participants was alive. We were all brothers and sisters in the Lord. In each free time, we were taking pictures without ceasing. The mission challenge was very high to motivate more once back home. We just praise God for the Congress! Thanks to the organisers, and may God refresh them for His glory!” Timothee Balbone, Burkina Faso
- “The conference was well organized. The vision and mission



# 2022 World Missions Congress Update *continued*

of the World Missions Congress was very crisp and clear for all those who attended. I personally felt that the devotion and plenary sessions were well prepared, planned, and presented by each speaker. It was truly a blessing to be part of this conference and fellowship with one another.” David Mohan, Acting Chair, WAGF

- “The Missions Congress in Medellin was very impactful with a great and mighty move of God. We had great men of God with fiery experience and anointing imparted into our lives. As a participant, I was very much blessed. I received teachings and best practices of missions in the Assemblies of God. I am on fire to send the gospel to the Unreached People Groups. As Dominic Yeo challenged us, ‘God can do exceedingly more than we ever think but God is limited by the condition of our heart.’ If only we can open our heart...we will ‘speed his coming,’ as the theme of the congress declared.” Anthony Doeh, Missions Director, Ghana
- “This was my first World Missions Congress since becoming mission director for AOG Great Britain. I was so inspired by the other mission directors and their stories of becoming sending nations. The content was excellent and there was a good balance of information, inspiration, and impartation. Thank you, Colombia, for hosting it so well.” Kirk McAtear, Birmingham, UK





# 2023 World Congress— 9th World AG Congress: Shine! Called to Influence

By Rev. Juan Carlos Escobar, World Congress Host and President, Spain Assemblies of God

**W**e are living in the most critical times globally since World War II. Nobody doubts the great instability we face on an economic level. There are threats of unknown degrees which are the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Notwithstanding these things, we know that the darkest moments in history can be the moment for the Church to rise up and be a prophetic voice of light to all nations (Isaiah 60:1-3).

When we think about the organization of our IX World Congress in Madrid 2023, the logical thought during these threatening times would be to reconsider celebrating our global event. It is even possible that some people might have suggested it. Nevertheless, with each day that passes we are sustained by the idea that after six years this is the best possible time for our World Fellowship to come together and take a stand by being light in the midst of so much darkness and despair.

Our motto, *Shine! Called to Influence*, is a call to act responsibly during the



world crises that we are experiencing. “Shine!” is not a choice but a call to obey Jesus’ command to be “Light.” We need to

seek the Holy Spirit’s direction and be intentional in carrying out the mission and seek a new awakening that will lead us to gather the *biggest harvest in history*.

We believe this Congress in Madrid will be strategic for the following reasons:

- It is a call to all leaders and workers of the Assemblies of God who are committed to the call of God to fulfill the mission. This leader’s gathering will cause a great spiritual impact which will initiate a new period in the history of the WAGF.
- Global MM33, which is agreed to by all national movements of the WAGF family, will be launched and is a prophetic act that will challenge us to be intentional in reaching our goal of one million churches by 2033.
- The leaders of the next generations are being summoned to celebrate together their first Next Gen World Congress which will take place within the Congress’ program in



# 2023 World Congress *continued*

Madrid. We believe this will be a transcendent moment as it unites the next generations with a shared vision to face future challenges with hope.

- We will be challenged to identify the keys that will allow us to strengthen our essence as the Assemblies of God and at the same time prepare us for the renewal that the present XXI century demands of us.
- We will experience a wonderful time in the Presence of God within the time of praise and worship, intercession, receiving the Word of God, and in fraternal communion. We will seek in Agreement a visitation of the Holy Spirit to revitalize our lives and ministries, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and experience the manifestation of miracles.



- The World Congress in Madrid will be a Jesus Celebration where your faith will be rewarded and where you will be part of a one-of-a-kind moment in history.

We would like to remind you that registration is now open. Sign up ahead

of time at our IX WAGC Shine! Website: <https://shineworldcongress2023.com/>. You will be able to find all the information needed to register and view other services offered. Our registration team is at your service to guide you through the process.

We hope to see you in Madrid. We know of the faith and effort required for you to participate but we believe that God will support your decision to be with us in Spain.

*Welcome to Madrid!*