

World Missions Connection

Missions Commission

World Assemblies of God Fellowship

The Acts One-Eight Project



Assemblies of God of Papua New Guinea Interviews

Joe Pandu, General Superintendent

John Apami, Administrator

Paul Huaembukie, Missions Director

Tell us about the work here in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Joe: The Assemblies of God is the biggest Pentecostal movement here in our country and was started by Australian missionaries in 1948. We are over 50 years old. We are in 22 provinces within five regions, and we have almost 1000 churches, if not more. We have the Highlands Region (middle, mountainous part), the Southern Region (which is closer to Australia), the Islands Region (made up of our different Islands), the Momase Region, and the Papua Region. For those who aren't familiar with our country, it is just to the north of Australia. We have about 300,000 believers in the country, and 30 percent of the population is considered born-again.

Tell us one or two things that make your country unique and special.

John: An interesting fact for most people about Papua New Guinea is that we have 800-plus languages. (Interviewer's comment: India also has 800 languages, but among 1 billion people and a much larger landmass, rather than the 7 million of PNG in its smaller, tropical area.)

Paul: It's also interesting to me that our movement began in 1948, the same year Israel became independent as a nation.

Joe: PNG is also unique because, though we have so many diverse cultures, we also have been able to achieve unity and walking together. There is great understanding, and I believe it is Christianity that has brought us to be unique together.

From your perspective, tell us about the impact of this first World Missions Congress.

Paul: This congress is important because we haven't done much missions up to now. The timing is right, and we believe that from this congress we will do more for missions.

John: This helps us to not only debate things that have not been done in the last 20 years, but more importantly, help us to move forward. Brad's coming here for our congress was especially important



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Alun Davies

Pita Cili

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DeLonn Rance

Assemblies of God of Papua New Guinea Interviews *(Continued)*

because it wasn't an event originally on our church calendar. We organized it because Brad was coming, and we viewed his coming as being used by God to revive our missions program. Congress was especially important because it wasn't an event originally on our church calendar.

What are some things God has spoken to you during this congress?

John: Tony Dalaka's message reaffirmed our need to reach out not only to Muslims but also to Jews.

Paul: We received the word of God from Day 1; it's like a continuation of and accompaniment to each theme. Everyone is coming together to build a house—the house of missions for the Assemblies of God of PNG. You have the foundation, walls, floors, and roof; it's all coming together in this congress. Each speaker and theme has complemented and built on the previous one.

Joe: There are so many good things from these few days showing us how to begin and move forward. It has put many things in perspective and stretched us; it has opened up our mind-set. It is uniting and advancing us missions.

What are some things you would like to do and see happen in the next year?

Paul: In the next year I would like to see all the regions be mobilized and the missions program going and functioning. After that we need to start to train future missionaries so that all the young people who feel a call, we can train them and send them out.

Joe: In the next year we need to establish our policies and put our missions structures in place. As well we want to promote it in our regions and set up regional coordinators. Then the national coordinator can work with regional coordinators to see that in ten years we have many missionaries in the field.

What accomplishments would you like to see ten years from now?

Paul: Through this conference God is preparing the national church to see the importance of missions in this nation. We are praying and believing that many missionaries will be sent out from here to the world. In my future as missions director, I would like to see Brad Walz, Kevin Hovey, Dale Fagerland, and Tony Dalaka return, as well as some others. Our desire is for the motivating, training, and equipping for missions to result in many willing to go as missionaries to the world.

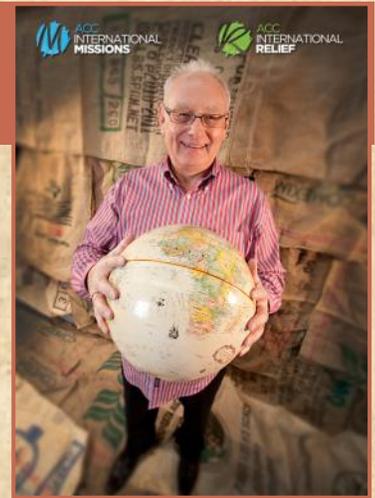


Papua New Guinea

Interview With Alun Davies, Missions Director Australian Christian Church International (ACCI) Missions

ACC International Missions has had tremendous growth in the past few decades that has been noticed around the world. Tell us from your perspective some of the keys to that growth as well as some of the fruit and joy of it.

We deliberately made changes to our leadership. We changed the governance of our churches and established a strong emphasis on church growth and church planting by initiating a national strategy to target areas without churches. We are now engaged in new and innovative emphasis on youth and youth leadership as well, releasing young ministers to head up our national and state youth ministries. The charismatic renewal has also helped us change our worship style, and we have begun to emphasize worship in our churches.



You have been the missions director since 2009. Tell us about the growth in the missions vision and program in these last few years.

It started with clarifying our missions vision. We wanted to be sure that vision was directing our programs and not the other way around. We have restructured our operations center several times in the last five years, with an emphasis on focusing and clarifying our vision for the Australian operations as well as our overseas missions and relief programs. When those systems and processes become a barrier to sending missionaries, you know it is time to clean house. We kept consolidating, streamlining, and simplifying our process so the majority of our efforts could once again be focused on sending and supporting missionaries and their activities.

How many missionaries do you have?

We have several alternatives for sending missionaries out, with varying levels of connection and support available. We have partnered with men and women engaged in innovative ways to fund and participate in overseas missions work. Barriers are being overcome, and they are seeing some tremendous results. Our missions organization needed to ensure our flexibility to work alongside and continue supporting them. We are currently connected to 173 workers engaged in overseas missions. We had 122 in June 2009, and that number had dropped to 101 by December 2010—they were leaving the field without replacements. Our current goal is 300.



Australia

How supportive are the national executives in your movement toward missions vision and practice?

The support of the national executives has been invaluable throughout this process. Not all the changes made in the last five years have been popular, but the need for change was understood, and they have supported us every step of the way. Consequently, it was decided that no other missions agency be allowed to sponsor the biannual national conference, in order to profile our mission and missionaries. Many of our missionaries return for the national conference and get a boost of encouragement from their movement. They promote us in national publications, provide financial support, and are personally involved with us.

Interview With Alun Davies *(Continued)*

Tell us about ACC International Relief (ACCI Relief) and its response to emergency disasters.

ACCI Relief is our aid-and-development arm for community development, child development, and disaster relief. Charity and tax regulations in Australia are quite different from other parts of the world. To comply we are required to show a definite separation between religious and aid-and-development funding. As a result, ACCI Relief operates separately from ACCI Missions which has led to some challenges. By becoming more professional in our approach to community development, there were misconceptions that ACCI Relief was engaged simply in social or secular works.

In response, we spent 18 months developing our “Biblical Basis for Missions and Development Statement.” First, we wanted to assure ourselves that we were not drifting from our core—missions. Second, we agreed on a strong anchor point to ensure that those who come after us will stay true to the core as well.



Without compromising our clear biblical foundations in any way, we believe the church has a crucial role to play in reconciling the social divides that lead to human rights violations and in doing so defend the rights of the marginalized members of a given community. To this purpose, we believe in partnering with and building the capacity of local churches in Australia and the nations where we work, to engage in equality and justice. (See <http://www.accim.org.au/oneworldresources/BiblicalBasisforMissionsandDevelopment.pdf>.)

We believe human poverty is holistic and therefore requires a holistic response. The core activities of ACCI Relief are **community development**, addressing the issues of poverty and injustice and offering projects that bring change to entire communities; **child-focused development**, supporting vulnerable children by strengthening the communities in which they live; and **disaster relief**, providing immediate support in the wake of natural disasters in Australia and abroad.; this support encompasses the basic needs of people in disasters such as earthquakes, famines, or floods.

ACCI Relief Annual Report for 2013: <https://www.acci.org.au/resources/ACCI-AnnualReport2013Lores.pdf>.

What do you consider some of the current strengths of ACCI's missions endeavor?

We have developed a strong team spirit with missionaries by emphasizing that we are one team, not independent missionaries. We foster cooperation and mutual support. Our ethical mission approach is contemporary and innovative.

Two Hands of Missions

For our success in missions to continue to grow, we need a combination of two essential features. In addition to the pure mission of preaching and church planting, we must also have a strong compassionate ministry. Touching was the other half of the life and ministry of Jesus. We often focus on His miracles but neglect to focus on His compassion. It's compassion we see in the stories of the Good Samaritan, the beggar at the gate,

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Interview With Alun Davies *(Continued)*

Lazarus, and the feeding of the multitudes. We must make sure as we plant churches and see souls born into the Kingdom that we are not ignoring or failing to care about the humanitarian needs of people. We seek to do more than just bring them to Christ—we endeavor to bring holistic change to lives. This gives us the “Two Hands of Missions.” We must never reduce it to one thing, because it’s actually many. There is a spectrum to missions, and we need to be working across the breadth of it. Preaching, teaching and church planting is fundamental to us, and we never want to move away from that. However, there’s also the relief side—providing care for the widowed, orphaned, and oppressed.

Kinnected—Keeping Children in Families

Kinnected is an ACCI Relief program that has been operational for two years and currently partners with ten projects across eight countries. It’s main initiative is to assist field workers and strategic partner organizations to transition from institutional models of child protection and welfare to models that preserve the family and provide alternative family-based care. Kinnected has teamed with 31 residential care facilities to deinstitutionalize children and reunify them with their families of origin. In some cases, however, family-based alternatives are needed for children who cannot return to their biological families.

Six projects have already successfully reintegrated children back into families. Several others have had amazing opportunities to work alongside their governments to develop national alternative care policies, pilot foster care programs, provide training to government officials and child-protection officers in family-based alternative care and participate in government-led reintegration task forces. We have also seen new family-preservation services developed in two countries to provide support to families in crisis and prevent family separation and abandonment.

Kinnected continues to grow and gain momentum. New partnerships and opportunities for collaboration are emerging as we seek to work with both the Australian Christian Church movement and the broader child protection sector to see children actualize their right to grow and develop in a strong, loving family.

RAISE—Child-Focused Development

Over the last 15 years we have seen tremendous changes in the communities we have been assisting as well as individual transformations among all ages. Our community development projects address broad issues that affect whole communities, such as limited access to water, inadequate educational opportunities and failing health-care systems. These issues often affect children the most, which is evidenced by child mortality, malnutrition, and school dropout rates. These problems are best tackled in the community to benefit the most children, rather than addressing the needs of a isolated group of children in the community. During 2013 we shifted the focus of our child sponsorship program away from singling out an individual child and refocused on the community in which all these children live. We relaunched our children’s program under the banner of RAISE, because it takes a village to raise a child. We have always engaged in child-focused development, and by partnering with communities, we are achieving a much broader and sustainable impact.



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Interview With Alun Davies *(Continued)*

What are some of the challenges, goals, and visions you have for the next ten years?

To reach our goal of 300 missionaries, continue supporting and engaging churches toward a missions focus, and intensify the education of our churches about the global shift in child welfare and protection and lead them away from the institutional model, due to:

- * Harm associated with institutionalization.
- * Attachment disorders and delayed cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- * High rates of abuse.
- * Difficulties in adulthood.
- * Denial of basic child and parental rights.



It is well-documented that the faith-based community is heavily involved in child welfare services and the overseeing of institutions. We have many national child welfare systems in places where our missionaries serve, legislating their commitment to shift away from institutionalized services toward family and community services. If our missions organizations and churches remain unwilling to adjust, they become exposed to potential legal and reputational risk, which could result in orphanages being closed and operational licenses revoked. However, there is some good news in all this. Through Kinected we are joining with missionaries, organizations, and orphanages to address family-based issues within the community by scaling down residential care and institutionalizing. Ministry efforts are being tackled within communities, which is achieving tremendous outcomes for the children involved.

Aging Missionary Population and Succession Planning

While we have turned things around in the short-to-medium term, we are now concentrating on our aging missionary population. These faithful laborers have established some key centers of influence overseas. Over the next ten years, a number of these centers will undergo a generational change. The role of the next generation of missionaries in these locations will look different to the current generation, and the role of national staff and leaders will increase. Effectively navigating this generational change will be essential to ensuring that these ministry locations remain centers of influence long into the future.

Changing World—Charity Sector and Regulation

The charity sector in Australia has been undergoing enormous change in the past five years. Currently they face a high level of uncertainty about regulatory changes the government is making. Faith-based organizations are being called upon to rise to a new level of excellence in areas of organizational governance and transparency. Navigating change and uncertainty is sure to be an ongoing process for us.

Any other comments you would like to make?

We are currently confronting issues with other “family” members who are engaging in missions practices that are outdated, dangerous, and morally questionable. The impact of those issues will be heavily felt by all of us in the not-too-distant future and will complicate our relationship with the “hover ants” and national church.

Misiones En Conjunto (MEC)—Latin Missions Consultation Santiago, Chile

The theme of the 14th Annual MEC in Santiago, Chile—“Adjusting Our Structures”—was both timely and prophetic. God impressed “adjusting our structures to respond to the move of the Holy Spirit” on Brad’s heart last year, and he presented it to the superintendents in October 2013. The response was so strong that it was chosen as the focus for this event, with 90 leaders from 21 countries in attendance. It was a wonderful time of sharing vision, ideas, and strategies.

Latin America’s missions vision continues to grow, and the statistics shared by all continue to reflect it. Yet many of the countries have new leaders, which presents both great opportunity and great challenge. With new leaders in 15 of 18 countries over the last three years, many things shared in the past must be shared again. Also, the structures that have emerged in some countries have not had the flexibility needed to respond to the call of God upon many young people. Therefore, the theme God put on Brad’s heart was perfectly on target.



Misiones En Conjunto group

“It is with great joy that I take the privilege to express my deepest appreciation to the Misiones En Conjunto for the invitation to the conference. Arriving in Chile was a bit of a culture shock, coming from an English-speaking country, but that soon gave way to the warmth of the brethren. The worship was fantastic; the teaching, testimonies, and enriched preaching has given me greater impetus to continue to do my part to ensure that all the people groups hear the gospel.

Just focusing on the basis for the theme—adjusting structures to enable missionaries to more effectively carry out the Great Commission—was enlightening and inspiring. We were able to hear from people who were similar in experience to us, which encouraged us that we can do it as well.

Recently I was looking at the theme of Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies (PAWI) Missions Conference from 2007, where we began looking at our structures. I believe that God is speaking to us, and we will revisit this theme and take the opportunity to use it in our 2015 Missions Conference. This will encourage us to look more closely and dispassionately at our structures and make changes necessary to improve our serve to the missionaries on the field as well as encouraging those who are desirous of going.”

Ricardo Joseph
Missions Department, Trinidad and Tobago

“I thank God for the opportunity to attend the Latin Missions Consultation in Chile, where we were challenged to make adjustments in our structures. After listening to the various presentations and being ministered to by the Holy Spirit, I was sure that if we do not make adjustments in Dominican Republic, we will continue to make missionary efforts less and less successful.”

Aricela Morel, president
Missions Department, Dominican Republic
Latin American Missions Consultation

Misiones En Conjunto (MEC)—Testimonies Santiago, Chile

“I wanted to thank God first, then you and the MEC committee, for giving me the opportunity to attend the Latin Missions Consultation in Santiago, Chile. It was a refreshing experience, and at the same time challenging—getting to know the heart of the speakers and the various points of view related to the theme of seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to the organizational structure of the missions department in each country.

I want to point out that each message met our expectations and opened our eyes to see the importance of dedicating to the missionary work to fulfill the great task of reaching the lost for Christ.”

Jeremias Bolanos, president and superintendent
Assemblies of God of El Salvador

“Many blessings to you and the MEC Committee. I thank God for your lives and work. I always look forward with a deep desire to participate in the MEC activities. The meeting in Chile was very pleasant and blessed. God blessed us extensively, and the way the commission treated us was excellent, as was the communion among the participants and the experiences shared. God bless, and we will see each other in the next activity.”

Nersido Borg Cedeño, superintendent
Assemblies of God of Dominican Republic

“Dear brothers in Christ, many blessings and greetings from Bolivia. We are very grateful to God for the opportunity we had in attending the Latin Missions Consultation in Chile. It really is very inspirational to be able to share and fraternize with national leaders from different countries, and in particular to receive well-motivated lessons. We are always learning from what is happening in other countries regarding missions. Thanks to MEC and all the organizers. Keep up the work.”

Rodrigo Ascarrunz, director
National Missions Department, Bolivia

“For me the consultation in Chile was very guiding and motivating. I felt defied to meet the challenges that as missions in Nicaragua have to send missionaries to other nations. I was challenged by each of the conferences exposed. The word of God on missions impacted my life greatly. Thank you very much, MEC.”

Pedro Pablo Rojas Corea, president
Missions Department, Nicaragua

“It was a good time to renew the missionary vision. All topics were very relevant, but I felt we should have had a longer discussion. Since it was a consultation, perhaps we should have had a moderator to guide us in the end to make our final statement. I think that was not enough. Besides that, the preaching of Sister Koyip were very inspiring and full of anointing, and it was tremendous refreshment to the spirit. I think it would be a good idea to find a place a bit far from the city. I hope I’m not being very critical, but the time in Santiago with all the leaders of Latin America was a tremendous blessing.

Job Vargas, sub-director
National Missions Department, Bolivia

Misiones En Conjunto (MEC)

Department of National Missions (DNM) Training for Leaders, Argentina

After the consultation we had 11 leaders from six countries "hop the Andes mountains" and come to Buenos Aires for a time in our offices to learn from the growth of the missions department in Argentina. It was a productive two days of sharing from the vision and experience of 25 years in Argentina. Each of our staff participated in the time of teaching. Each of the following blocs was led by a different person

- Vision and history: how the DNM became the largest missions department in Latin America.
- Administration and how the office works.
- Future potential missionary network and how it functions.
- How the national promotions network functions.
- Intercession ministry.
- Focus on children: Spreading the vision to children through "Little Hands for Missions."
- How training works for future missionaries.



"Produced in me a clear focus on how we should be organized and structured to enforce the operation of the mission agency in Nicaragua. I learned how to present motivated reports, reach the hearts of those who need to be convinced of the urgent need to send missionaries, and how to promote their support outside our country. Thanks, MEC, for what was done in Argentina to our favor."

Pedro Pablo Rojas Corea, president
Missions Department, Nicaragua

"I left the consultation with a lot of ideas in mind and not knowing where to start. Thanks to the leadership of Argentina for enabling us to participate in leadership training. There I was able to organize different stages of a process, which together with the constant work of a committed team, will lead us to maturity."

Aricela Morel, president
Missions Department, Dominican Republic

"Argentina brought together directors and committees from different countries, eager to learn from others who have already walked some miles in this great task. Normally some Christian events generate a large volume of information that, while important, are not enough to transcend the practical. Our brothers in the NMD transmitted their experience, heart, difficulties, and achievements; basically, they kept nothing with them, with the idea of being clear and realistic about what it means to raise a national missions organization. Thanks to our Argentine brothers for giving many practical blessings. Already, at least in the case of Colombia, we were able to start administering in order to grow to the point that God desires."

Isaí Avendaño
Dirección Nacional de Misiones (DINAMIS), Colombia

"In Argentina we joined with some of the missions leadership who attended MEC for further training. We had different leaders who shared with us on "Administration and Resources," "Potential Missionary Groups," "Missionary Intercession Groups," and other topics. I leave this conference chock-full of information, knowledge, and the patience to implement it. I believe that PAWI will be better for it as we delve deeper into praying, giving, sending, and going. Thanks apostle Brad Walz and the MEC team for allowing us to see that it is a "possible mission."

Ricardo Joseph
Missions Department, Trinidad and Tobago

Events Calendar

Southern Asia Missions Consultation

October 7–9, 2014

Pentecostal European Missions Congress

Warsaw, Poland

November 19–22, 2014

WAGF 4th World Missions Congress

Bangkok, Thailand

February 4–6, 2015

Africa WMC Missions Consultation

Brackenhurst, Kenya

April 8–9, 2015

San José 2015

*A consultation on the national church and
unreached peoples*

San José, Costa Rica

April 13–17, 2015

Latin America Missions Leaders Summit

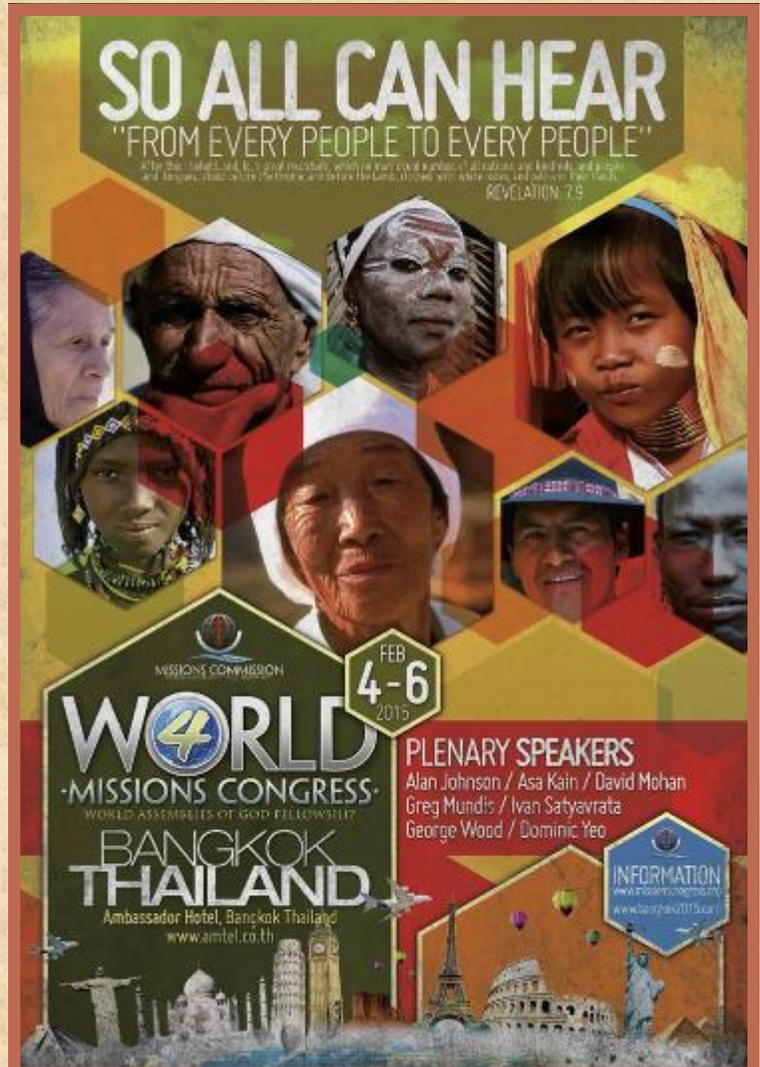
San José, Costa Rica

April 18–19, 2015

6° Latin American Missions Congress

Between March and April 2016

Lima, Perú (*possible site*)



The website for the World Missions Congress is bangkok2015.com. It will also also be translated into Spanish.

Check out the WAGF Missions tab and webpage:

<http://worldagfellowship.org/> and <http://worldagfellowship.org/missions/>