

GOSPEL **ACCESS + ALIGNMENT**



TABLE OF CONTENTS



03 THE PREAMBLE

A vision for gospel access and alignment

04 THE INSPIRED, PROPHETIC WORD

What the Bible says and the Spirit is saying

06 STATE OF THE GOSPEL

Forty-eight percent of our world is unreached with the gospel

10 THE VISION

What we can do if united

12 OUR METHODOLOGY

Aligning all we do for the glory of Jesus globally

16 GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

Every AG church, district, and General Council has a role to play

18 MISSIONARY ALIGNMENT

Every AGWM missionary is needed as we align to close the gospel access gap

20 BEYOND MOBILIZATION

A look into the process of effective engagement

22 KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

How AGWM is defining key terms

24 STRATEGIC QUESTIONS

Important questions regarding the vision of AGWM

26 THE FINAL ADDRESS

In the power of the Holy Spirit



GOSPEL ACCESS GOSPEL ALIGNMENT

Jesus is worthy. He is worthy to be worshipped by every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

The big story of the Bible across time reveals that the worship of the nations is indeed God's plan. The Bible is God's playbook showing how all redemption history unfolds, a history centered on the nations, all nations, worshipping Jesus.

In our world today, there is still a tragic gospel access gap. So many billions still have not heard about Jesus in a way they can understand. The Holy Spirit is leading us to close this gospel access gap by aligning our global missions efforts towards this end. But we cannot do this by ourselves. I invite every Assemblies of God pastor and every AGWM missionary to be part of a process and a worldwide partnership that globally aligns all we do together towards the goal of gospel access for all the peoples of earth.

This does not mean all our missionaries will be embedded among unreached peoples, but it does mean we can all align ourselves towards the goal of every people group on earth having access to the gospel. This can be done in different ways and from different places as you will read in the pages that follow.

This magazine is our playbook for how we are led to participate in God's eternal plan to glorify himself among the nations. The Holy Spirit in the inspired Scripture has an undeniable focus on the nations, the ethnolinguistic population segments of earth.

In today's world of 8.2 billion people, there are thought to be over 17,000 "nations." Of these, 6,600 nations (or people groups) are considered unreached. Quantitatively, this means they have less than two believers for every 100 people, and qualitatively, they do not yet have the ability to reach their own without external catalytic missionary help. Together these 6,600 unreached people groups number 3.9 billion people.

That is 48 percent of the world.

Yet only 3 percent of all global missionaries work among the unreached.

God is leading us to send our sons and daughters to make disciples and plant churches where they do not exist.

Our vision is to grow AGWM to over 4,000 healthy missionaries, gladly aligning all we do towards our mission of establishing the church among all peoples everywhere. We are committed to working with our national church partners in the World Assemblies of God Fellowship and beyond (God's great global family) toward this end. We know we cannot reach the world by ourselves. Together, wherever the Spirit has placed us to make disciples, all the Church shall indeed take all the gospel to all the world.

In that endeavor,

Dr. John Easter, Ph.D.

Executive Director Assemblies of God World Missions



THE MISSION OF GOD IN THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God has an undeniable focus on the nations ("ethne") – distinct people groups that have their own language, religion, culture, and geographical space.

In you all the **NATIONS**
of the earth will be
blessed. (Gen. 12)

All **NATIONS** shall
see His glory.
(Isa. 66)

Every **NATION**
represented at
Pentecost. (Acts 2)

Ask of Me and I will
give you the
NATIONS. (Ps. 2)

Make disciples of
all the **NATIONS**.
(Matt. 28)

A multitude from every
tribe, tongue, people,
and **NATION** around
the throne. (Rev. 7)

OUR GOD IS AN ALL NATIONS GOD.
THE BIBLE IS AN ALL NATIONS BOOK.
THE CHURCH IS AN ALL NATIONS CHURCH.
THE COMMISSION IS AN ALL NATIONS ASSIGNMENT.

*"If everything is mission,
nothing is mission."*

Bishop Stephen Neill

Cross-Cultural Missionary: A person called by God, empowered by the Spirit, and sent by the Church to cross cultural and linguistic barriers, living incarnationally, to make disciples of Jesus by establishing the Church through the communication of the gospel.

THE PROPHETIC WORD

*Given by
General
Superintendent
Doug Clay at the
2024 World
Assemblies of
God Congress*



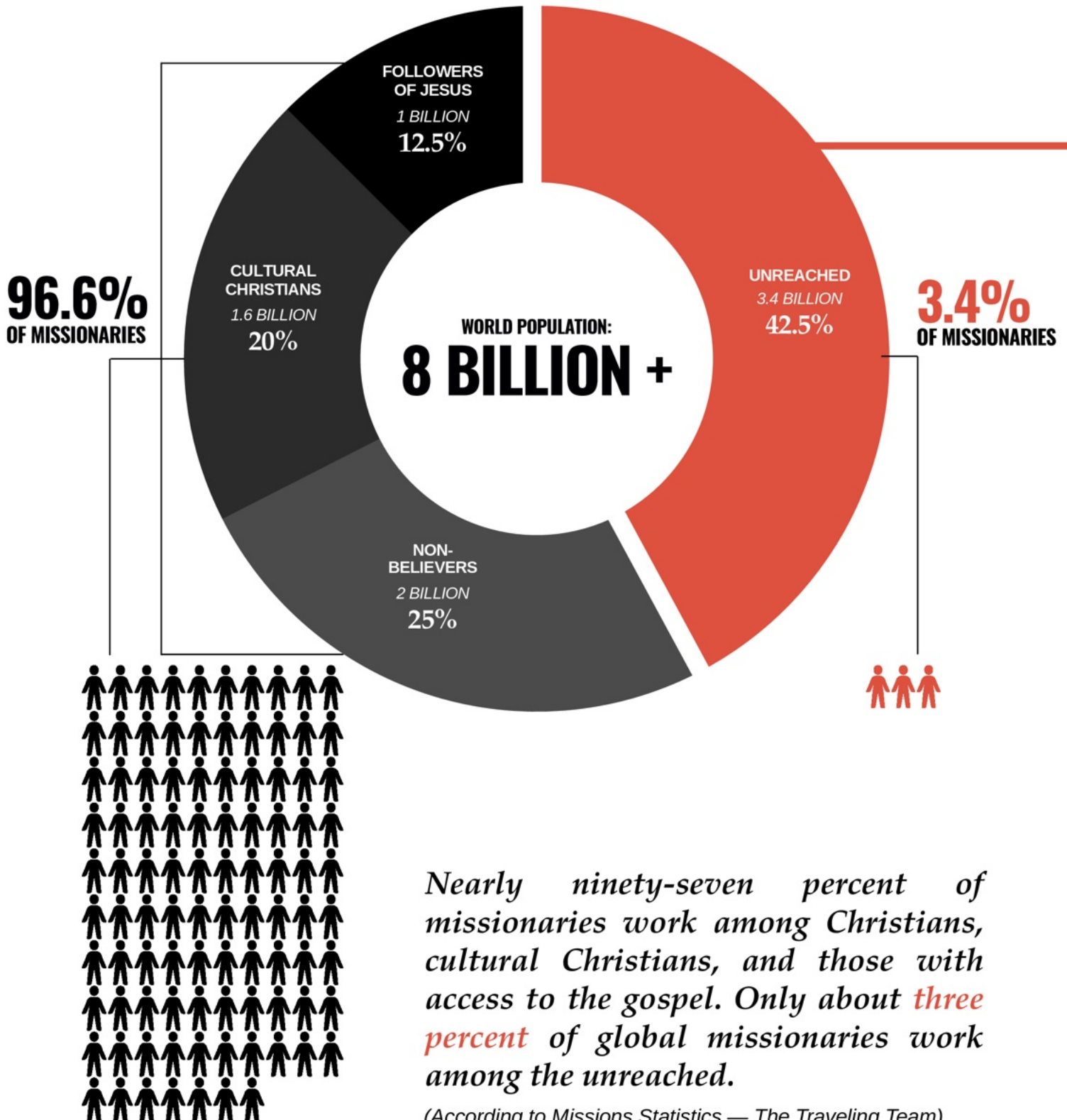
The Spirit of the Lord says, “**I have and am calling My people to the unreached people groups of the world**, to the places where My name is not yet known, but My Spirit is already there. The time is now to step into this space. I am stirring a passion for the lost and the forgotten, for the tribes and tongues that are hidden from the world but not hidden from Me.

RISE UP, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, for I will go before you, breaking down the walls of fear, indifference, hostility, and discrimination. I will open doors that no person or government can shut. As you go, My Spirit will rest upon you with power, wisdom, and audacious courage. You will speak words of life to those who dwell in darkness, and they will see My light.”

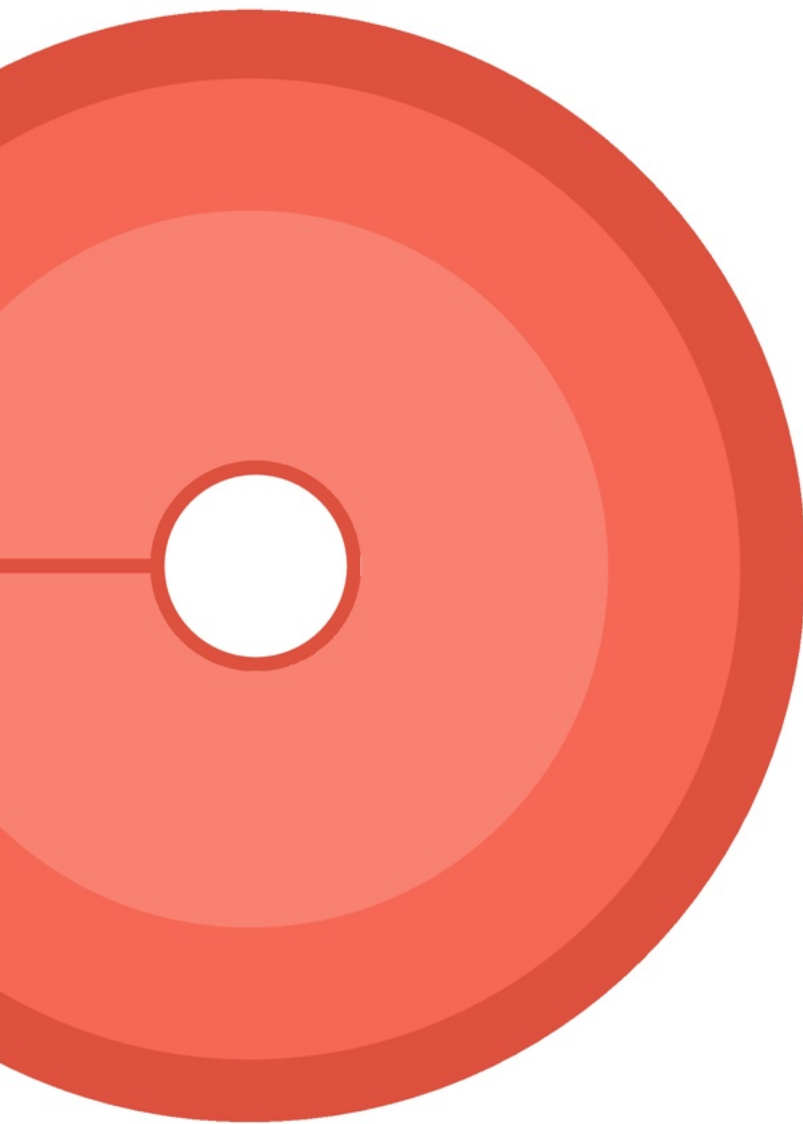


STATE OF THE GOSPEL

Current global missionary distribution as of 2025:



(According to Missions Statistics — The Traveling Team)



● **Unreached: ≤ 2 believers in 100**

3.9 billion people
6,602 people groups

(AGWM considers Secular Peoples in "Greater Europe" that are <2% evangelical as unreached, which is why the total of 3.9 Billion is higher than the traditional 3.4 Billion on Page 6)

● **Under-engaged: ≤ 1 believer in 100**

3.2 billion people
5,119 people groups

● **Frontier Peoples: ≤ 1 believer in 1,000**

2 billion people
4,788 people groups

○ **Unengaged: No missionaries, no/few known believers**

202 million people
2,085 people groups

**NO GOSPEL ACCESS
NO HOPE**



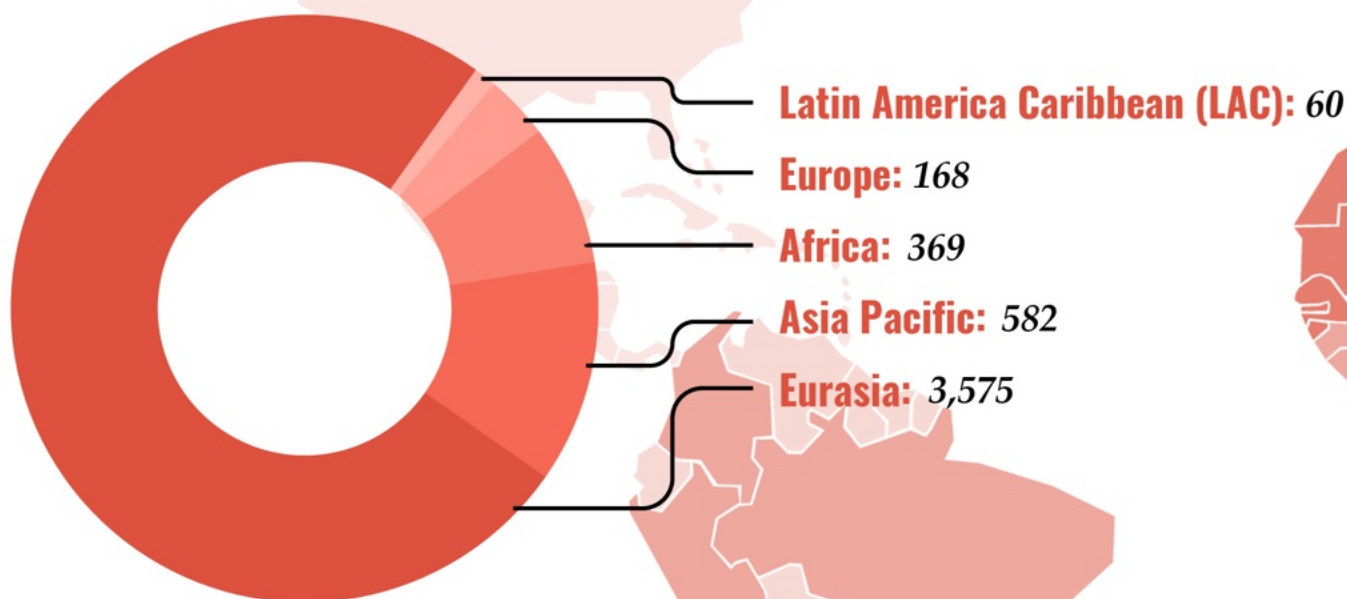
Of the 3.9 billion unreached

2.0 billion are frontier peoples.

Less than 1 believer in 1,000

There are approximately **4,788** *frontier people groups scattered throughout the world*

**www.joshuaproject.net (Joshua Project lists 34 of these people groups in the USA)*



A Note on the List of Unengaged Unreached People Groups

The AGWM list of unengaged peoples is dynamic and will change as we (or other evangelical missions agencies) engage these unengaged peoples and/or as further ethnographic research from the field gives us a more accurate understanding of who is actually unengaged. Our list was compiled by consulting the research done by the International Mission Board (IMB), the Engage Network (TENet), and Joshua Project (JP). Our AGWM list is based largely on the IMB/JP research and includes unengaged peoples less than 500 (as even smaller people groups must have gospel access) and the deaf (as they have their own language and culture within the people group they belong to). Our list does not include historic Christian peoples (such as the Egyptian Copts, since there

are renewal movements among them) nor diaspora peoples (such as Egyptian Muslims working in Saudi Arabia, since we view these diaspora peoples part of their home culture, and therefore, church planting teams engaging Egyptian Muslims should have an inclusive strategy that accounts for diaspora members of that people group). It is important to note that a list of unengaged peoples will be fluid as new data emerges, and while the list serves as a helpful starting point, the guiding missiological concept will ever be gospel access – who does not have adequate witness? There we will concentrate our prayers, efforts, and personnel, and toward the peoples and places of least gospel access, we will align our resources and attention.

Of the 2.0 billion frontier peoples

202 million are unengaged.

No known (or very few) believers

The unengaged remain unengaged because they live in hostile contexts, difficult to access and more difficult to remain in.

There are approximately **2,085** *unengaged people groups found all over the world.*

416

Africa

368

Asia Pacific

1,103

Eurasia

26

Europe

172

LAC

Unengaged Unreached People Groups by Religious Affinity



THE VISION



*To establish the
Church among
all peoples
everywhere*

4,000+ missionaries
in the AGWM family

BY 2033

with the vision that

EVERY

unreached people group
on earth has adequate

ACCESS to the
gospel



A GLOBAL GOSPEL VISION. A GLOBAL GOSPEL ALIGNMENT.

In the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) there are

**88.9 MILLION PEOPLE
IN 451,458 CHURCHES**

**188 NATIONAL CHURCH PARTNERS
IN 160 COUNTRIES**

**122 NATIONAL MISSIONS DEPARTMENTS
IN 108 COUNTRIES**

Together with our WAGF partners, our vision is to have

THOUSANDS

of global workers aligned (14,000+) towards the challenge of gospel access.



Imagine what we could do together. We could have fruitful church planting teams among every unreached people group on earth!

OUR METHODOLOGY



1. ALIGNING THE CALL TO THE BIBLICAL VISION OF GOSPEL ACCESS FOR ALL PEOPLES

Our boots-on-the-ground global workers are vital to the mission as we partner with our World Assemblies of God Fellowship national churches and partners in:



Bible Schools and Training

Missionaries teaching missions in Bible schools or training pastors and people of all ages to become missionaries among the unreached



Compassion and Service

Missionaries using their medical or humanitarian and development skills to reach unreached peoples, training others to do so, or rescuing and educating those in unreached contexts who have been abused



Raising Up Missions Departments

Missionaries catalyzing national missions movements among the unreached (both in-country and abroad) by helping to develop missions training and sending structures



International Churches

Missionaries working with global nomads and English-speaking nationals, training the church to evangelize and disciple the unreached and unchurched



Frontier Church Planting

Missionaries in church-planting teams directly planting churches among unreached people groups

OUR METHODOLOGY



2. MOBILIZING NEW GLOBAL WORKERS



The Process for New Missionaries

1. Raise their funds.
2. Spend the first term (in a launch team where possible) learning language, culture, missiology, partnership, and contextual church planting skills.
3. By the second term, deploy to a team to make disciples that make disciples and plant churches that plant churches.
4. Pioneer or catalyze work among an unengaged, frontier, or under-engaged people.

3. THE SENDING BASE



The Vital Role of Every Church and District

AGWM is a denominational mission dependent on our churches and districts sending us their best, sending us their **sons and daughters**.

Prayer covering and financial support are vital for these **sons and daughters** to make it to the field and to be sustained there until the church is planted.

4. FROM GEN Z TO MISSIONARY Z

Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012) is now the most populous generation on the globe. In the West, they are the least churched of all the generations. In the Global South, they are by far the largest demographic of every unreached people. We must confront and embrace two important strategic realities:

*The future of the mission field is **Gen Z**.*

*Our future missionaries are **Gen Z**.*

Within the challenge lies the solution. If we as a mission can mobilize Gen Z missionaries, we will have the personnel who can identify with and reach the global, unreached Gen Z population.



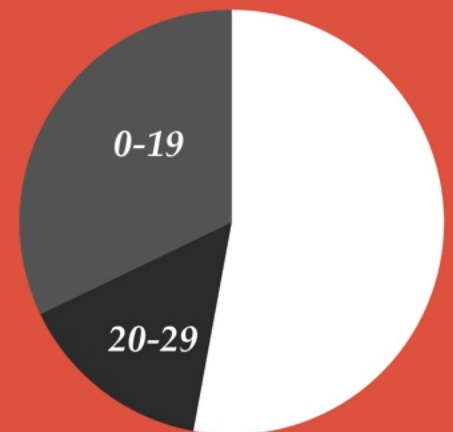
32.2%

of the world's population
is under 20

46.9%

of the world's population
is under 30

<https://www.census.gov>



*Gen Z is the most populous generation
comprising 2.64 billion of earth's population.*



WHAT MAKES GEN Z GOOD MISSIONARIES?



*Culturally Diverse
Adaptable
Collaborative*

*Digital Natives
Entrepreneurial
Globally Aware*

GLOBAL ALIGNMENT



LOCAL CHURCH – DISTRICT –
Everyone is invited to help close



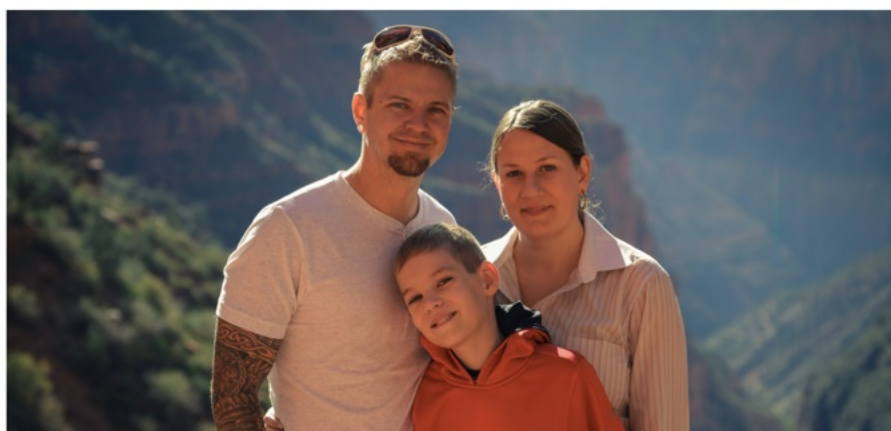
**Mobilization and
Sending**

**Strategic
Thinking and
Leadership**

**Empowering
National
Churches**

WHAT'S YOUR

How many sons and daughters



GENERAL COUNCIL

the gospel access gap

Direct Church
Planting

Holy Spirit

— The Lost

— Unreached

— Under-Engaged

— Frontier Peoples

— Unengaged

NUMBER?

will you send?



MISSIONARY ALIGNMENT

*Let's creatively, **globally align** for*

**Mobilization and
Sending**

**Strategic
Thinking and
Leadership**



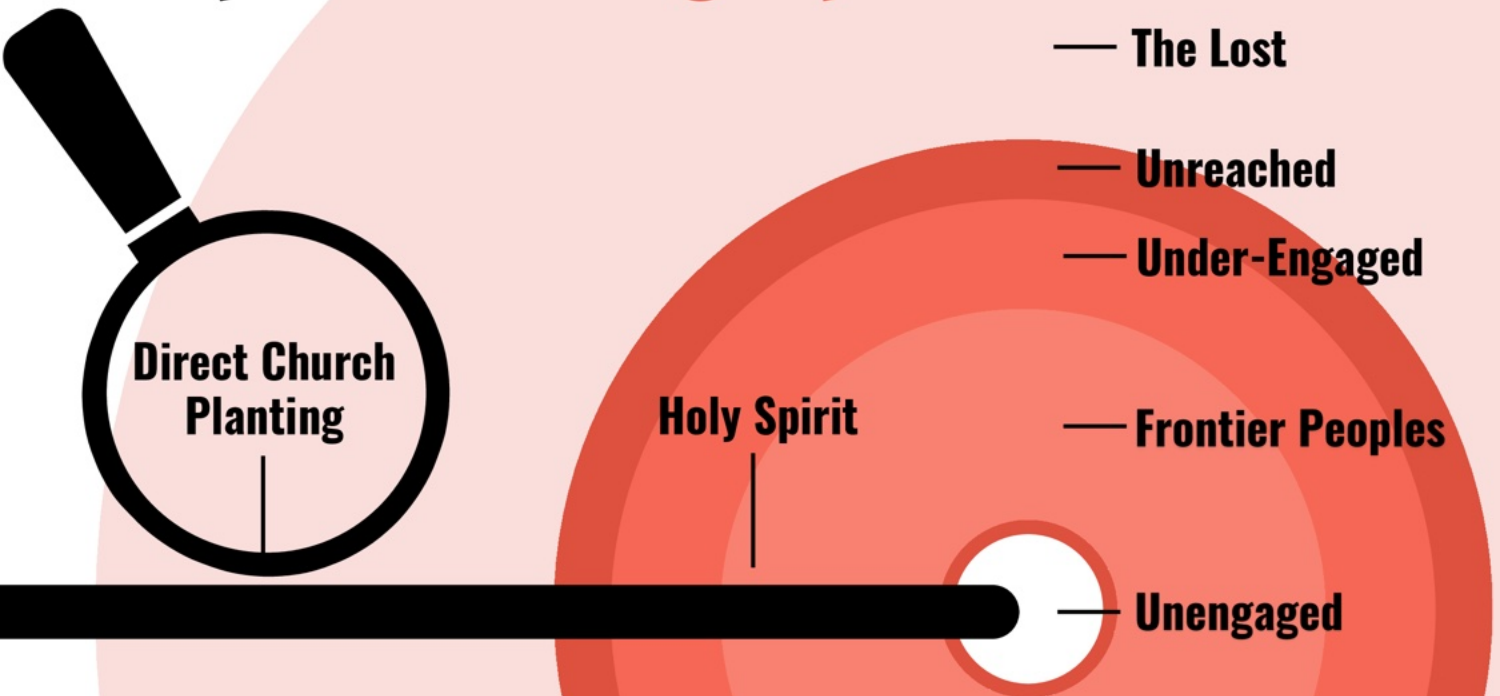
**Empowering
National
Churches**

GOSPEL ACCESS, GLO

- Bible Schools
- Compassion Ministry
- Youth Work
- Relief and Development
- Justice and Rescue
- Administration

- Member Care
- Team Leader
- Team Member
- Media
- University Work
- Indigenous Missions Agencies

comprehensive gospel access



GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

- Tent Making
- Children's Outreach
- Building
- Veterans
- Leadership
- Medical

- Language Study
- Translation
- New Workers
- National Church Partnership
- Training
- Resourcing

BEYOND MOBILIZATION

to effective engagement of the unreached

Mobilizing a certain number of missionaries toward a dynamic list of unreached, frontier, and under-engaged peoples is one thing. Long-term, effective church planting work among those peoples is another thing. We dare not confuse missionary applicants and compiled lists of the unreached with the long, hard work of making disciples who make disciples and planting churches that plant churches. **Our ultimate goal is not a workforce of thousands of missionaries; our ultimate goal is that Jesus is worshipped by a MULTITUDE of every people, tribe, and tongue (Rev. 7:9).**

Mobilization

- UPG lists (dynamic/imperfect)
- Input goals for number of missionaries
- Application and onboarding processes

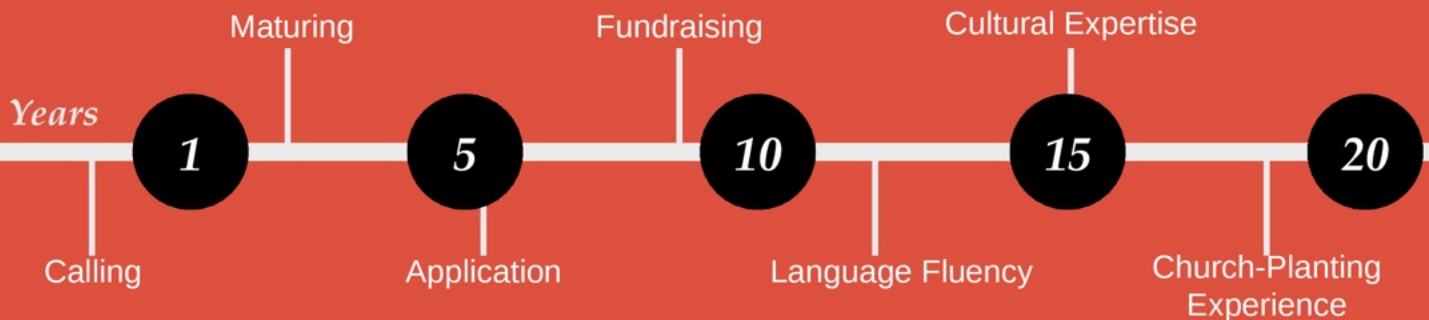
Ethnographic Research

- Vetting and clarifying people group lists
- Identifying active and potential partners
- Locating where, who, what

Tactical Missiology

- How do we reach them?
- What will lead to an indigenous church?
- What are the nuances?

TIMELINE OF MISSIONARY EFFECTIVENESS



BASIC ENGAGEMENT

"Engagement" is one stage in "reaching" an unreached people. But this must involve more than mere evangelistic activity. Jeff Liverman helpfully insists that what is needed is "effective engagement," which must include "activity that is strategic and will most likely produce fruit that remains and multiplies."

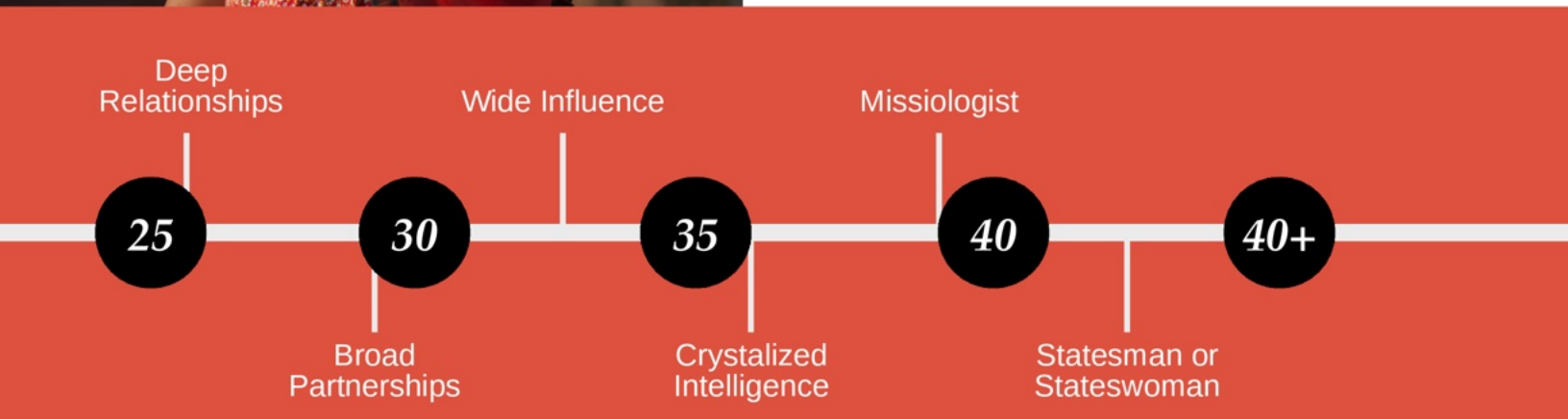
Effective engagement includes: (1) apostolic [pioneering] effort in residence; (2) commitment to work in the local language and culture; (3) commitment to long-term ministry; and (4) sowing in a manner consistent with the goal of seeing a church planting movement emerge.

"Unplowed Ground: Engaging the Unreached," in (Ed.) J. Dudley Woodberry, *From Seed to Fruit: Global Trends, Fruitful Practices, and Emerging Issues Among Muslims* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2008), p. 22.



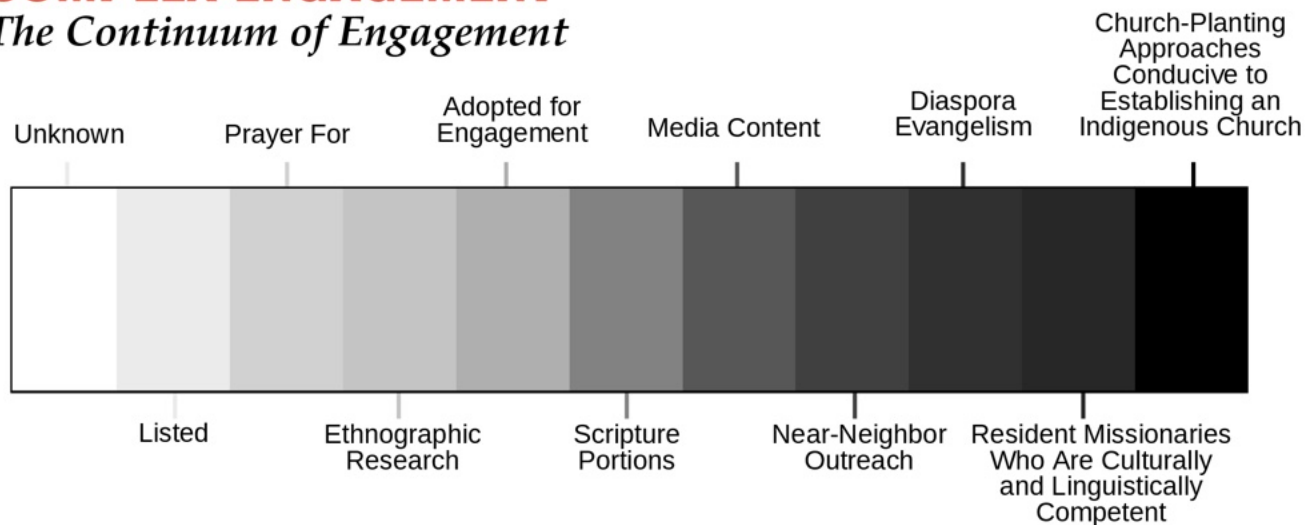
Effective missionaries have long careers that include:

1. Robust training in their first decade with a focus on lifelong learning
2. Extensive church planting experience on a church-planting team before they lead anything or base outside of the local context to train others
3. Intentional partnerships with national churches, near-neighbor peoples, other missionary agencies, and emerging new believers/leaders
4. Clear indigenous church principles and focus



COMPLEX ENGAGEMENT

The Continuum of Engagement



KEY TERMS AND AGWM DEFINITIONS

Churches

A **church** is comprised of baptized disciples joined together by the Holy Spirit who regularly meet together for doctrine, fellowship, communion, and prayer (Acts 2:42).

Practically speaking, for a new gathering to be called a church, at least six baptized disciples are required; however, specific location, meeting frequency, and designated pastor are not—though those normally develop as an indigenous church matures in the five “selfs” (self-propagating, self-governing, self-supporting, self-theologizing, self-missionizing).

A **church-planting movement** is a multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that includes at least four streams of four spiritual generations together totaling more than 1,000 persons.

People Groups

A **people group** is an ethnolinguistic group who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another based on language, culture, religion, and worldview. From the viewpoint of evangelization, it is the largest possible group within which the gospel can spread as a viable, indigenous church-planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

An **unreached people group (UPG)** has approximately 2 disciples or fewer out of 100 ($\leq 2\%$) and lacks the capacity to establish indigenous churches without cross-cultural assistance.

Within the overarching UPG category are the

following people groups in descending levels of engagement:

1. Under-Engaged

An under-engaged people group has approximately one disciple or fewer out of 100 ($\leq 1\%$). More church planting teams are needed to increase fruitful engagement.

2. Frontier

A frontier people group has approximately one disciple or fewer out of 1,000 ($\leq 0.1\%$) with no confirmed, sustained movement to Jesus. These groups are often geographically isolated with little to no access to the gospel; thus, pioneer work generally must begin with nonbelievers.

3. Unengaged

An unengaged UPG (UUPG) has no known believers or a tiny few (effectively 0%) and lacks the four primary levels of effective engagement:

- a. Apostolic (pioneering) effort in residence
- b. Commitment to work in the local culture and heart language
- c. Commitment to long-term ministry
- d. Sowing the gospel in a manner consistent with the goal of seeing a church-planting movement emerge

Broader engagement includes important contributing components that can be done by nonresident partners, including intercessory prayer, Bible translation, compassion/disaster ministry outreaches, media reach, mobilization efforts, leadership training, and work among diaspora.



THE VISION

**GOSPEL ACCESS.
GLOBAL ALIGNMENT.**



No unengaged
people groups in
our generation



Fruitful engagement
of frontier peoples
and the under-
engaged



Church planting
movements among
every unreached
people on earth



All the above done
in partnership with
the global body of
Christ

4,000+

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONARIES

STRATEGIC QUESTIONS

Important questions regarding the vision of AGWM to prioritize gospel access and alignment



1. What about the personal call?

AGWM strongly affirms both the individual call of God and the collective call of God. AGWM as a missionary agency has been called to establish the Church among all peoples everywhere. As an agency we must ask ourselves where the Church is not yet established. It is there we must spend and be spent for Jesus' sake. All AGWM personnel are invited to align their individual call to this collective call.

2. What about the millions of lost in “reached” countries?

AGWM strongly believes in partnership with indigenous churches. In many contexts that are “reached,” our World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) partners are now able to evangelize the lost of their own people or nation. Where a national church is not yet indigenous (self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating, self-theologizing, and self-missionizing), we are glad to help toward those goals at their invitation.

3. What do we mean by effective engagement ?

In AGWM, we primarily mean that there is a missionary or local apostolic team resident on the ground ministering in the local language and cultural context through the practices that will best lead to an indigenous national church. We recognize that in a global, urban, technology-centered world are developing means of engagement that empower creativity. We also believe in the great potential of “proximate engagement,” which means partnering with our national churches to engage the unengaged who live near or around them.

4. What kind of churches will we plant among the unreached ?

Because AGWM is a part of WAGF, we want to plant churches that ultimately align with the worldwide Assemblies of God. We realize these may be house-church movements that forge their own identity and connection to WAGF or movements that decide to align with established national churches as a district, branch, or some other creative way of alignment.

5. What about the work of other agencies and churches?

We do not think that the Assemblies of God can reach the world nor obey the Great Commission without cooperating with God's global body—the Church universal. We bless all of God's children and rejoice in every soul saved and every church planted by every Bible-preaching church. As we set goals to prioritize the unreached, we recognize many others are doing their part. We want to bless, serve, honor, and partner with them wherever and whenever possible.

6. What about diaspora peoples and a globalized world?

AGWM sees a stewardship responsibility to respond to the world as it stands in our generation—not the world that was, nor the world as we wish it to be. Therefore, wherever segments of peoples and populations do not have adequate gospel access, we will spend and be spent there.

Wherever people do not have a “version” of the

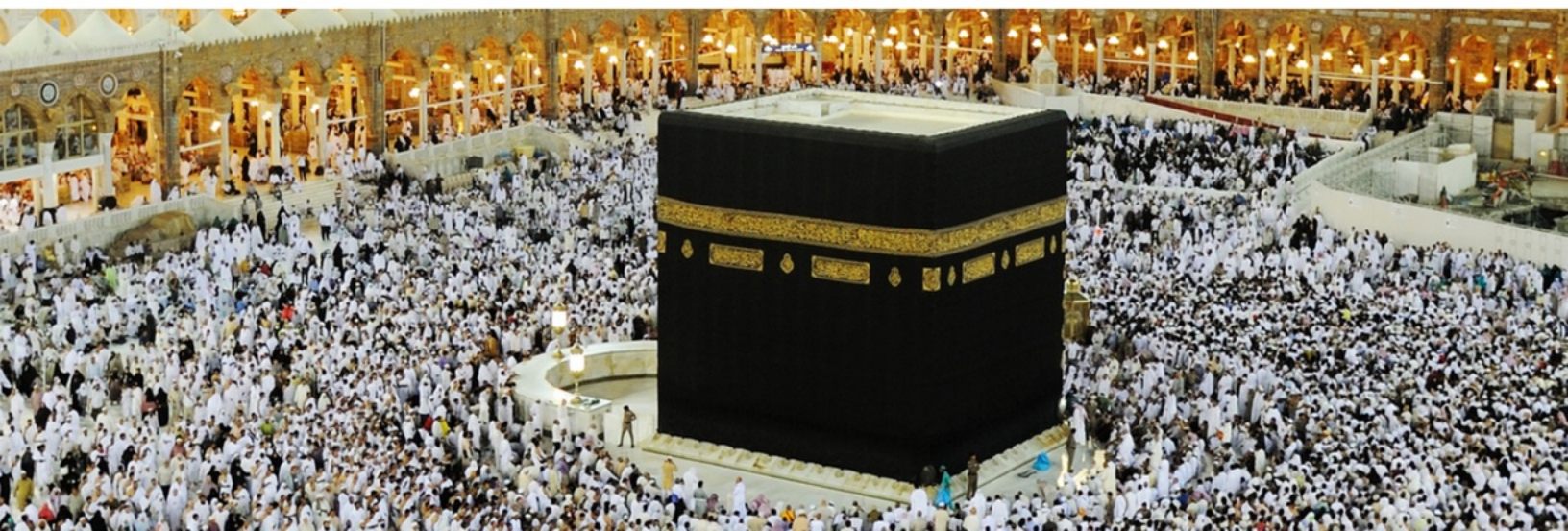
gospel they can understand, or a church that can “incorporate” them into community life, we will send apostolic church-planting teams wherever in the changing world that may be. What will guide our AGWM missiology are the gospel access and gospel alignment questions. Where is a people or segment of the population without gospel access? That is where we will engage, and we will align all our personnel to that end.

7. What about the United States?

While there are increasing numbers of unreached diaspora peoples in the States who need effective gospel engagement, the mandate of AGWM is outside our home country. We continue to affirm the work of U.S. Missions, local ministries, and our many wonderful AG churches which have workers or works assigned to engaging these precious unreached peoples whom God has brought to our nation.

8. Why are we focusing on Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)?

We believe the need for gospel access most urgently highlighted by those completely unengaged is going to be used by the Holy Spirit to call forth waves of new workers. As we aim towards the Unengaged we rejoice that many will find their place in the harvest among Frontier Peoples, the Unengaged, and among other places and peoples without adequate gospel access.



IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We commit ourselves to God and His global family for the mobilization of THOUSANDS of cross-cultural missionaries, focused on gospel access and globally aligned, by 2033.



WE ADOPT THE FOLLOWING INTEGRATED GOALS AS OUR STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITY:

1.

By 2033, there is no such thing as an unengaged people group on earth because every people group is being engaged.

2.

By 2033, every unreached people group (with a frontier people group priority) is being progressively and effectively engaged by multiple missionary teams and national partners.

3.

By 2033, all our global national churches are actively and progressively mobilized towards effective engagement among the unreached through sending their own sons and daughters.

4.

All AGWM missionaries are professionally and progressively trained in missiology. They are increasingly culturally and linguistically functional, they are everyday disciple makers, and they are unified and aligned with our goal of adequate gospel access for unreached peoples globally.

God is calling us as the Assemblies of God family worldwide to send our sons and daughters—just like He sent His Son.

The Holy Spirit birthed the Assemblies of God that we be dedicated to Him and to one another for the greatest evangelization the world has ever seen.

48 percent of our world remains unevangelized.

3.9 billion do not have adequate gospel access.

6,602 people groups remain unreached.

2,085 people groups are unengaged.

Together **we ALL have a part to play** in extending **gospel access** to all peoples everywhere.

Together we can make disciples of all the nations.

Together we can plant churches that plant churches among the unreached.

Together we can mobilize, send, and sustain **THOUSANDS** of new missionaries.

Let us be **globally aligned**, for we can only establish the Church among all peoples everywhere as we work together.

To Jesus alone be the glory from EVERY tribe, tongue, people, and nation forever.



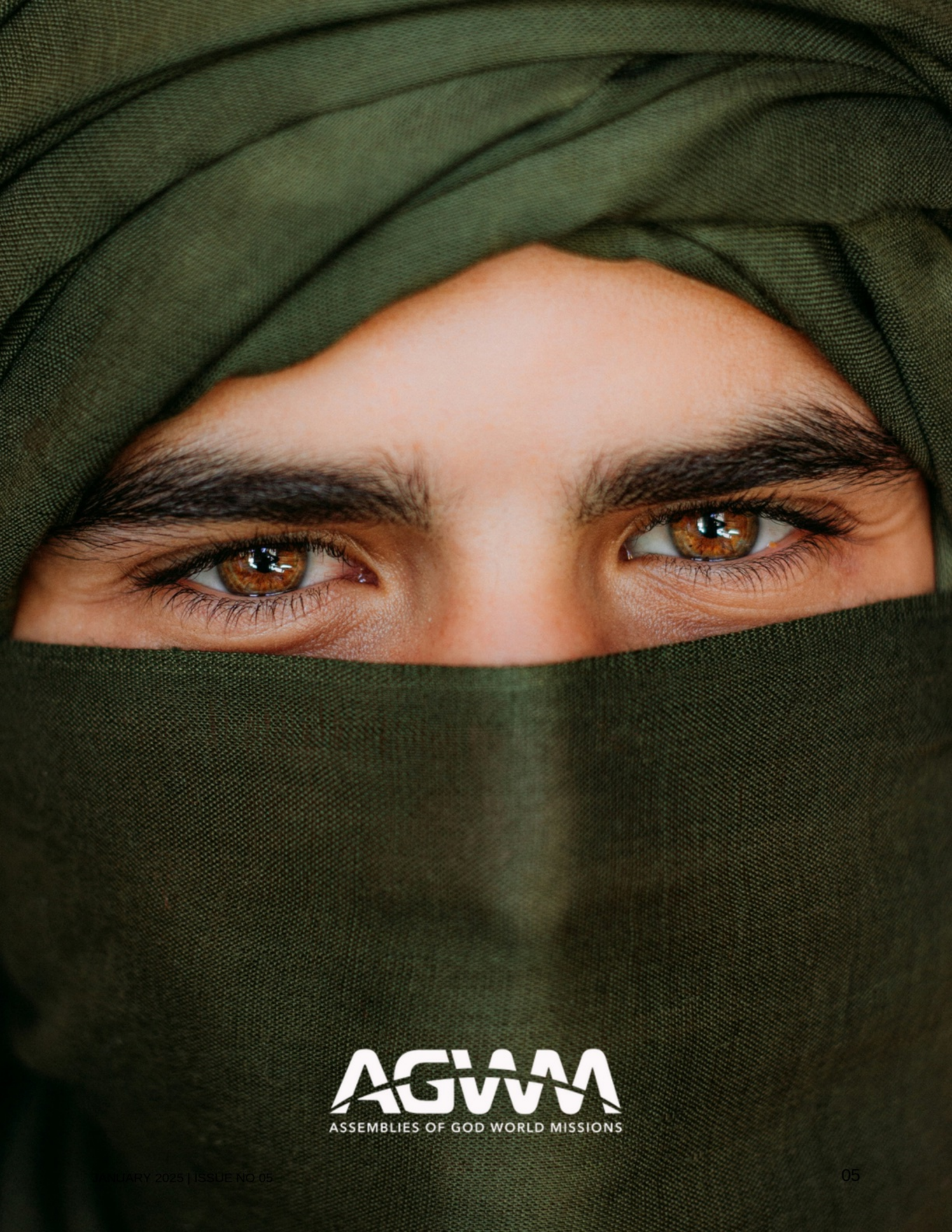
Rev. Doug Clay

General Superintendent of the
Assemblies of God (USA)



Rev. John Easter

Executive Director of Assemblies of God
World Mission (USA)
Chairman of WAGF Missions Commission



AGWM
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS