WORLD ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONGRESS GHANA
NEWSLETTER

Day Two

Thursday, 15th October, 2026
Theme: Commissioned: One Mandate, Every Nation

The Church must prepare for the future, not simply pray for it

Day Two challenges global leaders to build healthier congregations, mobilise missionaries, strengthen spiritual conviction and entrust the next generation with the mission.



The World Assemblies of God Congress 2026 has intensified its focus on the practical steps needed to fulfil the movement's global mission, with Day Two sessions challenging leaders to combine spiritual conviction with institutional readiness, stronger congregations, missionary cooperation and intentional investment in young people.

As delegates continue their deliberations under the theme "Commissioned: One Mandate, Every Nation", the discussions have reinforced a central message: the ambition to grow the global Assemblies of God movement to one million churches by 2033 will require more than numerical growth; it will demand prepared leaders, healthy churches, committed missionaries and a new generation equipped to carry the mission forward.

The day's programme included a plenary address by Rev. Juan Escobar, President of the Assemblies of God, Spain, and Secretary of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF), alongside MM33 Waves presentations examining church readiness, church health, unreached communities and next-generation ministry.

The sessions build on the opening day's challenge from President John Dramani Mahama for the Church to translate faith into practical service, and the call by WAGF Global Chairman Rev. Dominic Yeo for a renewed commitment to global mission expansion.

Rev. Escobar: The future requires conviction, not speculation

Rev. Juan Escobar has challenged church leaders to look beyond institutional achievements, technological innovation and ministry strategies to the spiritual foundations necessary for lasting revival.



Addressing the Day Two plenary, the Spanish Assemblies of God leader acknowledged the difficulties confronting churches across different cultures, including poverty, persecution, disappointment and uncertainty. He argued, however, that present circumstances should not determine the Church's expectations of what God can accomplish.

Drawing on Hebrews 6:9, he encouraged delegates to remain confident in the promise of better things, even when their experiences appeared to suggest otherwise.

Escobar distinguished between improvements in ministry and the deeper spiritual transformation required for revival. Better facilities, technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence and organisational strategies could strengthen the work of the Church, he said, but could not substitute for a genuine spiritual renewal centred on Jesus Christ.
He used the account of the wedding at Cana to illustrate his conviction that the best was not necessarily behind the Church. Rather than resting on historical achievements, he urged the movement to approach the future with expectation.

"Our lives depend on conviction. Not on speculation."

Escobar also warned against allowing fear, criticism, past disappointments or uncertainty about world events to weaken Christian leadership. Referring to Abraham's willingness to obey God without knowing his destination, he urged leaders to trust God's presence even when the way ahead was unclear.

His message offered a spiritual foundation for the Congress's wider discussions: strategic planning and practical action matter, but they must be accompanied by confidence, perseverance and a clear sense of calling.

MM33
HIS MANDATE. OUR MISSION.

Prepare for the growth you are praying for

The MM33 Waves sessions brought the movement's ambition of one million churches by 2033 into sharper practical focus, with speakers examining the organisational, spiritual and human resources needed to turn the vision into reality.

Speaking by video, Rob Kettering of River Valley Church in Minneapolis challenged delegates to demonstrate their commitment through preparation and action.

He compared the vision to praying for rain while carrying an umbrella, arguing that faith should lead to practical readiness. Making reference to King David's preparations for the temple, Kettering said a vision larger than any one leader required sustained planning, resource mobilisation and the willingness to prepare for outcomes that might not be realised immediately.

He identified existing leadership, facilities and communications systems as foundations for future growth. However, he called for closer alignment between organisational structures, budgets and the availability of people for ministry.

Churches, he argued, must be willing to release people into mission rather than hold on to personnel when the wider movement needs them.

"Let's not just give this a try. Let's give this everything we've got."

His presentation reinforced the idea that the MM33 ambition cannot be achieved through declarations alone. It requires churches to examine their readiness, identify constraints and align their resources with the mission they have embraced.





Church health: Growth must be balanced and sustainable

Rev. Stephen Wengam, General Superintendent of Assemblies of God, Ghana, presented a framework for church health based on Luke 2:52, which describes Jesus growing in wisdom, stature, and favour with God and people.

He argued that healthy churches must develop across interconnected dimensions rather than concentrate exclusively on spiritual activities or numerical growth.

On leadership and administration, Rev. Wengam called for informed decision-making, long-term planning, sound policies, effective discipleship and stronger theological training. He encouraged churches to continue learning and to make use of professional administrators rather than expecting pastors to manage every aspect of church operations.

Physical development, he said, includes functional facilities, effective departments, properly resourced ministries and numerical growth. Spiritual health requires prayer, fasting, holiness, the gifts of the Spirit and the development of ministry gifts. Social health involves responding to community needs, building constructive relationships with public institutions and helping members fulfil their civic responsibilities.

The message was that church health must be understood holistically. A congregation may grow in attendance or acquire impressive facilities, but sustainable ministry also depends on spiritual depth, effective leadership, sound administration and meaningful engagement with its community.

For a movement pursuing significant expansion by 2033, this balance is critical. Growth must be supported by the capacity to nurture believers, develop leaders and sustain congregations over time.

The unfinished mission: Reaching people groups without a church

Missionary expansion and cooperation among national churches featured prominently in the MM33 discussions.

Dick Brogden highlighted the challenge of people groups that remain not only unreached but unengaged, with little or no established Christian presence and no meaningful access to the Gospel in their own language and cultural context.

He presented the DOXA partnership as a framework for cooperation among existing mission structures, rather than a new missionary-sending agency. The aim is to enable churches and organisations to work together towards reaching communities that might otherwise remain beyond the focus of established mission programmes.

Brogden referred to a commitment for 10% of the MM33 target of 100,000 churches to be planted among unreached peoples. He urged delegates to place this work at the centre of the movement's mission.

In countries where Assemblies of God churches already operate, national churches can mobilise people to reach unengaged communities within or beyond their borders. Where local access is difficult, cooperation across countries can create new possibilities.
Examples cited included Mongolian missionaries serving in North Korea, Chilean missionaries in Afghanistan and Ethiopian missionaries in Somalia.

The underlying message was that the global Church must look beyond established mission destinations and consider communities where access to the Gospel remains limited. Reaching these people groups will require coordination, cultural understanding, long-term commitment and the willingness to send missionaries across traditional geographical boundaries.

NextGen: Prepare young people to lead and serve

The need to prepare younger generations remained central to the Congress's discussions.

Austin Westlake, Director of Student Discipleship for Assemblies of God Youth Ministries in Springfield, Missouri, called on church leaders to take deliberate responsibility for the spiritual development of children, students and young adults.

Using the example of airline meals, he argued that parents could not settle while their children remained unfed. Similarly, churches should be concerned when younger members are not receiving sound biblical teaching or opportunities to grow in their faith.
He gave the illustration of airline safety instruction that adults should secure their own oxygen masks before assisting children. His point was that caring for the next generation requires the current generation to be spiritually equipped and ready to lead.

Westlake urged leaders to develop a deeper understanding of the culture in which younger generations are growing up, combining spiritual discernment with intentional engagement. This understanding, he said, should inform the programmes, events, conversations and strategies through which churches reach young people.

His presentation built on the previous day's NextGen workshop, where Valson Varghese, Global Coordinator for Next Gen, urged the movement to engage young people in the digital spaces they inhabit while building genuine relationships and involving them in practical mission.

Varghese argued that Generation Z and Generation Alpha are not merely consumers of digital content but producers who want to contribute. He warned that loneliness, excessive digital engagement and the growing use of artificial intelligence for companionship present challenges that churches and families must understand.

He called for greater parental responsibility in spiritual formation, alongside mentoring, mission exposure and opportunities for young people to assume meaningful leadership roles.

The message across the sessions was consistent: younger generations must not simply be the subjects of ministry. They must be equipped and entrusted to lead, serve, plant churches and participate in global missions.

Missionary sending: Lessons from a global movement

The Day One Missions Workshop offered practical examples of how churches in different regions are contributing to missionary sending and cross-cultural work.

Gheorghe Ritisan of Romania reported that the country's mission programme had sent more than 130 missionaries to 35 countries over two decades. He attributed its progress partly to a two-year mission training school, which had prepared approximately 75 per cent of Romanian missionaries.

He said many served among unengaged people groups, including communities in Central Asia and Pakistan, demonstrating how a country with limited resources could develop a sustained missionary programme.

Glenn Smith highlighted the growing contribution of African churches, which are increasingly looking beyond neighbouring countries towards more distant and difficult mission fields. He described DOCSA as a framework for cooperation among approximately 130 missionary-sending agencies represented across national churches.

Reports from the Philippines, Oceania and North America also illustrated the sacrifices, partnerships and renewed commitment needed to sustain global missions.

Fidel Monzon reflected on the decision he and his wife made to leave established medical careers for missionary service, describing how local believers and churches helped their work develop into established congregations.

Terry Bradley highlighted renewed missionary interest among churches in Australia, New Zealand and Pacific island nations, while John Easter called on historically significant missionary-sending churches in North America to renew their commitment to raising and supporting future missionaries.

Together, the reports demonstrated that missionary work is not the preserve of a few wealthy or historically established churches. With training, local commitment, cooperation and sustained support, churches across different economic and cultural settings can contribute to the global mission.



A mission that must reach beyond the Congress

The discussions across the first two days have established a connected agenda for the global Assemblies of God movement.

The pursuit of one million churches requires preparation as well as prayer, healthy congregations as well as numerical expansion, and missionary collaboration as well as local evangelism. It also requires intentional investment in the next generation, whose leadership and participation will shape the movement's future.

President Mahama's opening challenge remains relevant to these deliberations: faith must translate into service that improves lives. The mission of the Church is not complete simply because more congregations are established or more missionaries are sent. The work must also strengthen communities, nurture disciples and respond to human need.

As the Congress continues in Ghana, the challenge for delegates is to translate these discussions into clear commitments within their churches and countries.

The ambition to achieve the 2033 is substantial. Its fulfilment will depend on the willingness of the global fellowship to prepare its people, share its resources, support its missionaries and empower younger leaders.

The message from Day Two is that the future of the movement will not be secured by vision alone. It will be shaped by the work the Church is willing to do today.





A Commission to Transform Nations: The Church Must Turn Faith into Action

The World Assemblies of God Congress 2026 is built around a compelling theme: **"Commissioned: One Mandate, Every Nation."** Yet the significance of this gathering in Ghana lies not simply in the number of nations represented, the scale of its meetings or the prominence of its speakers. Its true value will be measured by what the global Church does when the delegates return home.

The Congress has issued a timely reminder that the Christian mission cannot be confined to pulpits, prayer meetings and declarations of faith. It must be visible in communities, expressed through compassion, strengthened by discipleship and sustained by a commitment to reach people who have yet to hear the Gospel.

At the opening, President John Dramani Mahama challenged the Church to demonstrate its faith through practical service: feeding hungry children, caring for the sick, equipping young people with skills and supporting widows and vulnerable families. His message was important because it connected spiritual conviction with the everyday challenges confronting society.
The Church occupies a unique position in many communities, particularly where public services and social support systems remain under pressure. Its schools, health facilities, charitable initiatives and community networks can make a meaningful contribution to human development. But that contribution requires more than goodwill. It demands organisation, resources, accountability and a clear understanding of the needs of the people being served.

The same principle applies to the Congress's call for global mission expansion. The World Assemblies of God Fellowship's ambition to grow from approximately 460,000 churches to one million by 2033 is an extraordinary undertaking. However, numerical growth alone cannot be the ultimate measure of success. New congregations must be equipped to disciple believers, develop responsible leaders, serve their communities and sustain their work.
As speakers at the Congress have emphasised, the global Church must prepare for the future it is praying for. That means building leadership pipelines, aligning budgets with mission priorities, strengthening theological education and creating structures that release people into service rather than hold them back. Prayer remains indispensable, but prayer must be accompanied by planning, investment and action.

The discussions on the changing geography of Christian mission are equally significant. Churches and mission movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America are increasingly contributing to the global missionary enterprise. This presents Africa with an opportunity to move beyond being viewed primarily as a recipient of missionaries and become a stronger sending force in its own right.
For African churches, that transition will require deliberate cooperation, training, funding and a willingness to send missionaries beyond familiar cultural and geographical boundaries, highlight the African churches' commitment to cross-cultural missionary service. The challenge is not merely to plant more churches, but to ensure that the global mission reaches communities that remain unreached and unengaged.

Perhaps the most consequential conversations at the Congress concern the next generation. Young people are growing up in a world shaped by artificial intelligence, digital platforms, rapid cultural change and unprecedented access to information. Churches cannot respond adequately by treating technology as the enemy or young people as passive recipients of instruction.

The task is to combine meaningful digital engagement with authentic relationships, spiritual formation,

mentoring and opportunities for young people to take responsibility. Children and young adults must not only be told that they are the future of the Church. They must be trusted and equipped to contribute to its present.

This also calls for a rethink of church leadership. Healthy congregations need spiritual depth, sound administration, thoughtful planning and a credible presence in their communities. They must nurture faith while responding intelligently to the social realities around them. A church that is spiritually vibrant but organisationally weak will struggle to sustain its mission; one that is efficiently managed but disconnected from its spiritual purpose will lose its way.

Ghana's role as host of the first World Assemblies of God Congress on African soil is therefore both an honour and a responsibility. The gathering offers an opportunity to showcase the country's religious life and hospitality, while demonstrating how faith communities can contribute to national development and international cooperation.

But hosting a global congress is only the beginning. The lasting legacy must extend beyond the event itself. It should be reflected in stronger local congregations, more effective community ministries, better-supported missionaries, intentional investment in young people and deeper partnerships across nations.

The central message emerging from the Congress is clear: a commission is not fulfilled merely by acknowledging it. It requires obedience, preparation, sacrifice and measurable commitment.

"One Mandate, Every Nation" MUST become more than a congress theme. It must become a working agenda for the global Church – one that transforms faith into service, converts prayer into purposeful action and ensures that the mission reaches both the communities already within its care and the people still waiting to be reached.



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