

# World Missions Connection

## Missions Commission

World Assemblies of God Fellowship

The Acts One-Eight Project



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## MISSIONS WAS AND IS A FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF THE WAGF

Greetings to you all in this new year of 2016!

In this new edition of the WAGF World Missions Connection, we have interviews or articles from the Philippines, Italy, Burkina Faso (and indirectly West Africa), and Greece (speaking about the European Refugee Crisis).

If you have news or inspiration on the advance of the missions vision in your country or region, please let us know to include them in a future Missions Connection.



As well, I'm including a trilogy of three articles that I wrote for the WAGF Connection. These articles were written for the June, Sept., and December editions. At the time of writing them, there was no thread proposed between them. However after reviewing the final December one, I realized in a sense they had been connected by the Holy Spirit. In a sense they form a "trilogy." Those three articles are here, but in reverse order. First of all, we reflect on how the WAGF was founded in a prayer meeting of a missions sending organization. (AGWM). It's a fascinating insight into how one of the key purposes of the WAGF's founding and vision were missions outreach and impact around the world.

Secondly, "Why did it take us so long?" reflects on why the recent growth in missions vision didn't take place sooner. Finally the last article should be the result of the first two: Missions begins with people! (Luke 10:2) We must pray for God to raise up and call the next generation of missionaries.

**And that next generation must truly reflect our world and be made up of Africans, Arabs, Asians, Europeans, and Latins. That will mean that many of them will become their country's FIRST GENERATION of missionary pioneers.**

So that trilogy begins on page seven and is continued through this edition. God bless you as you start **2016** and may it be a year that many dreams and visions that God has given you are fulfilled!

**Brad Walz, Chairman WAGF Missions Commission**

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David Mohan  
Liaison WAGF

# ITALY: Raising A New Generation of Missionaries

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

**From October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, the National Youth Rally of the Assemblies God in Italy was held in Fiuggi (FR), Italy.**

Thanks be to God for the precious moments that more than two thousand and four hundred young people enjoyed together at the presence of the Lord, during the various services and the Bible Study sessions under the large marquee, in Fiuggi (FR). The young people, coming from all regions of Italy, gathered there for the fortieth edition of National Youth Rally of the Assemblies God in Italy.

Of great interest and relevance was the topic chosen for the occasion: The Great Commission.

The congregation was highly blessed by the vivid exposition of the theme and many expressed their desire to urgently respond to the call of Jesus Christ: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching to obey everything I have commanded you' (Matthew 28:19,20).

The guest speaker during the evening services was brother DeLonn Rance, Co-Director of Studies at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri, USA. God mightily used His servant to speak directly to the heart of every young person.

The titles of the four vibrant sermons that brother DeLonn Rance announced were:

1. God is trustworthy
2. God is looking for you
3. Say 'yes' to God's calling
4. The harvest is plentiful

The Holy Spirit guided everything and made clear to all that the Pentecostal gospel message needs to be daily lived and faithfully announced. God granted a fresh anointing.

Many young people, who were waiting for the fulfilment of the Promise of the Father, were baptized in the Holy Spirit. The powerful message preached by brother DeLonn Rance, greatly encouraged many to serve the Lord and dedicate their life to spread the gospel, even in far distant countries.

Let's pray that all those who responded to the altar call and offered their lives for the mission field, will keep their vow and will be ready to go in the name of Jesus and preach the Gospel wherever the Lord will lead them.



# TESTIMONY FROM GREECE

## Refugees in Greece

«Many shall run to and fro...» Daniel 12: 4.

«Behold, the Lord will empty the earth... and scatter its inhabitants... the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish... for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant...» Isaiah 24:1–5.

Thousands of refugees from Syria and its surrounding countries left their homeland, abandoned their homes and fled for a better life in Europe. In their journey many were drowned in the sea. They came to the two hospital countries, Greece and Italy, with the purpose to continue for North Europe.

So, through sea and land, thousands of refugees came to Greece in their long journey...



## Greek believers drawing close to the refugees

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, fifty believers and young people from Greek Macedonia (Neapolis, Phillipi, Thessaloniki, Berea, Alexandria...) visited many refugees at the borders with the Yugoslavian Macedonia.

Our mission was triple: 1) To give food to the hungry. 2) To give water to the thirsty. 3) To welcome the stranger. (Matthew 25: 35).

We gave: 1) 2.600 bottles of water. 1.500 bags with various food suitable for the refugees. 2) Some believers who are physicians volunteered to offer medical support. 3) The rest of our young men and women cleaned the borders from litter.

It was a special blessing and a unifying experience for all believers. We went with prayer and tears, and we returned with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:5).

It was very touching to watch babies in their parents' arms walking for miles to take the train or the bus for the next country. All believers in Greece work to help refugees in Athens, Mytilene, Crete...

The Synod of Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Greece coordinated the mission.

We pray: 1) The Lord of Peace, our Lord, **to give peace in Syria** and its surrounding nations. 2) For us to give the gospel to the thousands of refugees that came to our country.

Dr. Lambis Sidiropulos

President

Greek Synod of Apostolic Churches of Pentecost – A/G



# PHILIPPINES INTERVIEW: Warren Aragona

Warren Aragona was recently named Missions Director for the Philippines Assemblies of God. He is one of the first Asian Missions leader who has been a foreign missionary.

## **Question 1:**

***Tell us a bit about your call and your missions experience in Asia.***

I was called by God as a missionary and was sent to Cambodia by AG Philippines as their 1st missionary to be fully supported by Philippine funds in 1994.

My mission agency and I were all green horns in sending. Our bible schools didn't have missionaries as teachers back then. We were sent to discover what to do and how to do it. My only instruction was to plant a church and the strategy was Contact, Convert, and Congregate. In reality, I didn't know what to do, which led to a lot of fasting.

My allowance of US\$300 included everything, fares, visas, rents and transport etc. I did not know that language study costs a lot. I had to learn the language without a tutor who speaks English. The pressure mounted big time because I was all alone out in the province with no English speakers. That too turned out to be an advantage because survival forces you to speak the language in 3 months!

I slept on a mat for 3 years. My \$300 was sufficient to give a decent bed and living, but having about 16 disciples on my 10<sup>th</sup> month stretches the food budget that we had to live a life like the majority of Cambodians would. Life became very memorable to this day.

As I reflect now, the joy of seeing the disciples plant churches comprising most of the Cambodia Assemblies of God is a mission cause worth dying for!

## **Question 2:**

***You were a pioneer and one of the first to go out. What were some of the challenges of that time? How do those experiences help you as you prepare the next generation of missionaries?***

Inexperience was a great ordeal if not the greatest. I was sent to Cambodia but I was asked to have a side trip to communist Vietnam to smuggle bibles. I was caught there by the police. It was my first time. We became wiser in my 2<sup>nd</sup> term and second assignment, in communist Laos, smuggling became a minor thing.

Our missions program was also very young. Inexperience taught us how hard it is to delay mission support. Our churches were faithful in prayer though. Thousands prayed for the mission field and missionaries. To this day I still see that to be the number one contributor to the success of missions. If only the veteran mission agencies will teach the new and evolving mission groups their experience and if only the novices would listen and learn, then I think such partnership would greatly expedite our mission.

Experience in general will enable the next generation to be wiser.

## **Question 3: Tell us a bit about the missions program of the A/G of Philippines.**

In the Philippines, we were taught by what I call, parent missionary pioneers - the US Assemblies of God, on how they send their missionaries, where career missionaries are qualified, ordained, supported, sent and sustained. We also do that.

On the other hand, it is harder for third world countries to sustain such. Although we still practice similar sending, we are presently exploiting the special circumstance of our country.

Philippines has 10 million overseas Filipino workers all over the world 10% of which are evangelical Christians. 1 out of 10 Filipino leave their homes to work abroad. If we can train our church members to become missionaries, 10 % of them will definitely leave the country and can become missionaries.

The Philippines General Council of the Assemblies of God, Missions Department is working to that direction of training candidates as missionaries who are professionals. These professionals, if trained and sent, are able to enter even closed countries like communist and Islamic countries. As overseas contract workers, they can reach out to any nation of the earth they are employed in.



**Question 4: What role do you feel the Philippines can play in world missions?**

The Philippines has been designed and destined to go. We might not be rich, but our sufferings have trained us to be able to live in harsh circumstance. We might not excel in technology, but God has arranged our nation to be multi-lingual as Filipinos are born in an environment that most of us have to speak two languages and the majority of us have to speak 3 dialects. We were taught by God to think that learning a language is normal. We still carry a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country tag, politically, we become lesser in significance but it also makes the animosity against our race minimal. Probably, God made us to be what we are for the purpose of reaching others where they are at.

**Question 5: What are some of your visions and dreams for the future?**

If I close my eyes, I can see it to be apt for Filipino missionaries in villages, towns or cities where the gospel has never been preached. I can see them live in places they will call home. Eat with persons they will call family. Play with the people's children they will call their own. Pray with them, cry with them, and worship the Lord with them, love them until God brings them all to their heavenly home.



Believers of a pioneer church



**Question 6: Any final thoughts, challenges or reflections?**

Partnership. It is one thing I see critical in the advancement of the gospel where it has never been preached. As I go around countries and conferences about missions, I have come to learn that our movement has a lot of funds. It has also a lot of labourers, although many are still holed up in their churches and are supposed to be pushed to the harvest field. The magnitude of our assignment with the 2.2 billion people who have never heard the gospel is beyond the capacity of just one nation to go all alone. We have to partner. Resources, man-power, and the need of the field should be intertwined in our partnership. I see our advancement as a war that we have to coordinate beyond our tradition and being indigenous as a church or country. One country has a lot of funds

and experience; another has a lot of labourers but less funds or experience. Have we thought of partnering beyond the normal traditions? The need of missions is humongous. As one Lao girl told me one time in communist Laos after I handed her a gospel tract, she said "It has been for one year that I have wanted to hear about Jesus again.... The 1<sup>st</sup> time I heard about Jesus was from a radio broadcasted from Thailand. I wanted to hear it but never heard it again. I waited for one year, but just until now, I heard it again"

Friends, the mission field is ready and they are definitely waiting just for us!



District Missions Event



Superintendent Rey Cailusay Ministering

# MISSION CHALLENGES IN WEST AFRICA

West Africa mission directors have gathered at Ouagadougou, the 16 to 18 November 2015, around the theme : 'Mission challenges in West Africa.' Fifteen countries were concerned about the event, but the contact was not possible with all. Only eight were finally expected to attend the mission conference. Sadly, on the day, five showed up (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali and Togo). It has been a great time for the participants to not only build relationship with each other, but also discover through the different communications, what the countries are doing in matter of mission.

The West Africa Assemblies of God Alliance (WAAGA) mission Director, Rev Dr Timothée BALBONE, gave a communication in which he underlined the great lines of the mission of the church of Jesus Christ. Biblical references like, Matthew 28: 19; Mark 16: 16; Acts 1:8, were read to refresh the Great Commission for the participants. After that WAAGA Mission Director presented mission statistics, as published by Joshua Project, according to which Unreached People Groups (UPG) are underlined in all the countries of the zone, in exception of Cape Verde. In his conclusion, Rev Dr Timothée BALBONE reminded to the participants the mission mandate given by the WAAGA churches leaders to the mission counsel. There is a great need to establish mission comities in countries that have not got yet; and also reinforce the mission work in those which mission has been rooted. We finally need to develop strategies for the one completely locked country which is Mauritania.

Rev Dr Rance DeLonn from the USA gave a communication on active mission, by sharing his experiences from Latin America, where he worked for many years. The participants have much appreciated his strong knowledge on active mission strategies. He also exhorted the participants to do not focus on their weaknesses, but to move forward, because difficulties are always at the beginning of all enterprise. Rev Glen Smith and Wraig Corbin, from the field of Mali have joined the couple DeLonn at Ouagadougou.

All the five countries gave communications on how they are working and doing missions. Most of them are making real efforts to send home as well as abroad missionaries. Last September, Burkina Faso has sent thirteen (13) missionaries to Chad and Senegal. That information was the round point of the conference. And the question was how can this economical poor country do that? The challenge is high. The other countries are also on their way, sending missionaries one after one worldwide.

The conference has invited two English and one Ivory Coast missionary to United Kingdom. They also shared their vision and strategies with the participants. It has been said that synergy in mission can be built among South and West in good relationship.

In conclusion, the WAAGA Mission conference at Ouagadougou, on November 16 to 18 not only gave opportunities to participants to enlarge their mission vision, but also encouraged mission directors in new strategies of mission. Finances constitute a huge difficulty in front of each country. However, with the human resources and the power of the Holy Spirit, mission is a possibility for each national church.

The WAAGA Mission Comity has been enlarged to three members: Director Rev Dr Timothée BALBONE; Secretary Rev Affran Leon, Ivory Coast and General Treasurer Rev Edo Gustave Adanlessou, Togo.

Next WAAGA Mission Conference will be at Lome, Togo on November 7 to 9, 2016.

More blessings,

Dr Timothée BALBONE,

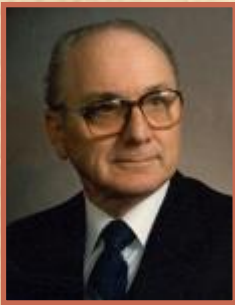


# THE VISION THAT BIRTHED THE WAGF

In the last issue of the *World Missions Connection*, we considered this subject: What took us so long? We looked at the beginnings of the Assemblies of God, the founders' passion for world evangelism, as well as some reasons it took so long for missions "receivers" to have a sending paradigm. This month let's examine that subject from a different perspective: How did the WAGF begin?

Recently I was rereading *Strategy of the Spirit* by Everett Wilson, which talks about the life of J. Philip Hogan. This excellent book dedicates an entire chapter to the founding of the WAGF and gives insight into that process. I thought all of you would appreciate being reminded of the start of this organization, now over 25 years old and the largest evangelical body of believers in the world.

The book's introduction reflects on the highlights of Hogan's leadership, how he "would oversee the formation of one of the world's larger Christian associations, the World Assemblies of God Fellowship." The vision started at a prayer retreat of Assemblies of God World Missions (then known as the Division of Foreign Missions). The following excerpt describes the first WAGF gathering in Seoul, South Korea, in October 1994 (pages 182–183):



The main speaker of that initial meeting was J. Philip Hogan, founding chairman of the WAGF, whose vision was in large measure responsible for the gathering. He spoke about the conception and planning that had given rise to the event. "In the spring of 1987, the leadership of the Division of Foreign Missions was in a prayer retreat," he began. "On the second day, a spirit of intercession moved among us. We found ourselves burdened in seasons of prayer, interspersed with times when the gifts of the Spirit were manifest. At the close of the period, we began to say to ourselves,

## Rev. J. Philip Hogan

'We are part of a worldwide fraternal fellowship. We are in no position to command anybody to do anything, but at least we are hopefully a respected member of a great world fellowship called the Assemblies of God.'

"We decided that we would step out in faith and invite leaders from more than 100 countries in the world to join us in the coming spring, that of 1988, in Springfield, Missouri, to talk about stepped-up activities and programs for world evangelism. For promotional purposes we discussed the name we should give this new venture, and we settled on the term Decade of Harvest.... One of the great benedictions of my administrative career was the fact that there was almost unanimous response immediately from more than one hundred leaders around the world, and among them an amazing amount of them said, 'Brother Hogan, this is what God has been talking to us about.' In 1988 about one hundred delegates came, and that meeting resulted in the formation of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship."

To me, a highlight of that chapter is on page 192:

Given the limits of missionary influence, the importance of the Seoul meeting for the national executives was that many of these leaders for the first time participated in an association larger than their own regional meetings.

No longer dealing with each other through the mediation of the US-based DFM, pastors and elected executive officers could and did develop multilateral relationships with their counterparts from other countries. For many national leaders, for the first time, the Assemblies of God became not merely the name of the mission from which they had received foreign personnel and assistance, but the name of the international association of like-minded national Pentecostal leaders, whose constituents collectively far exceed that of the US Assemblies of God.



## THE VISION THAT BIRTHED THE WAGF CONTINUED



Overview of First WAGF Congress, 1994, Seoul, S. Korea

In a sense, Hogan moved Springfield from being a de facto and informal “world headquarters” to become the means by which someone from Africa, for example, could communicate with someone from Asia. It opened up a brand new day. Observably, Hogan, without knowing it, was getting ahead of the Internet and the future global communication revolution that would change many of these dynamics anyway.

An interesting side note is that although the WAGF

was birthed in a prayer meeting of a missions department/sending organization, it was not until 2009 that a formal missions commission for the WAGF was formed.

This wasn't totally an oversight. As we discussed in the last issue, in many ways the concept of missions in the late 1980s was some Western nations sending missionaries and national churches reaching their own countries. Still, the amazing thing is that the *vision* behind the WAGF was world evangelism! The organization was missionary in nature, though it might not have originally entertained the concept that strong national churches could (and would) send missionaries in the future. Missions was limited to nations where the church already had been planted; countries without a national church would continue to depend on certain Western nations.

The Holy Spirit has been moving and calling workers in these last decades, and today there is a conviction that missions is the work of the Church—not just the West. Yes, the vision behind the founding of the WAGF was world evangelism, and today that vision continues in the desire to build up each national church. Now there is the added dimension of the missions commission to encourage each national church to understand its responsibility and role in the eleventh-hour harvest.

That chapter in Wilson's book ends this way:

According to J. Philip Hogan: “We never set out to establish a worldwide, American structure in lands afar, but to foster and encourage the indigenous church with fraternal ties rather than constitutional, organic ties. Several of these overseas fellowships rival us in size and are growing far faster than we are here at home. The largest churches I preach in are overseas.”

He goes on to say, “I am often asked what I attribute this growth to, and I am happy to respond. The sovereign wind of the Holy Spirit blows around the world. The Division of Foreign Missions in concepts and its leaders, from its inception until now, have believed in, depended upon, welcomed, and sought the wind of the Spirit.”

May this not only be true of the U.S. Assemblies of God and AGWM but of the entire WAGF and its autonomous national churches. Truly the wind of the Spirit has raised up workers (see the June 2015 bulletin), is giving us a vision for the world (September 2015 bulletin), and will be instrumental in the next 25 years of the WAGF being greater than the first 25! The vision for the WAGF was birthed in a prayer retreat of a major missions-sending structure. May that continue to be a defining part of our purpose and vision as we move forward!



Dr. David Yonggi Cho with Dr. J. Philip Hogan



## WHY DID IT TAKE US SO LONG?

Just over a year ago in August 2014, the United States Assemblies of God celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in the Centennial event held in Springfield MO. The event was open to the world, also coinciding with the triennial WAGF congress. It was an amazing thing to look back at the fulfillment of the vision of those 300 leaders that gathered in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1914 and dreamed of touching the entire world with the gospel. To know that the Assemblies of God grew to become 67.5 million adherents, and the largest evangelical group in the world today, (and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Protestant body) should be of no surprise to us, and yet at the same time it is "mind boggling."

The growth of national churches has been exceptional. As well, in recent years the growth of missions vision among the fraternal churches in different countries has also been rapid. There are now 95 countries with a missions leader or department or structure of some kind. Yet there is a nagging question that was asked by one of the national church leaders at the Bangkok world missions congress in February: "What took us so long to respond to the Great Commission? Why did it take us 100 years to do so?"

Even in Bangkok, we were impacted by the fact that one large and strong national church with 4,000 churches, was just getting ready to appoint their first missionary, and yet a recently formed national work with only 30 churches has been "pregnant" with missions vision for several years and had already sent their first missionary.

In the workshop given in Bangkok on "So All Can Hear" the following observations were reflected on:

"The error of the early missions movement was that the missionary pioneers challenged the newly formed churches to go and reach their Jerusalem and Judea, but did not sufficiently plant the seeds of "Samaria and the ends of the earth."

The newly emerging churches had incorrectly associated missions with wealth. They failed to realize that the handful of nations that had now become wealthy over the decades following the Pentecostal revival, had in fact for years and even decades practiced great generosity in their giving even though their nations or the work at that time were considered humble. The prosperity that followed many feel came in part because of their obedience and commitment to the gospel. Yet a by-product among the receivers was the perception and mentality "Missions is only done by those who have money. Therefore we can't do it." This was not a Biblical concept. Missions doesn't began with money, it begins with people.

In many developing countries the need was great, and western missions naturally did their best to respond to the great needs with financial assistance. Unfortunately this many times gave way to also implanting a "receiving mentality," when it came to missions, as opposed to a "sending" one. In other words, people thought of missions and instead of thinking of going, praying, and giving, they thought of "receiving." As one leader observed, "The West's desire to respond to many needs in other countries was not always balanced and often times led to an "expectancy" on the part of many individuals.

Just because people are born again doesn't mean there is a transformation in every area of their "human nature." Peter and the Jewish church are examples of a lack of vision for other cultures. It is not "normal" to have a vision for other nations and cultures. It is "spiritual," not "carnal." We are carnal humans and it takes a "renewed mind" (Rom. 12:1-2) to look at the world through God's eyes and not human ones.

The irony of the 80-100 year "wait" for many of the receivers to begin to become "senders," has been reflected by myself at times in this way: "In the United States we had a Missions Department 8 years before we had a official General Council Bible Institute. Yet we went to these many countries and they had Bible Institutes 80 years before they started Missions Departments." (The Foreign Missions Department was started in 1914, and Central Bible Institute started in 1922, though we must recall Bethany Bible Institute was founded in 1919).

## WHY DID IT TAKE US SO LONG? (CONTINUED)

So the question of "Why did it take us so long?" is a valid one. The challenge of a new paradigm is not an easy one. It is for this reason that we depend on the Holy Spirit to help us. Only the Holy Spirit can fully give us the insight and vision to have a conviction that churches that in the past have been "receivers" must also now become "senders."

But the most important reason for us to complete this "full circle" of missions is the illustration told by many of "Honi the circle maker."

"One day, Honi the Circle Maker was walking on the road and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked the man, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?"

The man replied, "Seventy years."

Honi then asked the man, "And do you think you will live another seventy years and eat the fruit of this tree?"

The man answered, "Perhaps not. However, when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my father and grandfather. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees."

The most powerful argument for the receivers to become senders is in the concept of reaping and sowing. They have reaped from those that sent missionaries to them. For the new senders to sow seeds in other countries, is to allow others to eat the fruit of our trees, even as we ate from the fruit of others.

It may have taken many countries 80-100 years to begin to respond to their responsibility of also sending "to the ends of the earth." But the important thing is they have started. May the Holy Spirit help us to accelerate that process, and bring to fulfillment that which has been started with the awakening that the Great Commission is for the church, and not just the "west."

## MISSIONS BEGINS WITH PEOPLE

In the last issue of the WAGF Connection, we featured testimonies from the 4<sup>th</sup> World Missions Congress in Bangkok in Feb. We continue to hear inspiring reports and testimonies that are fruit of that event. Praise the Lord!

I want to take a moment in this issue to reflect on one of the testimonies, that of Patrick Kuchio of the CITAM church in Nairobi, Kenya. In his testimony he said:

"My experience at the World Missions Congress in Bangkok can best be described as a **mental shift**. My outlook to world missions was radically reconstructed as I was challenged to build enabling structures regarding recruiting, training, sending, and partnering. The truth that "**missions never started with money but people (Luke 10:2)**" was revolutionary to my mind, which always thinks in figures and numbers. I came away asking, What would a Spirit-driven missions movement in Kenya look like? But probably the most transformative truth that was shared at the congress was, "**The greatest task of missions is not raising national leaders, but a missionary church.**"

All three of those points he mentions in his testimony are key for us if we are going to fulfill the Great Commission in our generation.

1. Missions starts with people.

Many times we make the mistake of equating missions with financial resources. Obviously finances are needed to send missionaries. But Luke 10:2 explains it well:

"He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (NIV)

## MISSIONS BEGINS WITH PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

There is not a shortage of financial resources to do missions, but a shortage of workers. God is revealing His plans for the 101 sending structures in 95 countries, by His calling young people for the future harvest. I remember so well in Argentina how the Holy Spirit went ahead of us. When we arrived in 1989, many young people had already been called in the revival that took place from 1984 and on. The problem was the church didn't understand that God could use Argentines in the international harvest. But the Holy Spirit had started His work. He called. And today we recognize that HE is calling in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. He does this besides continuing to call in the nations of the traditional senders. That 95 plus countries be involved in the world harvest is God's plan, revealed by His calling workers for the harvest.

2. Structures are needed to channel the energy of those God has called and to actually get them to the field.

We have seen in Argentina how similar organizations that are also Pentecostal have only sent out 10% of the number that our Assemblies of God work has sent out. We have seen in other countries that tried to replace a national structure with a church based sending model how the number of missionaries declined by over half as a result of that change. Though it was done with good intentions, the results were not productive. Therefore we have the challenge in these 95 countries, to nurture and raise up effective structures to facilitate the fulfillment of the vision. Structures are not an end in themselves, but a means to an end: fulfilling the Great Commission. I believe in 95% of the countries a national structure will be necessary to see those God has called to go be able to successfully be sent. We have seen in Romania how a effective structure has resulted in over 50 workers sent in just 8 years. This amazing results has been accomplished with only 10% of the churches participating! How much potential there is as that percentage grows! We as a WAGF Missions Commission are at your service to help each country develop an effective structure that will result in the workers being sent!

3. We have a challenge to raise up a missionary church in each country.

The traditional senders did an amazing job, and through a handful of nations the foundation was laid to give birth to the fruit that today propels the WAGF network to be recognized by secular sources as the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> largest religious body in the world. Yet the greatest error of the past was those same visionaries who went into "all the world," did not sow a vision in those who received that "their time would come to also go into "all the world." That error is being corrected today, and again in large part by the Holy Spirit calling young people from around the world. Many times in the recent past there has been great resistance on the part of church leadership to the transformation and transition of a country from being "only receivers," to also being both "receivers and senders." Each church planted must become a missionary church. Each national church must be committed to a vision to have at least one missionary sent for every 10 churches. We must not just raise up national leaders, but raise up national leaders committed to a missionary vision. If 95 plus countries can have a commitment to world missions, the next 100 years of the Assemblies of God, should Jesus tarry, will make an impact beyond our imagination. The Assemblies of God was birthed through missionary vision. Each national church must have their own revelation and commitment to God's vision for the world.



# Events Calendar

## **6° Latin American Missions Congress**

March 3-6, 2016

(Mostly Spanish, limited translation)

Dallas, United States

## **PFW World Congress**

Pre-congress missions focus

September 7-10, 2016

Sao Paulo, Brasil

## **PFW African Missions Congress**

November 29– December 2, 2016

Location TBD

## **Pentecostal European Mission Consultation**

November 16-19, 2016

Place: Erzhausen, Germany

## **West Africa AGA (WAAGA) Missions Consultation**

November 7-9, 2016

Lome Togo

## **8th WAGF Congress**

March 28-31, 2017

Singapore

## **17th Latin American Missions Leaders Consultation**

Estimated Date: April 2017

Place: To be Determined

## **5<sup>th</sup> WAGF Missions Congress**

Sept 2018

Location TBD



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**DID YOU KNOW** the poster on the left is translated into **9** languages and you can download it in any of them for no charge?

**DID YOU KNOW** that there are **89** missions agencies or sending structures in **83** countries connected with the World Assemblies of God Fellowship?

**DID YOU KNOW** that there are lots of videos, powerpoints, and resources also available for national churches?

**DID YOU KNOW** there is a bulletin that comes out called "WAGF World Missions Connection" and it's also in several languages?

**WELL IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW ALL THAT...  
you can find out at [www.worldagfellowship.org/missions](http://www.worldagfellowship.org/missions)**

## *Now in 11 languages:*

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**Check out the WAGF Missions tab and the WAGF Web page:**

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

**WORLD**  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
FELLOWSHIP

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."  
Psalm 145:4

# #GENERATIONS

A PROPHETIC LEGACY

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Registration begins in May 2016

**DATE**

MARCH 29 TO 31, 2017

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