

# THE DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD



Suggestions for Assemblies of God  
National Churches on How to Engage  
in the Decade of Pentecost

Acts in Africa Initiative  
1640 Boonville Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65803  
USA

**The Decade of Pentecost: A Way Forward.** © 2009 Acts in Africa Initiative. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the copyright owner, except brief quotations used in connection with reviews in magazines or newspapers.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America  
AIA Publications  
Springfield, MO, USA

Websites: <http://www.DecadeofPentecost.org>  
<http://www.ActsinAfrica.org>

Email: [Actsinafrica@agmd.org](mailto:Actsinafrica@agmd.org)

– CONTENTS –

1. The Call .....	1
2. The Goal and Targeted Outcomes .....	3
3. Responding Effectively to the Decade of Pentecost .....	5
4. First Steps .....	8
5. Implementation .....	10
6. A Way Forward .....	14
7. We're Ready to Help .....	15

# THE CALL

We thank God for the exponential growth in the Assemblies of God in Africa. We now count about 16 million constituents in more than 50,000 churches in 50 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean Basin. This is up from 2.1 million constituents and 12,000 churches in 1990. *To God be all the glory!*

We, however, choose not to be content with past achievements. The Assemblies of God in Africa is, therefore, once again mobilizing for the greatest evangelism, church planting, and missions advance in the history of the movement. Along with this mobilization is a growing vision to reach the yet-to-be-reached peoples of Africa and the world with the gospel of Christ, and a increasing awareness of our need to experience a fresh wind of the Spirit blowing across our churches.

In view of these things, the Africa Assemblies of God Alliance (AAGA) at its recent General Assembly held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 3-6 March 2009 unanimously committed itself to a “Decade of Pentecost” (2010-2020) with a goal of seeing 10 millions of its members baptized in the Holy Spirit and, thus empowered for powerful Spirit-anointed witness in Africa and to “the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

This commitment is another in a series of initiatives taken by AAGA dedicating itself to missions involvement, including the creation of the World Missions Commission (2000), the call “Back to the Upper Room” (2000), and the endorsing of the Acts in Africa Initiative (2004) to inspire, facilitate, and coordinate evangelism, church planting, and missions involvement in the power of the Holy Spirit. The recent AAGA “Decade of Pentecost” resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Africa Assemblies of God Alliance declare the coming decade (2010-2020) to be the “Decade of Pentecost.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT during the Decade of Pentecost AAGA will call on its constituent national churches to promote a Pentecostal awakening in their churches aimed at empowering the church for greater evangelistic, missionary, and church planting involvement; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Pentecost Sunday (the seventh Sunday following Easter) be declared “Pentecost Day” in each of our 50,000 (and growing) churches across Africa, and that every pastor be encouraged to preach a message on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and Missions on that day followed by prayer to receive the Spirit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Assemblies of God in Africa set as its goal to see 10 million of our members baptized in the Holy Spirit during the Decade of Pentecost.

This booklet has been produced as an aid to national church leaders wanting to fully participate in the Decade of Pentecost initiative and lead their churches into a powerful Pentecostal awakening.

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

This guide is only meant to offer suggestions. We fully trust that the Lord of the Harvest will guide the leadership of each of our churches as they seek His face concerning exactly how they should proceed.

Please keep us at the Acts in Africa Initiative updated on what you are doing, so we can use your plans as an example and inspiration to others.

– Dr. Lazarus Chakwera  
Chairman  
Africa Assemblies of God Alliance

# THE GOAL

## AND TARGETED OUTCOMES

The goal of the Decade of Pentecost is to see 10 million of our African AG members and constituents baptized in the Holy Spirit during the decade of 2010–2020. Based on discussions during the AAGA General Assembly in Johannesburg we have added four “Targeted Outcomes” to our Decade of Pentecost goals, as discussed below.

### **Decade of Pentecost Goal**

The goal of the Decade of Pentecost is to see 10 million Assemblies of God members and constituents baptized in the Holy Spirit during 2010–2020.

### **Targeted Outcomes**

As a result of seeing 10 million new believers baptized in the Holy Spirit, we expect the following outcomes:

- 10 million Spirit-empowered witnesses actively sharing Christ at home and abroad.
- Millions of souls being saved, brought into the church, disciplined, and empowered for effective witness.
- Thousands of churches being planted, many among unreached people groups.
- Hundreds of new missionaries being sent and supported.

Each national church should consider setting its own goals of how many people it expects to see baptized in the Holy Spirit during the Decade of Pentecost. It should also project targeted outcomes. Once you set your goals please send them to the Acts in Africa Initiative at [ActsInAfrica@ahpac.org](mailto:ActsInAfrica@ahpac.org).

### **Remaining Focused**

It will be essential that we remain focused during the Decade of Pentecost. Pentecostal churches too often lose their focus concerning the work of the Spirit in their midst. Too many times they become more focused on the personal enrichment of their members rather than on fulfilling God’s mission. We must now allow this to happen to us, but must remain vigilant to guard against this trap. As we move through the Decade of Pentecost, it will important that we remain focused on the true meaning of Pentecost, that is, empowerment for mission resulting in souls being saved, churches being planted, and missionaries being sent to the yet-to-be-reached peoples of Africa and the world (Acts 1:8).

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

### **The Launch**

Pentecost Week (17-23 May) and/or Pentecost Sunday (23 May) of 2010 has been set as the day that we will officially launch the Decade of Pentecost. During that week, and on that day, AAGA has encouraged every Assemblies of God church in Africa to have a special Pentecost Emphasis. Every pastor is encouraged to preach on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and pray with believers to be filled with the Spirit. He will focus his message on the necessity of being empowered by the Spirit to become effective witnesses.

We must begin now talking about this special launching. Also, each year during the Decade of Pentecost there will be special Pentecost Week and Pentecost Day emphases. Acts in Africa (AIA) will provide promotional materials for each of these special Pentecost Week emphases. Here are the dates of Pentecost Week and Pentecost Sunday during the Decade of Pentecost:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pentecost Week</u>	<u>Pentecost Sunday</u>
2010	May 17-23	May 23
2011	June 6-12	June 12
2012	May 21-27	May 27
2013	May 13-19	May 19
2014	June 2-8	June 8
2015	May 18-24	May 24
2016	May 9-15	May 15
2017	May 29–June 4	June 4
2018	May 14-20	May 20
2019	June 3-9	June 9
2020	May 25-31	May 31

### **What is Pentecost Sunday?**

Pentecost Sunday occurs seven weeks after Easter Sunday each year. In the Bible, Pentecost was a very special day on the Jewish religious calendar. It was one of three great annual pilgrim festivals in which all males living in and around the city of Jerusalem were required to attend. The feast of Pentecost was celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after Passover. The Greek word *pentecostos* means “fiftieth.” The day was also known by other names. It was sometimes called the Feast of Weeks (Exod. 34:22), since it occurred a week of weeks after the Passover feast. It was also known as the Feast of Harvest (Exod. 23:16) and the Feast of First Fruits (v. 19) because on Pentecost the people brought the first fruits of their barley harvest and presented them as an offering to God.

Christians remember Pentecost because it was the day that Jesus first poured out of His Spirit on the church and empowered it to be an evangelistic and missionary force in the earth (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 41). The early church also seemed to observe Pentecost Sunday in some manner as indicated by Paul’s desire to be in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 20:16; ref. 1Cor 16:8). For Pentecostals, Pentecost Sunday provides us with a great opportunity to emphasize the work of the Spirit in believers’ lives and to pray with them to be filled with the Spirit. We are trusting God for a powerful outpouring of the Spirit across the continent each Pentecost Sunday during the Decade of Pentecost. And we are believing God that hundreds of thousands of our Assemblies of God members will be filled with the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday each year.

## RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY TO THE DECADE OF PENTECOST

As we approach the Decade of Pentecost we must consider what kind of response we will make. I suggest that our response must be comprehensive. As, such it must include the following:

### **A Biblical Response**

We as Assemblies of God believers are a “people of the Book.” Therefore, any plan to lead our churches into Pentecostal revival, must, above all else, be based solidly on the teachings of Scripture. The first question, then, that we must asked is, “What does the Bible have to say on the subject?”

The Bible teaches that the church can reach the nations only in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus tied the Spirit’s empowering directly to His commission to evangelize all nations when He said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

As we strategize to bring Pentecostal revival to the AG in Africa, we must take the Bible as our handbook. Early Pentecostals found their inspiration in the book of Acts. The time has come for us to again take up this blessed book, not merely to read it as history, but to search its pages for missions strategy. Acts teaches us that the biblical answer to waning of missionary zeal in the church is a fresh outpouring of the Spirit with its members being powerfully and repeated filled with the Spirit! This must be our plan of advance!

### **A Priority Response**

Secondly, the Decade of Pentecost demands a priority response. If we are to lead our churches into powerful Pentecostal renewal we must regard the issue as top priority. We cannot view it as one among other equally-important agenda items. It must become “job number one” for the church. The issue of Pentecostal revival is of such significance that it demands our primary and sustained attention. The quest for the Spirit’s power and presence must be placed and remain at the center-stage in the church’s planning and activities.

Jesus Himself placed the empowering of the church at center stage. To Him it was not a side issue, to be tabled and taken up at next quarter’s business meeting. In His mind it was top priority and demanded immediate and focused attention. He commanded His disciples to “stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:29). He commanded them further, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised... John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4-5).

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

We too must be gripped by this one central fact—*we must have Pentecostal revival!* All other issues must become, and remain, secondary.

### **An Aggressive Response**

Further, our response to the Decade of Pentecost must be an aggressive response. A passive, noncommittal approach will simply not get the job done, nor will a half-hearted response rise to the occasion. The disciples' response to Jesus command to "stay in the city" was not passive. It was, rather, aggressive, for "they stayed continually at the temple, praising God" (Luke 24:53).

We as leaders in the Assemblies of God in Africa must aggressively respond to the issue of Spirit empowering. We must do this through a determined and energetic pursuit of Pentecostal revival. We must find the means to actively encourage individual and group initiative. Further, we must persevere in our pursuit of Pentecostal renewal until the desired outcomes are achieved.

### **A Comprehensive Response**

Finally, if the issue of Pentecostal renewal is to be adequately addressed, our response to the Decade of Pentecost must be comprehensive. This comprehensive approach must be designed to affect and involve every person in the church. A shallow or superficial approach will never do. Our response must be pervasive, that is, it must be aimed at every facet of AG church life. Not only must it affect *every person* in the church, it must be addressed in *every available forum*, utilize *every necessary means*, and be applied at *all possible times*. Let's look briefly at each of these four elements of a comprehensive response:

1. *Every person*. When calling our churches to Pentecostal renewal, effort must be made to ensure that every person and every grouping of people in the church is adequately targeted. In the past, similar efforts have been aimed only at "key" leaders—some of whom "buy in" to the proposals, and others who do not. As a result, the desired impact on the overall church community is not achieved.

This is not to say that leaders are to be neglected, for leadership at every level must be targeted. This includes ecclesiastical leadership, including national, district, sectional, and local church leadership. It also includes departmental leadership, such as Sunday school, men's, women's, youth, university, humanitarian, and children's ministries leaders.

Institutional leadership must not be neglected. Bible school administration and teachers must also be targeted, since these individuals are often the key influencers in the church. Any other leadership structure not mentioned must be also targeted.

The "non-leaders" in the church must also be targeted. (Note that I put "non-leaders" in quotation marks, since these people are often the real power base in the local churches and communities. Even a village mother who has no official position in the church is often, in reality, a leader in her home and among her peers).

And we must not forget the youth and children of our churches. If Pentecost is to survive this generation and continue into the next our youth must experience Pentecost for themselves.

In targeting every person, care must be given to include diverse language groups and different economic and social strata. Our effort to bring Pentecostal renewal to the Assemblies of God in Africa must reach to every member and attender in the church.

2. *Every forum*. In designing a comprehensive response to the need for Pentecostal renewal in the church, every forum and delivery system must be employed. The general assemblies and special

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

gatherings of the church must be utilized, including general councils, pastors' schools, district councils, sectional councils, local church services, home cell gatherings, and Bible school chapels and spiritual emphases.

Print and broadcast media must also be put to use and distributed widely. Print media could include books, tracts, flyers, magazines, Bible studies, and sermon outlines. New lessons and study guides could be purchased or produced for Sunday school and home cell study. Broadcast media, including radio (if available) should also be used. The Acts in Africa Initiative is working hard to provide pastors and leaders with many of the above resources. You can find some of them on the Internet at [www.DecadeofPentecost.org](http://www.DecadeofPentecost.org) and [www.ActsinAfrica.org](http://www.ActsinAfrica.org).

3. *Every means.* The church must use every means at its disposal to address the need for Pentecostal renewal. In addition to those mentioned above, these means could include preaching, teaching, writing, seminars, revival meetings, and specially-called assemblies.

4. *All times.* A comprehensive response cannot be limited to a single event or even a series of "special events." One gathering, or even a series of gatherings—no matter how powerful or how blessed by God—will not get the job done. That is why a ten-year Decade of Pentecost is called for, where the church throws the full weight of its influence and resources behind this single pressing need.

During this period, many events will be planned. General, district, and sectional meetings will emphasize the necessity of Pentecostal experience and practice in order to effectively fulfill God's mission. Local churches will be encouraged to have Holy Spirit revivals and to schedule regular Pentecostal emphases into their church calendars. Each year Pentecost Week and Pentecost Sunday will be promoted and used as a means to see people filled with the Spirit on a continent-wide and nationwide basis.

With these issues in mind let's look at some of the things we can do to ensure that the Decade of Pentecost be the greatest success possible.

# FIRST STEPS

The official launch of the Decade of Pentecost, 23 May 2010, will soon be upon us. As you consider how your national church may launch its own Decade of Pentecost initiative, here are some possible “first steps” you may want to consider:

## **Official Adoption**

It is important that each national AG church officially adopt the Decade of Pentecost as its own initiative. This will give the emphasis greater credibility, and will provide a covering sanction for the program. This action should be taken at your first opportunity.

## **Setting up Structures**

Our Decade of Pentecost emphases can only succeed if proper structures are put into place to facilitate it’s working. It will therefore be necessary for the national church leadership to appoint a Decade of Pentecost Committee and a National Decade of Pentecost Director to give leadership and oversight the work.

## **The Decade of Pentecost Committee**

This committee should work under the direct oversight of the national leadership of the church. It must be fully budgeted so that it can perform its duties effectively. The responsibility of the Decade of Pentecost Committee will be to plan, promote, and implement the Decade of Pentecost initiative throughout the country. It will also monitor levels of participation and results and report them to the national church leadership and to the Acts in Africa Initiative. AIA will use these reports to monitor continental progress during the Decade of Pentecost. It will compile and analyze the reports and then report back to each national Decade of Pentecost Committee. The committees can then use these reports can be to inspire and motivate their pastors and churches to greater participation.

## **National Director**

A National Decade of Pentecost Director should be appointed. This person will chair the Decade of Pentecost Committee and will lead the Decade of Pentecost initiative in the country. He will report regularly to the to the national church leadership, and to the Acts in Africa Initiative.

The National Decade of Pentecost Director must be chosen wisely. He must be a person who is filled with the Spirit and focused on the mission of God. He must be an soul winner and a church planter. He must be zealous about seeing people baptized in the Holy Spirit and active in the evangelistic work of the church. In addition, this person must be well-respected among the brethren, a visionary, and aggressive about the work of God and missions.

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

Once you appoint your Director and Committee, please send their names, titles, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses to the Acts in Africa Initiative. We will add their names to our mailing list, and will then be able to assist and inspire them by giving to them updates on the progress of the Decade of Pentecost across the continent. AIA will also make available to them resources to help them fulfill their duties. Whenever changes are made in the leadership or committee, please inform the Acts in Africa Initiative.

### **Prayer**

If the Decade of Pentecost is to succeed, it must be bathed in, and sustained by, concerted prayer. True Pentecostal revival cannot be “promoted down” or “programmed down,” it can only be “prayed down.” Before the Day of Pentecost the disciples “were continually devoting themselves to prayer” (Acts 1:14). Only as the leaders and members of our AG churches devote themselves to earnestly seeking after God will the Spirit be outpoured.

The national church leadership may want to issue an immediate call to prayer. This will help prepare people’s hearts for the coming Decade of Pentecost. More importantly, it will move the hand of God. If we will pray, we can be assured that He will graciously pour out His Spirit on our churches.

It would also be good if the national church leadership gathers often to intercede for an outpouring of the Spirit on the church. Further, every pastor should be encouraged to immediately organize and lead a regular Decade of Pentecost prayer group in his or her local church.

# IMPLEMENTATION

It is important that each national church begin immediately in getting ready for the coming Decade of Pentecost. Launch Day will be here before you know it. No amount of planning will be successful unless we implement our plans in a timely manner. Here are some things you may want to consider:

## **Setting the course**

It will be the responsibility of the national leaders of each church to set the course for the Decade of Pentecost in their own churches. Although, they will lean heavily on their Decade of Pentecost Committee for information and for carrying out the mandates of their offices, the national church leadership must be the primary owners and sellers of the vision.

## **Duties of the Decade of Pentecost Committee**

The duties of the Decade of Pentecost Committee could include the following:

*Planning.* The committee's planning duties will include setting prospective goals and recommending them to the national church leadership. They will also plan, organize, and implement Decade of Pentecost initiatives under the direction of the national church leadership.

*Implementation.* It will be the responsibility of the National Decade of Pentecost Director and the Decade of Pentecost Committee to implement the strategy and plans of the national Decade of Pentecost initiative.

*Oversight.* The Decade of Pentecost Committee shall give oversight to the Decade of Pentecost initiative in the country under the direction of the national church leadership. This duty includes the ongoing promotion of the program, scheduling and arranging events, monitoring the progress of the work, evaluating successes and failures of initiative, recommending adjustments, and reporting results to the national leadership and to the Acts in Africa Initiative.

*Resources.* The Decade of Pentecost Committee shall also be responsible for finding and providing resources to pastors and leaders to help them in implementing the Decade of Pentecost initiatives on a district, sectional, and local level. The Acts in Africa Initiative stands ready to help in this area in any way possible. Many resources will be provided through the internet on the Decade of Pentecost website: [www.DecadeofPentecost.org](http://www.DecadeofPentecost.org).

*Reporting.* As mentioned above, one duty of the Decade of Pentecost Committee will be gathering reports from the departments and local churches and reporting them to the national leadership and to the Acts in Africa Initiative. Statistics should be gathered concerning how many believers are being baptized in the Holy Spirit, how many people are being won to the Lord, how many new churches are being planted, how many new missionaries are being commissioned and

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

supported, and how many unreached peoples groups are being reached. These statistics will be compiled and announced in national gatherings and continentally through *The Africa Azusa Report*. They will provide great inspiration as we see God fulfilling His promise to pour out His Spirit on us in abundance (Joel 2:23; Acts 2:17-18).

### **Meetings of the Decade of Pentecost Committee**

The committee should meet regularly (possibly four times per year) to carry out its duties. A timely report of each meeting should be given to the national executive committee.

Proper administration of the Decade of Pentecost may involve examining and updating the national church's infrastructure, that is, the means whereby the national church distributes and receives information and money to and from its pastors and churches throughout the country.

### **Planning**

Since the official launch date of the Decade of Pentecost is quickly approaching, your Decade of Pentecost Committee should be appointed immediately and planning should begin at once. A time-schedule should be developed. Goals should be prayerfully discussed and set. Once the Decade of Pentecost launch has been planned, the committee can address itself to long range planning.

### **Goal setting**

In developing your Decade of Pentecost goals consider including the following:

1. *Spirit baptisms.* How many people do you believe God wants to baptize in the Holy Spirit during the Decade of Pentecost?
2. *Spirit-empowered witnesses.* Those who will be baptized in the Spirit during the Decade of Pentecost (as well as those who have already been baptized in the Holy Spirit) should be trained and mobilized as Spirit-empowered witness for Christ. This includes both pastors and lay people.
3. *Salvations.* How many people do you anticipate coming to Christ as a result of these believers being filled with the Spirit and mobilized as Christ's witnesses?
4. *New churches.* How many new churches do you expect to be planted during the Decade of Pentecost as a result of believers being empowered by the Spirit and focused on the mission of God?
5. *Missionaries.* How many new missionaries do you anticipate being called, mobilized, sent, and supported as a result of the Pentecostal revival you expect to come to your church?
6. *Unreached peoples.* How many unreached tribes do you anticipate you will send missionaries to as a result of your church's decade-long emphasis on Pentecostal revival and missions?

As you seek the Lord, He may lead you to set other goals not mentioned above.

### **Vision casting**

Vision casting is the process of selling the Decade of Pentecost vision to the entire church throughout the country. This must become the passion of every church leader on every level of church

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

life. The vision must be owned by national officers, district and sectional officers, departmental leaders, pastors, Bible School administrators and teachers, and lay leaders of the churches of your country. The vision of the Decade of Pentecost must be talked about at every opportunity. It must be promoted in every general council, district council, sectional council, and local church meeting. It must be mentioned often in our preaching and teaching. The campaign should be prayed for in every prayer meeting.

### **Implementation**

Not only must we talk about and plan for the Decade of Pentecost, our God-given plans must be implemented, that is, they must be put into action. As you begin to implement your plans, you may want to give consideration to the following issues:

*Ongoing promotion.* Get ready for the long haul. Not only will it be necessary to create initial excitement for the Decade of Pentecost, it will be important that we each develop an on-going plan of promotion. It will be the responsibility of the Decade of Pentecost Committee to keep the vision alive in the hearts and minds of the people. The Acts in Africa Initiative will provide a yearly theme and yearly theme flyers to help with ongoing promotion. Promotional posters and flyers will be produced in digital format so that they can be easily downloaded from the Decade of Pentecost website and printed locally. A plan should be developed on how these resources will be made available to every church and pastor in the country.

As your promotional plans move forward, excitement will build among your pastors and in the churches. Pastors will begin to preach more on the Holy Spirit and the work of soul winning and missions. Hundreds will be baptized in the Holy Spirit and brought to Christ. Churches will begin to multiply. As these things occur and are reported back to the churches, excitement will build and momentum will increase.

*Scheduling.* Part of the planning and implementation process is scheduling. Once you decide on what special events will occur (such as Pentecost Week emphases, Acts 1:8 Conferences, and Schools of the Spirit) these events must be put on the calendar.

*Monitoring.* You will want to develop the means of monitoring your results and progress during the Decade of Pentecost. Otherwise, how will you know if you are meeting your goals? This will be a major challenge. How if you apply yourself to the task you will be able to find ways.

*Evaluating.* Once you get the results you will want to evaluate them. In evaluating your results you will ask such questions as, “Are we meeting our goals? If not, why? What adjustments must we make? What must we do differently?”

### **Finding Resources**

Another issue that must be addressed is the issue of resources. Two kinds of necessary resources needed to execute the Decade of Pentecost are financial resources and human resources.

*Financial resources.* The work of the Decade of Pentecost Committee will need to be financed. This will require large amounts of money; however, the payoff will be huge in the great harvest that will come to the church. Even the money invested will be multiplied back as the many new believers become faithful disciples and givers to the work of the Lord. The national church—as well as each district, section, and local assembly—will need to write the Decade of Pentecost into their annual budget.

*Human resources.* Human resources are people. This will be your most important resource in

## DECADE OF PENTECOST: A WAY FORWARD

executing the plans of the Decade of Pentecost. And human resources need not always cost money. People can be mobilized by getting them filled with the Spirit, teaching them about the mission of God, and talking up the vision and goals of the Decade of Pentecost. God will give these Spirit-baptized people a vision of what he wants them to do. When He does, encourage them and help them to contribute.

### **Ongoing Prayer**

Not only must we begin the Decade of Pentecost with prayer we must intensify our prayer efforts as the decade progresses. If we will call on the Lord he will show us great and mighty things, things greater than we can even imagine (Jer. 33:3; Eph. 3:20).

## A WAY FORWARD

The question naturally arises, “What is the way forward from here? How can a national church begin to implement its vision for Pentecostal revival?” The following tick list can help you in moving forward with your plans:

- ☑ *National church authorization.* The Decade of Pentecost vision is presented to and approved by the church’s national leadership.
- ☑ *Director and committee appointment.* The National Decade of Pentecost Director and the Decade of Pentecost Committee are appointed and empowered to perform their necessary duties.
- ☑ *Prayer.* Prayer is organized and begun for the Decade of Pentecost with special emphasis placed on the Decade of Pentecost launch day, 23 May 2010.
- ☑ *Goal setting.* Goals for the Decade of Pentecost are set and adopted by the national church.
- ☑ *Preliminary planning.* Plans are set for the launching of the Decade of Pentecost. Long range plans are discussed. Infrastructure issues are discussed.
- ☑ *Funding.* Funds are resources for the work of the Decade of Pentecost Committee and for the production and distribution of promotional materials.
- ☑ *Program implementation.* The program is aggressively implemented. This implementation must involve cooperation from all levels, departments, and sectors of the church.
- ☑ *Promotion and monitoring.* The Decade of Pentecost Committee will constantly promote and monitor the progress of the initiative.
- ☑ *Reporting.* The Decade of Pentecost will gather statistics from throughout the country and report their findings to the national church leadership and to the Acts in Africa Initiative. These statistics will be used to inspire the churches to greater success. Testimonies should also be gathered to be used in inspiring others to seek Pentecostal revival.
- ☑ *Evaluation.* The Decade of Pentecost Committee will regularly evaluate results of the initiative and recommend adjustments to the church’s national leaders. Necessary adjustments will be made and the program will move forward.

## WE'RE READY TO HELP

A final word: The Acts in Africa Initiative has been commissioned by AAGA to serve you in your efforts to bring Pentecostal revival to your church. Please feel free to contact AIA at any time with any need that you might have. We will do our best to assist you.

We want to help you by providing you with inspiration and the resources you need to accomplish your aims. Part of our mission is to “fan the flames” of Pentecostal revival in Africa. One way we hope to do this through a new publication called *The Africa Azusa Report*. In this e-mail newspaper we gather revival reports from our churches all over Africa and disseminate them throughout the continent. As you hear what God is doing in other places you will be inspired to continue to seek Pentecostal revival in your own country! The same will be true for others.

In order for this to work we must have your help. We will need to know what the Holy Spirit is doing in your country and in your church. Will you help by sending to us regular reports? Also, we will need the e-mail addresses of as many people in your church as possible (beginning with you!) so we can send *The Africa Azusa Report* to them.

AIA also stands ready to help you with resources to help promote Pentecostal experience and practice in your churches. These resources could include many forms, such as videos, tapes, books, study guides, tracts, etc. Human resources could also be included. We are seeking to locate men and women full of the Spirit and focused on the mission of God who you can use to teach in Holy Spirit conferences and to preach on the baptism in the Holy Spirit in a missional context. Whatever your need, let us know. We will do our best to help you.

### Website

We are in the process of developing a Decade of Pentecost website. The address of the website is <http://www.DecadeofPentecost.org>.

We will use this website, as well as e-mails, to keep you updated on the progress of the Decade of Pentecost. We will also use it as a means of providing resources to participating churches. You can also find resources on our AIA website:

<http://www.ActsinAfrica.org>.

Again, we need you e-mail addresses so we can stay in touch. Please send them to [ActsInAfrica@ahpac.org](mailto:ActsInAfrica@ahpac.org) May the Lord richly bless you as you pursue the Spirit's presence and power during the Decade of Pentecost. And may the Lord give you a great harvest of souls.

— Dr. Denny Miller, Director  
Acts in Africa Initiative