

AMCF 2024 World Conference Pray and Plan Minutes

May 18, 2023

ACCTS Col. Andy opened the meeting with a devotional of John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." The kingdom is advancing and even when surrounded by spiritual darkness, God's people experience victories. He prayed for the Light of the World's guidance and blessings so that the world conference may bring Glory to Him and encourage us to fulfill the mission of the AMCF in unity.

AMCF President General Essel Soriano welcomed everyone to the P&P and requested "spiritual alignment" so the AMCF can be used by God to reach the nations.

Parima, the Secretary of UMCEB, informed us that UMCEB formally established the World Conference Project Office with Col. Joel as the Director and Col. Matias as the Deputy Director. Joel was recently promoted to Colonel and placed on the Reserve List so he can now dedicate his full attention to organizing the World Conference. He added that all the MCFs in UMCEB are contributing financially every month to support the World Conference.

MMI's Mark Chester echoed the commitment to the mission of bringing Christ to every nation of the world and working closely with the AMCF Vice Presidents to encourage attendance at the World Conference. He reiterated the need for solid dates, a confirmed location, and an estimated cost per person/couple.

Col Joel Rocha informed the group that they are currently in the final phase of negotiations with the two hotels and should have the needed information on location, cost, and dates soon. Their goal is NLT July or August to provide the group with this data. He requested prayer support for these negotiations and for finding favor with financial sponsors for the conference to help defray costs. One of the difficulties with locking in the costs this far out is the constantly changing exchange rates with the US Dollar. However, their goal is to keep the price per person between \$300-\$500. The conference is being negotiated for the 2nd or 3rd week of October 2024. The initial concept was to have a welcome dinner for the international participants on a Wednesday and have three full days of conference (Thu-Fri-Sat) with it ending with lunch on Sunday. The official opening ceremony would take place on Thursday evening. Their participation goal is 400 international attendees and 1000 Brazilians.

ACCTS Director Phil Exner requested that Joel negotiate an extra day so that the conference could benefit from 4 full days instead of only 3. Joel agreed to act on this request as he continues to negotiate with the hotels.

Peter Louwrens identified that the World Conference invitation should go out by September this year so that the MCFs have sufficient time to budget. Joel confirmed that they should have all the required information for the invitations in July or August of this year.

Peter L. informed Joel that the AMCF will work with their Vice Presidents to identify where to send and how to address the World Conference invitations for each respective nation.

Peter L. also requested that Joel provide a timeline by the next meeting (next P&P is scheduled for August 17, 2023). Joel agreed.

Peter L. invited Joel to share any obstacles or difficulties that he may encounter with the group through Andy so that we can all lend support to his efforts.

Gen. Soriano expressed his thanks for the feedback from the Brazil Team and reiterated the importance of building a planning timeline so that we can all march together on this project.

Col Cabral, VP South America, shared that all the South American nations are praying every month together for the World Conference. He is also praying for the Conference with a Global Intercession Group bi-weekly (and extended an invitation for any one of us to join since they are blessed with a gifted interpreter). He requested that the group consider elevating female participation for this World Conference and is convinced that God will use our efforts to extend His rein in the kingdom of men.

Phil thanked Joel and his team for their work up to date. He acknowledged that UMCEB is adept at planning large conferences but that there are key differences between a national and international conference that must be addressed. For this reason, the AMCF and PSO's must work closely with Joel and his planning committees. One of the main contributions we must support the Brazilians with is sharing lessons learned so that we do not repeat the shortcoming of past events. Additionally, we must share the vision with MCF leaders to motivate them to participate and prioritize their own funds to attend the conference.

Peter L. prayed for all of this discussion so far and that the Lord continue to support our efforts.

BG Choi of MSO shared a PowerPoint briefing that emphasized the long distance and commitment required for many participants to attend a World Conference in Brazil. Participation will require a significant budget and a determined will. He also shared that he met with Korean Christians in Sao Paulo who have agreed to support MSO with World Conference preparations, and that MSO plans to use MEO-P as a platform to discuss the upcoming World Conference.

His briefing was followed by a prayer from Pastor Chung who continued to ask the Lord for guidance, especially for all the leaders involved in the planning.

This was followed by a moment of silent prayer from the entire group.

Gen Essel closed by thanking the Brazilian team for their efforts. He stressed that we will need vertical and horizontal strategic communications. Vertical with our Father in Heaven and horizontal with each other (UMCEB-AMCF-PSOs). This communication will have to trickle down to the national MCFs. Our goal should remain that the world will know Jesus and that He was sent to unite us in Him.

*highlighted portions of these minutes require action:

1. Adding a 4th full day to the conference
2. Sending out invitations by September 2023
3. Requesting AMCF VPs provide addresses for invitations
4. Developing a planning timeline for the 17 August P&P

Submitted by, Andy MacLean, ACCTS