

## Hard Times

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I believe with all my heart that God is also asking every church at this hour to be good stewards of the money He sends their way. When churches respond in obedience, I believe this will maximize the dollars sent to missions. Why? Because the Great Commission never moves from its primary position in the heart of God. Churches sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit will put limited funds where the highest priority is.

### Good things come from an economic downturn

Perhaps it sounds counterintuitive, but

I am convinced there are good things that come from an economic downturn. Hard times remind us we are dependent on God for all the resources for His work. Hard times increase our sense of responsibility to God in the way we use that money and the way we spend that money. Difficult circumstances often bring to light issues we would not address in times of abundance and prosperity. To someone attending a church that supports missions strongly I would encourage you to stretch your faith. Make a faith promise, partner with your church in its vision to reach the lost around the world, and watch expectantly for God to honor that faith and meet not only a missionary's need but your own as well.

### The Lord has entrusted the lost in our care

You and I are at a financial crossroads today. This is about eternal destiny of souls, and God's heart is grieved when we use funds that could be effective in the winning of the lost for things that may be of some value but not the greatest value in reaching our world. And I have been convicted in recent months about that in my own life. I want to use my energy and my resources to maximize what is of highest priority to the heart of Jesus Christ. I want to be able to live up to that principle because I know I will answer to Him when all is said and done.

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 Brooke, William, Costa Rica  
 Brown, Jerry & Vicki, Latin America Facultad  
 Bueno, Bob & Cilinia, El Salvador  
 Cagle, Wayne & Judy, APTS  
 Calkins, Harold, Dominican Republic  
 Campbell, Norm & Mary Ann, AGWM General  
 Cao, Moses, US Missions / Vietnamese  
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 Chi Alpha Campus Min (Brian Orme), US  
 Missions / UCSD Campus Outreach  
 Chole, Barry & Alicia, Intl. Service Ministries  
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 Waisner, Terry & Debbie, Asia Pacific  
 Walz, Brad & Rhonda, Argentina  
 West, Dan, Spain  
 Williams, Bill & Jo Anne, Life Publishers Intl.  
 Woodworth, David & Margot, Colombia



## Spirit-led missions impacts the world in Every Way

By Timothy Dresselhaus, Chair, SDFA World Missions Board

*"I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."* — The Apostle Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:22

From small beginnings in the early 1900's, Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) has grown to 2,713 career missionaries working in 213 countries among 332,411 church-

es attended by 61,550,938 people! How did this happen?

The key has been the leading of the Spirit – in empowered witness and supernatural direction whereby *every way* is used to bring the gospel to people without Christ. In the first century, a band of fearful disciples changed their world after the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost. Now, a new generation of

AGWM missionaries is making a difference in response to the direction of the Spirit, working around the world to *reach* the spiritually lost with the message of Jesus Christ, to *plant* national churches after the New Testament pattern, to *train* leaders to reach their own people and other nations, and to *touch* poor and suffering people with the compassion of Christ. As a result, each day counts



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## 2010 Missions Conference schedule

**Sun, Jan 24 – Opening Sessions, 9 am & 10:45 am**

**9 am: Adults** – Missions message by Pastor Bob Buschman – Sanctuary. Special guest: Stephen Fishwick, Paint-in-Motion

**Youth** (6th – 12th grades): Missionary Wayne Francis (India).  
**Infants–5th grade:** Regular Sunday schedule.

**10:45 am: Adults and Youth:** Missions message by Pastor Bob Buschman – Sanctuary. Special guest: Stephen Fishwick (Paint-in-Motion).  
**Grades 1-5:** Missionary Michael Dant (Slovakia) – The Wave (KI 202).

**Kindergarten and under:** regular Sunday schedule.

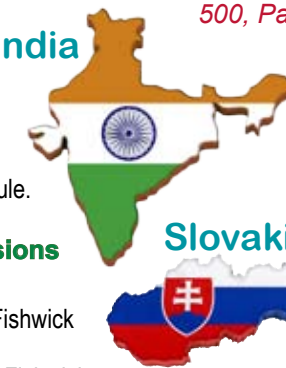
**Sun, Jan 24 – Colors of the World Missions Dinner, 6 pm**

**Adults:** Missionary Wayne Francis (India), Stephen Fishwick (Paint-in-Motion) – Fellowship Center.

**Youth** (6th – 12th grades): Speed the Light, Stephen Fishwick (Paint-in-Motion) – Student Center

**Grades 1-5:** Missionary Michael Dant (Slovakia), Stephen Fishwick (Paint-in-Motion), BGMC – The Wave (KI 202)

India



Slovakia



**3 years - Kinder:** Missionary Michael Dant (Slovakia) – Snorkel Reef.  
**Childcare:** Infants up to age 3 – Nursery. (Meal not provided.)

**Slime the Pastor!** Should overall attendance to the Colors of the World Missions Dinner (adult, youth and children) exceed 500, Pastor Buschman has agreed to be colorfully slimed in keeping with the evening's theme.

**Tues, Jan 26 – All-Church Potluck Luncheon, 11 am-1 pm**

**All Adults:** Missionaries Wayne Francis & Michael Dant – Fellowship Center. (Bring a dish to share.)

**Wed, Jan 27 – Special Service, 6:30 - 7:45pm**

**All Adults:** Missionary Michael Dant (Slovakia) – Chapel.  
**Youth:** Missionary Wayne Francis (India) – Student Ctr.  
**Children:** Regular Wednesday evening schedule.

**Sun, Jan 31 – Faith Promise Service, 10:45 am only**

**Adults, youth, & children (3 yrs and above):** Message by Scott Martin, Director of Global Student Missions, Chi Alpha – Sanctuary. No children, youth or adult classes. Childcare for 0-3 years only.

# Hard times can produce good

by L. John Bueno, Executive Director, Assemblies of God World Missions

There's an old saying: "A rising tide raises all ships." Unfortunately, there is a parallel reality: All ships are just as susceptible to a falling tide. In these months of economic downturn, no organization is exempt from the effects of dwindling finances. That includes Assemblies of God World Missions, an organization that has been wonderfully blessed by God throughout its history. But AGWM stands apart from other institutions in this very real sense — although our missionaries and ministry projects use finances as a tool, we do not put our faith in finances. Our trust remains directed toward the Lord of



the Harvest.

## Three Supernatural Truths

Some 20 years ago, when Lois and I were serving as missionaries to El Salvador, our ministry partners arrived with us at a financial crossroads. Our children's program, Latin American ChildCare, faced a sudden monthly shortfall of \$200,000. In the natural we had no way to keep the schools operating. But I felt impressed of God to share with our staff three supernatural truths, truths which are applicable to our worldwide missions in these months of recession.

**1. If a ministry is valid, God will support it.** He will provide the funds. When I survey the growing churches and Bible schools and rehabilitation centers and orphanages

where our missionaries are partnering with local believers to further the Great Commission, I am repeatedly confronted with valid ministry. I believe God will provide needed funds in these trying times.

**2. When God provides funds, He expects us to demonstrate good stewardship.** A ministry may be valid, but if we are poor stewards God removes His hands of blessing. I am convinced Assemblies of God missionaries are some of the best stewards of God-given resources in the church today. I do not say that out of pride, but out of a continuing sense of responsibility. At the

same time, I know that at every level of World Missions administration we are seeking to identify ways to stretch every dollar in every gift to make the greatest possible use of it.



**3. When a ministry is valid, and when God provides the funds, God will get all the glory for the resulting blessing.** Latin America ChildCare schools not only survived those meager months 20 years ago, but they have continued to grow. And, to God's glory, an entire generation of Latin American children grew up with the benefits of a Christian education, nutritious meals, and medical and dental care. Many of those students are men and women of integrity and influence today. Their lives are bringing God glory.

## We have to find new ways to stretch the money God sends our way

As I inject these three truths into AGWM's financial picture today, I see several applications come to light. In regard to our stewardship of the

funds people continue to give sacrificially, the Lord is speaking to our hearts as a committee that we have to find new ways to stretch the money God sends our way.



When possible, we are cutting back on travel, limiting regional meetings and reducing special projects. In place of those expenses, we are prioritizing the needs of our missionaries as they come to grips with more limited giving from among their support base. We are using our Senders Fund not only to get new missionaries to the field more quickly, but to keep missionaries on the field when they encounter a short-fall in funds.

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## Meet the 2010 Missions Conference Team



### Wayne Francis

The son of missionaries, Wayne spent the first twelve years of his life growing up in Kenya and going to school with other missionary kids at Rift Valley Academy. Wayne has pastored churches in Canada, California and Washington State. In 1970, he moved to Calcutta, ministering extensively throughout India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh to share God's message of love and grace. During that period, he became involved with the ministry of Mark Buntain in Calcutta. His love for kids and his desire to give them a chance to fulfill their dreams motivates him as he travels across the country speaking at meetings, conventions, foundations, and events raising funds to support the work of Calcutta Mercy Ministries.



### Michael Dant

Ministry to children is at the core of who Michael Dant and his wife Jen are. They

believe in transforming the next generation for the cause of Christ. Having met at North Central University (Minneapolis, MN), the two were brought together by a mutual call

to minister to children, first as children's pastors and now as foreign missionaries. Michael and Jen are the proud parents of three amazing children: Alex (8), Conner (6) and Chloe (4). The Dants hope to begin their new ministry in Kosice (ko-sheet-za), Slovakia, by 2010, a country with no Assembly of God missionaries. They will focus on leadership development, outreach to gypsies, and ministry to children.



### Stephen Fishwick

Stephen Fishwick is a founder and creative principal of *Splash! Paint*

*in Motion*, providing live performance art. Stephen knew he wanted to be an artist at the age of seven, later attending the Art Institute of Pittsburgh before beginning his career as a professional artist. "Every day, I fall in love with drawing the human face and form," he says. His brand of live performance art form — known as speed painting — was a natural extension of his talent and passion. His goal is always to share with the audience the euphoria he gets from painting live on stage. Stephen has performed around the world, with clients that include Disney, Legoland, the San Diego

Padres, Microsoft, Coca-Cola, Volkswagen, Honda and the San Diego Zoo. A dedicated Christian, Stephen is committed to supporting ministry outreaches that further the work of Christ.



### E. Scott Martin

The Director of Global Student Missions for Chi Alpha, the Assemblies of God college ministry, Scott has a passion for mobilizing young people

to respond to God's call to world missions. Several years ago, he founded World Summit, a tri-annual event bringing together college students from around the United States. His challenge to each student is simple and direct: "Give a year and pray about a lifetime." Last year's event in Cincinnati (January 2009) drew over 3,000 young people — as well as Assemblies of God missionaries and missions leaders — to an eye-opening introduction to the vast spiritual needs of the world. Nearly 800 students filled out cards committing to "give a year and pray about a lifetime." With his wife Crystal, Scott's passion is to challenge the church of today, and especially its young people, to a new level of zeal for world missions.

## What is a Faith Promise?

Faith Promises are weekly or monthly financial pledges — above the tithe — made for the year ahead in support of the over 100 SDFP-partner missionary families around the world. These promises are made in faith, trusting God to provide for our needs as we are faithful in giving. These promises recognize the infinite value of a soul reached for Christ and the eternal priority of world missions, challenging us to be sacrificial and large in our giving. And faith promises are fitting expressions of gratitude to the One who considered no cost too great in giving His everything, His life on our behalf. May we all respond obediently and liberally to the Spirit's specific direction as we look forward to Faith Promise Sunday on January 31.



support, the work of our missionaries would cease.

That's why our annual mission's conference is so important in re-focusing our attention on this priority of the kingdom of God. It is a time to renew — and increase — our faith promise commitments in support of missionaries, to reinvigorate our intercessions for the lost of the world, and, for some, to heed the call to go to a distant place to tell others of Jesus. As you attend the events of this year's conference previewed here, I encourage you to be open to the leading of the Spirit in your life to use you in every way possible to extend the reach of the gospel.

## Slime the Pastor!

Should overall attendance to the *Colors of the World Missions Dinner* (adult, youth & children) exceed 500, Pastor Buschman has agreed to be colorfully slimed in keeping with the evening's theme.