

# ***WAGF*** CONNECTION

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**Dominic Yeo**  
*Chairman*

1445 North Boonville Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802-1894  
Phone: (417) 862-2781  
Chairman@WorldAGFellowship.org  
WorldAGFellowship.org

**Doug Clay**  
*Vice President*

**Juan Carlos Escobar**  
*Secretary*

Rey Calusay  
Ricardo Castillo  
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## Introductory Article

By Rev. Dominic Yeo, Chairman  
World Assemblies of God Fellowship  
General Superintendent, Singapore  
Assemblies of God



## BRACE FOR KINGDOM IMPACT

"Powerful Earthquake Hits Japan, Causing Tsunami" and "89 people killed and 284 others injured in a double bombing in Iran" were among the headlines that dominated newspapers across the world as we turned into 2024. and so forth. The wars between Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Gaza continue to wage on. The cost of living continues to escalate around the world.

Amidst the perils and challenges of the world, even more, the Church needs to be a beacon of light, shining the Message of Hope that we have in Christ.

In John Chapter 4, Jesus "had to pass through Samaria" even though it was a route Jews would shun to avoid defilement. He traveled in the scorching heat of the day to be at the well by noon where he would meet with the Samaritan woman. He initiated the conversation with her despite it being a cultural taboo at that time. Jesus braced for circumstances in His mission to minister and save the woman and her town.

This year, let us BRACE for Kingdom Impact. What does it mean to brace? Two key definitions of "brace" are (1) to make a structure stronger or firmer with wood, iron, or other forms of support; and (2) to prepare yourself physically or mentally for something difficult.

In John 4:34, Jesus says "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work." The key words in this verse to bring to attention – are "food" and "finish."

Food represents appetite, impetus, and sustenance. What is our sustenance? What are we hungry for? What is our impetus for living and serving? For Jesus, it was

"to do the will" and "to finish" the work of the Father. Are we consumed for Kingdom Expansion and healthy churches? Are you gripped by a desire for the salvation of the multitudes and the multiplication of leaders?

To "finish" is to bring to an end. To accomplish. It's important to recognize that Kingdom Mission is to be finished. Many today start well but lack the stamina and anointing to end well.

Just as God sent Jesus, God is also sending us to be people of Kingdom Impact. Today, I declare upon us as the Assemblies of God – that we will have the anointing to finish – anointing to have tenacity and strength to complete the task given to us – to reap the harvest and plant one million churches by 2033!

## Brace for the Harvest

How should we prepare for the harvest? We need to recognize the harvest is ripe now! Jesus reminds us in John 4:35 "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." Today is the day of opportunity. When you are unable to see the opportunity, you will not be able to seize the moment of opportunity.

May we not say "There are many more years to 2033" to fulfill the MM33 mandate. But may we, as the Assemblies of God, hear the charge and open our eyes to see in the supernatural. To see the divine doors opened before us. To see the harvest ready for reaping and not lose the harvest.

We need to brace for the harvest by seeing it with faith.

## Introductory Article *cont.*

**By Rev. Dominic Yeo, Chairman**  
*World Assemblies of God Fellowship*  
*General Superintendent, Singapore*  
*Assemblies of God*

We need to brace for the harvest by seeing it with faith. We need to operate in the supernatural and not in the natural. The natural will tell you, your church needs to have all your internal processes and problems fixed. Jesus didn't wait for the culture of the day to be fixed before approaching the woman at the well. Jesus didn't wait for generations to pass – He desires every generation to be reached!

I love how a church can be meeting under a tree and people getting saved right there. We don't need to wait for the completion of facilities before we impact lives. Let your confession determine the spiritual engagement of your nation. Refuse to say, "Four more months." Instead, may God "open your eyes" to see the fields ripe for harvest.

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## Brace for the Trajectory of Heaven

God sets us on His path. Just as Jesus had to pass through Samaria to initiate the conversation with the Samaritan woman, God has paths for us as the Assemblies of God. He's setting us on seven movements as we adopt MM33. Movements of Healthy Churches, Discipleship, Prayer, Evangelism, Next Generation, Signs and Wonders, and Church Planting.

I want to challenge every Assemblies of God church and leader to step into the trajectory of Heaven. Let's brace ourselves to partner with God to see the powerful moves of God and the greatest revival in our time. It's not going to be a smooth journey, but it's going to be a great journey!

Join us for times of prayer as we pray for God's atmosphere to invade our world. Engage in prayer as you receive the new monthly podcast and quarterly newsletter from WAGF.

This year's Global Concert of Prayer will be held on **Mon-Wed, September 16-18**. Let's come together as the World Assemblies of God Fellowship to pray for the nations of the world. For 50 continuous hours, saturate the world with prayer, so that His kingdom will come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. So, mark those dates, and let's brace for Kingdom Impact!



## Vice Chair Article

By Rev. Doug Clay, Vice Chair,  
World Assemblies of God Fellowship  
General Superintendent, Assemblies  
of God USA



## CULTIVATE THE DREAM!

### Giving your best energies to the Kingdom

A dream is a picture of a preferred future. When people realize their dreams, we often benefit from them. The appropriate response is gratitude.

Above my head is a bright electric light.  
Thanks, Thomas Edison!  
On my nose are eyeglasses that enable me to focus.  
Thanks, Benjamin Franklin!  
In my garage is a car ready to take me wherever I  
want to go. Thanks, Henry Ford!

Dreams come with a time limit because human dreamers are mortal. Moses knew this, which is why he prayed, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

The brevity of our lives leads us to ask searching questions: What dream am I giving my best energies to? And how will others benefit when that dream is realized?

For Christians — especially Christian ministers — the biggest dream is God's. Second Peter 3:9 states it this way: God is "patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but **everyone to come to repentance.**"

God plants this dream in us as a seed of possibility. To cultivate it, we need to keep in mind three things.

## The Church

First, the Church is the primary agency God uses to advance His kingdom. Wherever the gospel goes, God calls people together into Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered communities of faith. Jesus promised His disciples, "***I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it***" (Matthew 16:18).

When demographic reports suggest the Church is in decline, it's easy to slide into pessimism. Granted, churches may experience setbacks or even seasons of spiritual purification, but those experiences don't nullify Christ's promise. The Lord **will** build His Church!

As Christians lean into that promise, church multiplication becomes a priority, and church revitalization gets immediate attention. Because the Church is God's dream and Christ's building project, its potential for growth is always greater than the threat of decline.

Furthermore, the Church has the power to change culture. At various points, Christians have withdrawn from culture, looked down on it, and even gone along with it. The goal should be transforming it, however.

Winning arguments is not the Church's mission. Jesus wants to win **people**. Consequently, we should engage nonbelievers with "gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). And when we differ with fellow believers, we should follow Matthew 18 principles. We damage our testimony when we mirror worldly practices in dealing with controversial issues.

Finally, the Church's potential to finish the Great Commission is doable! The World Assemblies of God Fellowship is the fourth-largest Christian denomination globally, with over 85 million adherents and nearly



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450,000 churches. By 2033 — the 2,000th anniversary of the Spirit's outpouring on the Day of Pentecost — our goal is to have 1 million churches doing "the greatest work of evangelism the world has ever seen." In light of all this, let's not overcomplicate missions. Christ died for everyone. He is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," as John the Baptist stated (John 1:29). We need to tell everyone this good news.

There is an urgency to our task because life is short and eternity is real. Heaven and hell are real. We must be compassionate in the face of immediate human need, of course. But a church that ignores eternal outcomes is a defective one.

We must reach people for Jesus.

## Good Theology

A second thing to keep in mind as we cultivate God's dream is that good theology is vital for building healthy churches and leaders.

Sometimes, pastors neglect theological studies because of the crush from ministry responsibilities. They focus on spiritual leadership and practical Christian living instead, as if those things are competitors to theology rather than teammates.

But as C.S. Lewis warned in *Mere Christianity*, "If you do not listen to Theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you have a lot of wrong ones — bad, muddled, out-of-date ideas."

Bad ideas lead to bad practices. We can see the results

of an increasingly post-Christian worldview in many of our institutions. Consider the decline of the family, the secularization of education, the polarization of politics, and the growth of skepticism and irreligion.

If we're going to reverse these negative trends, we need to preach theologically.

Theology is a building block in the development of a biblical worldview. It teaches us who God is and reveals the idols we often substitute for Him.

What's more, theology shows us who we are, providing an identity free of unrealistic expectations from ourselves and others.

Theology defines who our neighbor is, influencing how we treat people both inside and outside the Church. And in light of Scripture, it shows what God is doing, thereby shaping our priorities.

Good theology is both truthful and practical. It's also based on divine revelation rather than personal feelings.

We can't just *feel* our way toward God. He must show us the way. That doesn't mean spiritual longings and experiences are unimportant, however.

Experience has always been and should continue to be a part of Pentecostalism. The gospel demands a change of heart and response of the will, after all. But Pentecostalism's founders never wanted to build a movement based on experience. They wanted experience to be guided by truth.

## Vice Chair Article *cont.*

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Indeed, doctrinal stability was one of the four main reasons for the AG's founding. (The others were legal standing, coordinated missions efforts, and ministerial training.)

Having said that, theology is not just a grab bag of random facts about God. Yes, the Bible is inspired and inerrant. It tells us truths about God. But those truths aren't random; they're interconnected. They are also experientially confirmable. I've seen and experienced confirmation of Scripture too many times to doubt it.

Finally, theology is more than just *what* we believe or *why* we believe it. It also touches on *how* we live. Do we really believe the truth if we don't act like it's true? Of course not!

Richard Krejcir reminds us of the importance of integrating our thinking and acting:

Our strength is shown in the things we stand for; our weakness is shown in the things we fall for. People of genius are admired; people of wealth are envied; people of power are feared; but only people of character are trusted.

## God's Power

There's one more thing to keep in mind. It comes from Ephesians 3:20, where Paul said God is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

Of course, there are times when we grow tired. We work hard and see few results. We pray diligently but feel our prayers remain unanswered.

When that happens, our tendency is to dial back our efforts and qualify our prayers to avoid disappointment. We begin *downsizing* the dream. For lack of a better term, we *settle*.

If that's you, let me encourage you with this: God knows your situation. He appreciates your effort. He feels your disappointment.

All God asks is that you faithfully cultivate the dream He has planted within you. It is God who makes things grow (1 Corinthians 3:6). In God's time, He will make more of your faithfulness than you can possibly imagine — by His power.

So keep on cultivating His dream!

## Secretary Article

By Rev. Juan Carlos Escobar,  
Secretary, World Assemblies of  
God Fellowship  
General Superintendent, Spain  
Assemblies of God



## MAY WE BE ONE

The reason for our Assemblies of God to exist in the world is to fulfill the Great Commission. To achieve this, for more than one hundred years, we have seen tremendous growth in the field of missions, in the planting of churches, in the training of workers, in media, in infrastructure, and in the development of technologies that have contributed to making our work in the world more agile and effective. However, as we have grown, there is a challenge that is becoming more and more complex: our unity.

Unity is a miracle that is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit since, despite our diversity and tremendous differences, the work of the Cross causes a meeting point that results in the edification of the Church. But, at the same time, unity is a responsibility that we must pursue as a priority and with the utmost intentionality since, otherwise, our natural tendency will lead us to dispersion as a consequence of our individualistic and self-sufficient tendency. The history of the Church has shown that on too many occasions the growth of the work causes a feeling of success that we must correct so as not to forget that we cannot win the world from the individuality of our ministries or national movements.

In the so-called priestly prayer found in John 17, Jesus prayed to the Father for those of us who would believe. In this prayer, Jesus does not take unity for granted but rather feels the need to intercede for us to be One so that His Glory may remain in our lives and, at the same time, so that the world may believe. "May they all be one; as you, O Father, are in me, and I in you, may they also be one in us; so that the world may believe that you sent me. The glory that you gave me, I have given them, so that they may be one, just as we are one." (Jn 17:21-22)

Without a doubt, the prayer of Jesus is a spiritual antidote to counteract the global threat that, sadly, also affects our ministries and churches. Today the world is experiencing a growing number of conflicts that put the future of humanity at risk. The breakdown of relationships is the order of the day and the progress we experience, mainly in the area of communications, is not serving to make unity between people more effective. Sadly, we are on the path to family and social disintegration as a result of humanity's own tendency to live dispersed, led astray by one main cause: his independence from God.

The Assemblies of God was born from Unity and our future can only be guaranteed if we are intentional in making Jesus' prayer our own: that we may be ONE so that His Glory may be manifested in each nation and the world may believe. In order to achieve this unavoidable and indispensable challenge for the life of the Church, from the WAGF we are being encouraged to embrace the MM33 Vision which, precisely, requires us to be One if we want to reach the goal of seeing the million churches planted that we all wish. It may be an ambitious goal, but the reality is that this goal is insufficient to reach the millions who still do not know Jesus. However, what I am sure of is that if the Church responds to Jesus' prayer that we may be one, our human goals will fall short of what the manifestation of the Glory of God can do to the Church and the world.

Let us be intentional and work for the harmony that makes it possible for our global movement to become, more and more, a great orchestra composed of an enormous diversity of instruments that, directed by the Holy Spirit, provoke what we most long for, that His Presence manifests every time we come together to experience true revival. (Psalm 133:1; Matthew 18:19, 20)