

Mahama challenges global Church to turn faith into practical service

Ghana's President calls on Assemblies of God leaders to invest in vulnerable communities, young people and national development.



President John Dramani Mahama has challenged the global Assemblies of God fellowship to translate its spiritual mission into practical service that improves lives, urging churches to feed hungry children, care for the sick, equip young people and support struggling families.

Addressing the opening session of the World Assemblies of God Congress 2026 in Ghana, President Mahama described the gathering as a historic milestone for both the country and the African continent. It is the **first World Assemblies of God Congress to be hosted in Africa**.

Speaking on the theme, **"Commissioned: One Mandate, Every Nation"**, the President drew attention to the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:18-20**, calling on Christians to remain faithful to their mission while recognising their responsibility to the communities in which they serve.

He stressed that preaching should be accompanied by tangible expressions of compassion, including support for widows, assistance to struggling families, skills development for young people and stronger health and educational initiatives.

The President also called for greater solidarity across the global fellowship, encouraging well-resourced congregations to support churches working in difficult circumstances. He said the contributions of smaller congregations should be valued alongside those of larger, better-resourced churches.

On public leadership, President Mahama urged Christians to demonstrate humility, honesty, compassion and responsible citizenship. He emphasised that leadership should be judged by its impact on people's lives, particularly those whose voices are seldom heard in the corridors of power.

He reaffirmed his commitment to serving all Ghanaians fairly, regardless of religious affiliation, describing the country's religious diversity as a national asset. Drawing on his experience of growing up in a multifaith family, he underscored the importance of respect and peaceful coexistence.

The President also urged the Church to engage meaningfully with young people as they navigate technological change, social comparison and misinformation. He called for intentional investment in their future and for the Congress to produce commitments that would endure beyond the gathering.

He suggested that the legacy of the Congress should be measured not only by the scale of the event but by the schools supported, health ministries strengthened, struggling congregations assisted and lives transformed after delegates return to their countries.

His message placed public responsibility alongside spiritual calling, challenging the global fellowship to make the theme of the Congress visible in the everyday lives of the people it serves.

WAGF Chairman calls for urgent global mission expansion

Rev. Dominic Yeo rallies delegates behind MM33 and a renewed commitment to evangelism, church planting and the next generation.

The Global Chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF), Rev. Dominic Yeo, has called on delegates to move beyond celebrating the movement's history and unite behind an urgent programme of global mission expansion.

Addressing the first plenary of the World Assemblies of God Congress 2026 in Ghana, Rev. Yeo described the gathering as a Pentecostal movement united by one mandate, rather than a forum for networking or comparing ministry achievements.

He said the Congress should mark a decisive moment in the Fellowship's mission, with delegates returning home committed to expanding the Kingdom through evangelism, church planting, discipleship, prayer and the intentional development of future leaders.

Rev. Yeo placed particular emphasis on the changing geography of global missions. Whereas missionary activity historically flowed largely from the Global North to the Global South, he said the South is increasingly becoming a source of missionaries sent to other parts of the world.

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From bigger crowds to multiplying churches: Barrett outlines five shifts for MM33

Assemblies of God Great Britain leader says the road to one million churches by 2033 requires a change in mindset.

Rev. Glyn Barrett of Assemblies of God Great Britain has challenged church leaders to rethink how they measure growth, arguing that the future of the movement depends on releasing people into mission rather than simply gathering larger congregations.

Presenting the MM33 church-planting vision at the World Assemblies of God Congress 2026, Rev. Barrett outlined five shifts he believes are essential as the global Assemblies of God movement pursues the goal of growing **from approximately 460,000 churches to one million by 2033.**

The first is a shift **from audience to army.** Churches, he said, must move beyond producing spectators and focus on forming active followers who participate in the mission of the Gospel.

Second, he called for a move **from attraction to dispersion.** Growth should not be measured only by the number of people attending one church, but also by the number equipped and released to establish new congregations and serve new communities.

Third, he urged a transition **from teaching to training,** stressing that believers must be prepared for practical ministry and equipped to put their faith into action.

His fourth shift was **from extraction to infusion.**

Rather than withdrawing from the world, Christians should be equipped to engage with it and contribute to its transformation.

Finally, he called for a move **from addition to multiplication**, drawing on the principle of passing on the faith to reliable people who can teach others in turn.

To illustrate the impact of church planting, Rev. Barrett cited a congregation established in Kraków, Poland, by his Manchester church. When war broke out between Russia and Ukraine, the church reportedly provided shelter for **about 1,000 refugees**, mainly widows and orphans, and went on to establish two schools and four churches.

For Rev. Barrett, the example demonstrated that church planting is not merely an institutional growth strategy. It can create a lasting local presence through which communities receive practical help in times of crisis.

He urged delegates to make the current season count, emphasising that the ambition of one million churches by 2033 requires participation across the global movement.

His presentation gave MM33 a practical framework: multiply disciples, equip people for ministry, release leaders and establish congregations capable of serving their communities.

Yeo: Do not retreat when the wind howls

WAGF Global Chairman urges delegates to face resistance with faith, partnership and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Drawing on the biblical account of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35–41, Rev. Dominic Yeo has urged the global Assemblies of God movement to pursue its mission with confidence, even when confronted by opposition and uncertainty.

Preaching at the first plenary of the World Assemblies of God Congress 2026, Rev. Yeo said resistance should not automatically be interpreted as evidence that the Church has taken the wrong direction. Instead, challenges can become opportunities for renewed faith, discernment and a deeper understanding of God's presence.

He identified **aggressive secularism, institutional persecution and economic volatility as three contemporary pressures facing the Church, warning leaders not to be caught unprepared.**

"We do not retreat when the wind howls; we adjust and press forward," was the challenge of his message. Rev. Yeo also drew attention to Jesus sleeping during the storm, describing this as a lesson in resting in Christ's sovereignty rather than allowing anxiety to

dictate leadership. Recalling his 18 years as a pastor, he warned against a culture of striving that leads to burnout.

"God did not call us to strive but to thrive," he said, urging leaders to operate from a place of spiritual confidence and peace.

A further theme was partnership. Jesus' invitation to the disciples, "Let us go over," was presented as a model of shared mission rather than isolated effort. Rev. Yeo encouraged experienced leaders to walk alongside younger people, helping them learn and grow through intentional relationships.

He concluded by emphasising that the movement's advance depends not on organisational structures or statistics alone, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church, he said, must recognise and exercise its spiritual calling while maintaining a renewed focus on the next generation.

The sermon provided a spiritual framework for MM33: anticipate challenges, lead from a place of rest, work in partnership and rely on the Holy Spirit as the movement pursues its global mission.

WAGC speaker urges churches to make the next generation a strategic priority

Rev. Arif Multi warns that neglecting children, young people and university students threatens succession, legacy and future mission.

Church leaders have been urged to treat ministry to the next generation as a central investment in the future of the Church, rather than an optional programme competing for limited resources.

Speaking during the MM33 NextGen session at the World Assemblies of God Congress 2026, Rev. Arif Multi used the biblical image of children as "arrows in the hands of a warrior" from **Psalms 127:3–5** to challenge leaders to reach, train and release young people for the work of the Kingdom.

He defined the next generation as people aged **zero to 25**, encompassing children, young people and university students. He warned that when churches fail to prepare them for leadership and service, they risk undermining the very future they hope to secure.

Rev. Multi identified **five consequences** of neglecting the next generation: a succession crisis, a failure of spiritual

reproduction, the loss of legacy and values, declining creativity and productivity, and a future financial challenge.

"Success without succession is eventually failure," he said, stressing that the work of one generation must be intentionally transferred to the next.

He also challenged churches that claim they cannot afford youth ministry, arguing that dedicated resources are needed to prepare future leaders and sustain the mission. Today's financial contributors will not support church work indefinitely, he noted, making investment in young people essential to long-term sustainability.

The presentation concluded with a call to love, reach, raise and release the next generation. Rev. Multi invited everyone under 30 to stand and be applauded by the older delegates, offering a visible expression of the intergenerational partnership he advocated.

His message reinforced a central question for MM33: **how can the global Church secure its future if it does not intentionally equip the people who will lead it?**

Wengam celebrates historic African hosting of global Assemblies of God Congress



The Assemblies of God Ghana General Superintendent thanks national institutions, church leaders and volunteers for making the gathering possible.

Rev. Dr Stephen Wengam, General Superintendent of Assemblies of God Ghana, has welcomed church leaders from **more than 100 countries to the 10th Triennial Congress of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship**, describing the gathering as a significant milestone for Ghana, Africa and the global Church. Rev. Dr Wengam said Ghana secured the hosting

mandate at the 2023 Congress in Madrid, Spain, and acknowledged the role of African church leaders in championing the continent's selection. He described Africa as a key centre of spiritual revival and linked the Congress theme, "Commissioned: One Mandate, Every Nation", to Assemblies of God Ghana's Transformation Agenda.

He said the objective was not simply to host an international event, but to ensure delegates returned to their countries with renewed spiritual commitment and practical direction for their ministries.

The host leader acknowledged the financial, logistical and organisational challenges involved in preparing for the Congress. He thanked the Presidency, public institutions, security agencies, diplomatic missions, traditional leaders, the Local Organising Committee and volunteers for their support.

Rev. Dr Wengam also highlighted the importance of demonstrating Christian faith in public life, announcing recognition for President John Dramani Mahama and First Lady Lordina Mahama for their respective contributions and service.

His welcome placed the historic gathering within a broader vision of faith expressed through leadership, public service and a renewed commitment to taking the Gospel to Ghana and the nations.

A Commission to Transform Nations

The opening of the 10th Triennial Congress of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship in Ghana is more than a historic gathering of Pentecostal leaders. It is a moment to reflect on the purpose of the Church, the responsibility that comes with faith and the mission that must continue long after the delegates return home.

Under the theme "**Commissioned: One Mandate, Every Nation**", the Congress brings together a global fellowship around a shared calling. Yet the real measure of its success will not be the number of countries represented, the scale of its meetings or the energy of its worship. It will be what the Church does with the inspiration, relationships and commitments generated here.

President John Dramani Mahama set an important tone in his opening address by challenging Christians to translate their faith into practical service. Feeding hungry children, caring for the sick, equipping young people, supporting widows and standing with struggling families are not separate from the Church's mission. They are among the ways that mission becomes visible in everyday life.

His message also placed responsibility on Christian leaders in public life. Integrity, humility, compassion and responsible citizenship must be demonstrated, not merely preached. In a society confronting economic pressures, social inequality and the demands of a changing world, the Church has an opportunity to be a source of hope, solidarity and practical support.

That responsibility extends across religious and social boundaries. Ghana's strength lies partly in its ability to accommodate people of different faiths and beliefs. A Church committed to serving communities must recognise the dignity of all people and contribute to the peaceful coexistence on which national progress depends.

The message from Rev. Dominic Yeo, Global Chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, added a global dimension to this challenge. His call for urgent Kingdom expansion, supported by the MM33 vision, asks the Fellowship to move beyond celebrating past achievements and focus on what it must build next. Africa has a particular opportunity. For generations, much of global missionary activity flowed from the Global North to the Global South.

That pattern is changing, and African churches are increasingly positioned not only to receive missionaries but also to send them to other nations.

The question is whether the continent can translate its spiritual energy, growing churches and youthful populations into a sustained missionary movement. The presentations on church planting and the next generation made the task more concrete. The ambition to grow towards one million churches by 2033 will require more than numbers. It will demand leaders who equip and release others, congregations that serve beyond their walls, and a commitment to multiplying disciples rather than simply attracting crowds.

Equally, the next generation cannot remain an item on the Church's agenda that receives attention only when convenient. Children, young people and university students need intentional discipleship, leadership opportunities, appropriate resources and a meaningful place in the life of the Church. A movement that fails to prepare its successors risks weakening its own future.

These priorities are connected. Church planting without discipleship risks expansion without depth. Evangelism without practical service can leave communities wondering whether the message has touched their lives. Growth without succession can create institutions that struggle to renew themselves. And a global mission that does not empower local churches may overlook the very communities best placed to carry it forward.

The opening sermon by Rev. Yeo offered another important perspective: the Church must expect challenges without surrendering to fear, work in partnership and draw strength from the Holy Spirit. Mission requires spiritual conviction, but it also requires preparation, resilience, collaboration and a willingness to act.

Ghana's hosting of the first World Assemblies of God Congress on African soil is itself a significant milestone. The achievement belongs to the host church, its leadership and volunteers, and the many public institutions and partners whose support made the gathering possible. But hosting history is only the beginning. The greater opportunity is to help shape what comes next.

As the Congress continues, delegates must ask what commitments they will carry home, which communities they will serve, which young leaders they will equip, and how their churches will contribute to the global mission. The theme calls the Church to one mandate across every nation. Its credibility will ultimately be measured in the lives transformed, the communities strengthened, the disciples formed and the next generation prepared.

The Congress must therefore be more than a moment of gathering. It must become a movement of action.





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