

Interview With an Anonymous Speaker

Leader of the work in a “sensitive country” shares his thoughts.

It was truly encouraging to be at the Cancun meetings. I experienced a strong growing desire in the Latin American churches for missions.

It was great to have you as a speaker for the World Missions Congress. What were your overall impressions of the event?

My overall impression was the deep spiritual quality and impact in each session. The personal response from the participants was very spiritually charged.

What were some of the challenges you brought to people in your presentations?

My main challenge was not only to reach the unreached Muslims but to place a great emphasis on what the Third World nations can do for missions. We encouraged people to pray, proclaim, and persevere by faith.

What were some of the challenges you received by listening to other speakers and services?

Every session was spiritually charged. I was encouraged in missions and challenged to send more missionaries from my nation.

It was great to have 60 countries represented in the congress. What are some of your expectations for the next event in Bangkok?

I expect more leaders will join us. I am hoping that we will hear testimonies of growth after the Cancun meetings, that many Asian nations will be able to join us, and that the Asian church will be challenged to send missionaries.

Your church has been participating in missions, has a missions convention, and shares missions vision. What would your desires be for the Assemblies of God of Bangladesh with regard to missions vision and structures?

We have already formed a national missions department to mobilize prayer support for missions, which will lead to sending missionaries through the national missions department. We are already sending missionaries through our local churches, but my prayer is that several smaller churches will join hands together to be involved in sending.

Any other final thoughts or comments?

Let us keep the spiritual fervor alive in our future conferences. We must allow the Spirit to move and work in the lives of the participants. We also need to interact and follow up with those who attended Cancun through direct contact with the participants.

Interview with Daniel Costanza

Executive Director, Pentecostal European Fellowship

Tell us what you shared in your plenary session at the congress.

I shared about the spiritual state of Europe and what Pentecostals (as the PEF) are doing to pool resources and work in synergy towards the reevangelization of Europe. In particular, I presented the Pentecostal European Mission's 2020 strategy, which aims at increasing our number of missionaries in the world while reaching the unreached in Europe.

What was your overall impression of the congress?

It was well organized and offered a balanced program covering the different needs in the world. There was a powerful and refreshing atmosphere of prayer and intercession.

What session or message impacted you as an attendee?

I was greatly inspired and touched by the message and testimony of the brother from Bangladesh [Kain].

What impact do you think the Cancun Congress will have on the World Assemblies of God and its missions vision?

I think it will enhance the vision for a global and concrete cooperation in world missions.



Interview With Ivan Masalyka

Argentine Missionary to Germany



Tell us what you shared in your plenary session at the congress.

My topic was “The Challenge of Crossing Transcultural Barriers,” a quite theoretical part of missiology, but enriched with personal experiences. The feedback of many listeners was positive, especially concerning the emphasis on missionaries learning a different language. That may be the strongest cultural barrier in the first year on the field for missionaries, but it is absolutely necessary for fulfilling the gospel’s mission.

What was your overall impression with the congress?

It was very inspiring and challenging for me. The urgent need to reach the unreached peoples of the world was communicated clearly and with a holy desperation. It was also interesting for the Latin American attendees (the biggest group) to hear about the need in Asia, the Muslim world, and Europe. A lot of updated and current information from those countries was shared.

What session or message impacted you as an attendee?

I was really touched by God through the last message of Brother Brogden (willing to die for Jesus) and also the sessions of Brother Ritsan from Romania. The situation there has inspired me for my ministry in Europe.

What impact do you think the congress will have on the World Assemblies of God and its missions vision?

I hope a big one, and especially that even more churches will become senders regardless of their financial capacities and their size. Missions is possible!

Any other comments or reflections you would like to make?

The whole organization and logistics were excellent! It was a high-level event. Thank you for all your efforts, Brad! You did a super job!

Interview with Daniel Pedraza

Argentine Missionary to Latvia



What did you share in your plenary session at the congress?

My theme was “The Commitment of the Sent.” I spoke about our commitment with our call, with the vision given by God and with service. We also shared a plenary with Ivan Masalyka, where we spoke about the family in the mission field.

What was your overall impression with the congress?

First, it was very well organized. Second, it was relevant because of the topics and themes that were addressed in all the sessions and plenaries. Third, the location (city, hotels, and convention center) was a wonderful choice.

What session or message impacted you as an attendee?

I personally was touched and encouraged by Greg Mundis’s messages. I also liked David Costanza’s presentation about the need and the opportunities in Europe.

What impact do you think the congress will have on the World Assemblies of God and its missions vision?

There were many missions leaders present. I hope it will serve as an inspiration to reach new goals related to the amount of missionaries sent to the world from their own countries; I know this was one of the main goals of the congress, and I really hope it serves its purpose. Personally, I was very encouraged to keep trying to affect the Baltic countries with this vision. May God help us.

Any other comments or reflections you would like to make?

We are very thankful to the commission that organized the event. Thank you for letting us be part of it.

Interview With Dick Brogden

Missionary to Africa

Tell us a little about what you shared in your plenary session at the congress.

In our first plenary session our team-presented and shared on surrender. Fidel (from the Philippines) shared on surrendering your pride. Milward (from Malawi) shared on surrendering fear of failure. Alberto (from Paraguay) shared on surrendering possessions. Maajid (from Sudan) shared on surrendering your children. I closed by sharing on surrendering your brothers—being willing to send loved ones into harm's way for the gospel.

What session or message impacted you as an attendee?

My favorite session was Asa Kain's. I was impacted by his call for the first daily voice heard over a Muslim city to be that of the believers declaring, "JESUS IS LORD!"

What impact do you think the Cancun congress will have on the World Assemblies of God and its missions vision?

I think it will help link missionaries from the Global South with those from the Global North in the Arab world and open a door for many (especially Latinos) to come.



Dick Brogden and DeLonn Rance (interpreter)



A powerful time of prayer



Interview With Arto Hämäläinen

Chairman of PEF, PEM, and the PWF World Missions Commission

What was your overall impression of the congress?

The event was really inspiring in several aspects. Having so many countries involved tells us about the growing missions vision among the WAGF member churches. One good thing was that many practical tools were offered to the mission leaders and departments. Those who had not yet started or are just in the beginning surely were touched by the strong vision and also by the experiences of the other new senders.

What were some of the challenges you received by listening to the speakers and services?

It was good that the missionary work challenge was made concrete in Cancun. Every national church and missions department can evaluate how their input is compared with others. That helps to be realistic and concrete in actions, not just inspired.

It was great to have 60 countries represented in the congress. What are some of your expectations for the next event in Bangkok?

I believe we can inspire many other countries, especially in Asia. The cooperation with PEM will surely help in this.

Tell us a bit about the upcoming meeting in Malaysia.

We have, as the World Missions Commission of PWF, planned a manifold program for the Pentecostal World Conference at Kuala Lumpur. It starts on August 26 with a World Missions Forum, which is open for all interested missions people. During the conference we have workshops every day. The program and registration are online at <pwc2013.org>

Interview With Gheorge Ritisan

Missions Director, Romania



Tell us what you shared in your plenary session at the congress.

My session was titled: “The Commitment of the Sender.” I shared the following:

- *Mirau* = the water administrator (*Mir* = leader; *au* = water) from the Pashtu language in Afghanistan. The living water is Christ, the salvation offered to mankind through his sacrifice (John 4:10,14).

In sharing Christ, we must be:

- Correct from a theological point of view. What do we distribute?
 - ◊ The name of Jesus is the only name whereby people can be saved (Acts 4:12).
- Correct from a missiological point of view. Where do we distribute?
 - ◊ To the rich and the poor.
 - ◊ To the honorable and to the sinners.
 - ◊ To the near and to the far.
- Correct from a kairological point of view. When do we distribute?
 - ◊ *Kairos* = the right time, opportunity. Now is the time! Now is the time for Romania!



Ritisan and Woodwarth (interpreter)

What was your overall impression of the congress?

It was a success. I was impressed to see so many countries represented and so many leaders interested to find out more about missions and do more in the future to extend the Kingdom. The schedule was well-done and the sessions covered most areas that missions leaders needed.

What was one of the sessions or messages from others that impacted you as an attendee of the event?

I appreciated Greg Mundis’s message and also Mark Hausfield’s and Asa Kain’s workshops. Brad’s statistical presentation impacted me also a lot and helped me as national missions leader to look for how we can improve in important and key areas in the future.

What impact do you think the congress will have on the World Assemblies of God and its missions vision?

I’m sure some of the national leaders were impacted, and they will work more in the future to mobilize and better organize their national movements. That means in the future we will see more cross-cultural missionaries sent and supported by smaller and poorer countries, especially toward unreached people groups and Muslim countries.



Interview With Alan Johnson

AGWM Missionary to Thailand, Member of the WAGF Missions Commission

What was your impression of the congress?

It was a great time for networking people and connecting and sharing both vision and methods. Getting that many people together who are all like-minded and heading together in the same directions is very powerful.

What were some things God spoke to you about and challenges you took away from it?

We must be intentional about making connections and seeking relationships with both AG missions sending structures and workers. It is a joint effort and does not just rest with one country. Humility is required as we build multinational teams.

Why would you recommend other leaders not miss Bangkok in 2015?

The challenge of the particulars of Asia will be highlighted, and I think that will be invaluable for national leaders and missions directors to come and gain vision, practical methods, and connections with others.

Testimonies From Attendees

“ “ First of all, I want to thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to be in the congress in Cancun for one of the most valuable learning experiences of my life.

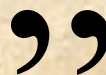
My family condition wasn't suitable for me to come because my father was seriously sick in the hospital, fighting for life. Yet my family supported me to come to the congress, for which I am thankful to them. I am also thankful to Reverend Brad Walz for giving me the opportunity to attend.

Five important things that impressed me in the congress:

1. The vision and passion of the Latin American Assemblies of God for world evangelism impressed me the most.
2. The organizational skill with which the congress was conducted by Reverend Brad Walz was really commendable. It conveyed the message that such an event needs careful planning and support by effective prayer to make the mission of the church effective and far-reaching.
3. Every session I attended conveyed the “urgency of time.” What needs to be done in missions needs to be done urgently and effectively.
4. One of the ideas that kept coming out from the congress was that missions has to be a collective effort of the whole church today. The idea of missions as a “Western thing” no longer holds.
5. Missions requires sacrifice, a fundamental principle brought out on the final day by the preacher.

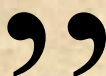
The Cancun congress has revolutionized our thinking, and we cannot afford to waste any more time. The lost need to be reached sooner than we think.

—Robert Jeyaraj
District Superintendent, Northern India, and Missions Director, India AG



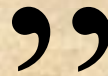
“ “ It was refreshing and challenging, and we returned with a desire to make Costa Rica a missionary country. I was happy with the advances: 85.7 percent of our churches give to missions, but we need to reach 100 percent. We need to keep focusing on missions and give room to those that are called. Money is not a problem; vision is the problem. We have all the resources. We must advance in the participation, and I encourage us to use statistics to help us realize our potential to do more.

—Ricardo Castillo
Superintendent, AG Costa Rica



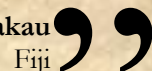
“ “ God provided all our participants' expenses to go to the congress. We are new at this, but we are putting into practice every one of the teachings. Every one of us that participated are motivated for this first and great experience of the Cancun congress.

—Juan Carlos Torres
Missions Director, Belize AG



“ “ I was blessed to attend the congress in Cancun. I found the meeting to be informative, relevant, forward-focused, challenging, and soul searching, to say the least. On my return I am determined to prioritize and encourage friends, pastors, and congregations to pray, to give, and to go.... We must become senders; that's our mandate. I strongly believe the congress is a must for every leader, because it will compel you forward!

—Alipate Cakau
Fiji



“ I’m a Costa Rican missionary working in Belize, and I was one of the thousand that traveled to Cancun, Mexico. This congress made an impact on missions in our country. Now all we talk about is doing missions events, youth missions events, intercession for missions—it is incredible the change. Last week we had our annual pastors retreat, and they gave us the opportunity to talk of missions, and it had such impact that we wish to have a national missions congress for Belize. This is historic. Pray for Belize; there is much to do here.

—William Logan
Belize ”

“ I was very sick the first night upon my arrival, and I have not been sick like that for more than 15 years. That morning when I was supposed to go to the hospital, I realized I did not have an insurance card nor enough dollars to pay. Pastor Hariagus Rimba was trying to help me by using his credit card and insurance card, but he changed his mind and said, “Let’s pray first.” So he and my wife prayed for me, and I went back to my hotel and slept. I was healed and did not go to the hospital at all. Praise the Lord!

More than that, the World Missions Congress really inspired me, and all the sessions I was able to attend put the flame in my heart for missions, especially to send missionaries overseas. I am very new in the position of foreign missions director of the Indonesia AG, and one of my first significant dreams and programs is to see an Indonesia AG Foreign Mission Congress conducted either in Indonesia or in one of the Asian countries.

The way God opened the door for that is that on my way home from Cancun, I stopped in Hong Kong to visit our missionaries there. When I shared the idea with them about this conference, they were really supportive and, Lord willing, we would like to do this conference in Hong Kong next year in late January or early February.

For the congress in Bangkok, I really want to work hard to have as many as possible leaders from Indonesia attend (AG and non-AG) so they will see the vision I have of Indonesia AG sending more missionaries overseas.

—Hendrik Soria
Missions Director, Indonesia ”

“ The meeting in Cancun was a great blessing for me because I saw many active missionaries. At this congress I saw the “sharpened” motivation for the mission and heard testimonies of real work in different directions. My impressions are very positive; a lot of things opened for me. As we plant new churches and go to the nations, we decided to do it strenuously and also to strenuously prepare our future missionaries. We expect from the new congress in Bangkok new calls, signs, and information to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord.

—Romualdas Dombrauskas
Russia Missions Director, Belize A/G ”

“ Thank you for welcoming us in Cancun. We thank God for being able to attend the third World Assemblies of God Fellowship Missions Congress. It was a great encouragement to meet coworkers who have the same passion for missions in the world. It was also strengthening that we could bring back our experiences of encouraging one another and praying for missions together. We cannot make it just by ourselves, but we truly hope that world missions will be advanced through our cooperation in mission.

—Yoshihiko Fujimura
Director of Missions Division, Japan ”

““ The congress was a well balanced account of AG representation in world missions. The choice of the subject matter and speakers was a clear indication that the Assemblies of God is seriously making inroads into being the number-one organization in global evangelism. The planning was of world quality, and I therefore would like to commend the team for a job well done. There was also a deep biblical conviction for a call to action from the continent of Africa, which is commonly labelled “the sleeping giant.” The conference caused a shift in missions, enabling indigenous believers to reach others with a strategic and God-honoring priority. This was very real at the altar calls. I was more focused with the fire of the Holy Spirit to target unreached people groups, quantify, and prioritize so that our efforts may be allocated most effectively to speed the fulfilling of the Great Commission. The platform was set for the imperativeness of strategic partnerships in world evangelization within the AG family. The session on the digital revolution was most informative. I also was impressed by the commitment of our brothers who ministered selflessly in the Arab world.

I left the conference convinced that our restricted, local thinking is insufficient for the global task. If Africa can embrace a missionary vision and draw from the resources and experience of the global players, we will have potential for exponential growth. I also left believing that Africa is an emerging mission force which will be recognized in the next congress in 2015 in Bangkok. May God bless you and your team for their unflinching hard work.

—Ralph Paul ””
South Africa

““ My experience during the World Missions Congress was meaningful and useful. It was amazing to see how the Latin American churches are motivated and determined to do missions. The prayer time, worship, altar time, and messages delivered from the various speakers were all used by the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual refreshment and a challenge to move forward in fulfilling the Great Commission despite any kind of adversity that may come along the road. The experience-sharing sessions and the afternoon workshops were eye-openers to do missions in different ways and platforms in order to give insight for strategic focus on specific needs around the world.

Abiding in Jesus, being consumed with the person of Jesus, and being determined both to live and die for Jesus is the foundation to do biblical missions successfully is one of the messages that was heard loud and clear during the congress. My flight was long and tiresome; however, attending the congress was worth every bit of it.

I encourage people to start praying and planning for the next World Missions Congress.

—Yonas Arefaine ””
Superintendent, Ethiopia AG

““ It was a time of great encouragement and challenge to be a part of the World Missions Congress in Cancun. Hearing the testimonies of those who are still willing to go and “abandon it all for the sake of the call,” reminds me that God’s desire is to use His people to reach those who have never heard.

One thing that especially impacted me was the Live Dead team, who not only shared about their work, but also modeled a multicultural team committed to reaching the Arab world, even at the cost of their lives. The challenge did not fall on deaf ears, because when given a chance, the altars were filled with scores of people ready to commit their lives to respond to the call. Those responding knew the potential danger involved, and yet they still said yes. God is still calling, and people are still responding.

Our task is to bring that same challenge to our national leaders and national missions departments—not only to remind them of the need worldwide, but to renew their efforts in making a way for those called from their countries to get to the field prepared and funded. The true impact of the congress begins when each participant returns to his or her home and puts into practice what God spoke. May the results surprise each of us!

—Jay Dickerson ””
Central America Area Director, AGWM

““ The congress was an historic event. God brought a multiplicity of world leaders from 60 countries to hear the voice of the Spirit crying out to this generation of Pentecostal believers to align themselves with the heart of the Father for the unreached and under-reached in this world. Particularly potent was the testimony of those who had captured the call and were engaged in dangerous or resistant fields out of a deep-felt conviction that it was God’s time for total obedience. The cross-pollination of missions leaders that occurred contributed powerfully to the participating nations owning the vision for world evangelism. This compelling time should not be missed.

—Dale Coad ””
Caribbean Area Director, AGWM



““ For me the World Missions Congress was very meaningful in different ways:

1. The fraternal communion between brothers and sisters from so many nations; to see Asians, Africans, Latin Americans, Europeans, and North Americans in the same place, seeking the face of the Lord with one purpose: that the nations know the Savior!
2. The special quality of speakers God put in the pulpit, with their experience and humility to share the message that God had given them. We were privileged to have them with us.
3. The variety of leaders from so many countries with whom we were able to interact, share opinions, stretch relationships for the better of the work, and challenge ourselves together for what will come in the future (missionary candidates, projects, etc.).

May God bless richly all those that organized the event, and may other horizons of the planet have the same privilege in the coming years.

—Tony Pedrozo ””
Africa and Asia Regional Director, Argentina Missions Dept.

““ The WAGF Missions Congress was an impacting time as we connected with leaders from around the world to focus on the remaining task of reaching the world for Christ. Since the conclusion of the congress we have continued conversations with leaders regarding missions opportunities. We also connected with the heart of God through powerful testimonies, teaching, and preaching. The times of prayer at the altar following each service were moments of recommitting ourselves to the unfinished task. It was especially challenging to focus on the unreached people groups of the world. As residents of Latin America, we are excited about the possibilities to network with others in this region to pray and help mobilize Latin American missionaries to reach the most unreached of our world.

—David Ellis ””
Regional Director-Elect, AGWM Latin America and the Caribbean

““ For the Brazilians who participated, the third World Missions Congress was a gratifying experience. We could feel the profound love of the missionaries and delegates who participated with us, as well as the inspiration of each speaker. I could sense a very special spirit of communion among all who attended. For the office of the secretary of missions, we felt the enormous responsibility and urgency of the Great Commission and, without doubt, it enlarged our vision. We are sure that we are going to walk together, joining our strengths in this last hour. To have the contacts of the missions presidents of all the Americas and of African, Asian, European, and Oceania nations is important for us in our activities in Brazil.

—Anisio Nascimento ””
Missions Director, Brazil

Events Calendar

Pentecostal World Fellowship Congress

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

August 27–30, 2013

Pentecostal European Missions Consultation

Bucharest, Romania

November 13–16, 2013

14th Latin America Missions Consultations (MEC)

Santiago, Chile

March 31–April 4, 2014

Africa WMC Missions Consultation

Nairobi, Kenya

April 23–24, 2014

WAGF World Congress

Springfield, Missouri, U.S.A.

August 7–10, 2014

Southern Asia Missions Consultation

Mumbai, India

October 6–10, 2014

WAGF World Missions Congress

Bangkok, Thailand

February 2–6, 2015

San Jose 2015

A Consultation on the National Church and Unreached Peoples

San Jose, Costa Rica

April 13–17, 2015

Latin America Missions Leaders Summit

San Jose, Costa Rica

April 20–24, 2015



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