

Department of International Missions  
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imissions@acgc.us



Simeon Nzishura  
*Conference President*

**BURUNDI**

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Bertin Mwanza  
*Conference President*

**DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

## Bertin Mwanya

**title:** Conference President  
DRC AC Conference

**in office since:** 2007 (Reg. Superintendent)  
2005 (Conference President)

**lives in:** Lubumbashi, Katanga, DRC

**family/birthdays:**

Bertin – Dec. 12  
Genevieve (wife) – Jan. 1

Paul  
Louis  
Marthe  
Bertin  
Esther

Bertin Mwanya is a busy man. He serves the Lord as President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) AC Conference. He also is pastor at Eden Advent Christian Church in Lubumbashi.

In his former role as Central Africa Regional Superintendent, he organized our Tanzania churches' affiliation, taught "Farming God's Way" techniques in Malawi, contributed regularly to our Advent Christian online E-News and advised our Central Africa conferences.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English, Journalism and in Theology, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He has been an English teacher, broadcast journalist and business manager.

## Simeon Nzishura

**title:** President  
Burundi AC Conference

**in office since:** 2006

**lives in:** Bujumbura, Burundi

**family/birthdays:**

Simeon – Nov. 12  
Nizigiyimana Mary (wife) – July 7

Divine – Dec. 18, 1985  
Stephen – July 18, 1988  
Esther – June 4, 1991  
Noella – March 12, 1992  
Johnathn – July 5, 1995  
Samuel – Jan. 23, 2003  
(plus four orphans living with them)

Bishop Simeon Nzishura's native Burundi has been in civil war off and on since 1965. In response, he has initiated peace endeavors and conferences in Central Africa. Simeon also visits refugees who have fled to the West, to serve as a link with their families in Burundi.

In the 1990s he started the African Protestant Evangelical Elim Church, a fellowship of 45 churches.

Today he serves as leader of our Burundi Advent Christian Conference. He conducts an extensive financial accountability seminar in his churches.

In 2006, when Simeon approached Advent Christian General Conference with a request to affiliate, he wanted his work to be a part of an international family. His passion for the second coming of Jesus was the deciding factor in his choice of the Advent Christian family.

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Peter Motende  
*Conference President*

KENYA

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Moses B. Gbaa  
*Conference President*

LIBERIA

## Moses B. Gbaa

**title:** President  
AC Conference of Liberia

**in office since:** 2015

**lives in:** Buchanan, Grand Bassa County,  
Liberia

**family/birthdays:**

Moses – March 11  
Nancy (wife) – January 6

Naomi – March 26, 1992  
Sarah – April 18, 1996  
Jairus – December 20, 1999  
Darius – November 2, 2002  
Christian – April 28, 2006  
Monee – September 6, 2008

Moses was the former vice president of the AC Liberian Conference before accepting the position of president of the conference in July 2015.

Moses is Bassa by tribe, and married to Nancy Hodges Gbaa. Together they have six children.

Holding an "AA" educational degree from KRTTI College, Moses' profession is teaching.

After receiving a certificate in pastoral leadership from Jesus Evangelistic Ministry Theological Bible Institute in 2004, he began pastoring the Buchanan AC Church in 2009. Other offices held: SS teacher from 1996 – 1999, director of Christian Education from 2000 – 2004, and conference secretary from 2005 – 2011.

In 2022 he received a diploma in ministerial training from Better Way Bible Institute.

## Peter Motende

**title:** President  
Kenya AC Conference

**in office since:** 2010

**lives in:** Kilgoris, Kenya

**family/birthdays:**

Peter – Dec. 30  
Alice Nyomenda Motende (wife)

Peter Motende was a youth leader in his local Catholic church. Walking to the shopping center one day, Peter encountered an Advent Christian church crusade. In talking with the crusade leaders he became acquainted with AC doctrine.

Peter joined the Advent Christians in 2004 as a lay pastor. He held the post of church planting then was overseer of five northern region churches.

In 2010 Peter Motende assumed the post of President of the Kenya Advent Christian Conference.

President Motende is married to Alice Nyomenda Motende. God has blessed them with a family of three boys.

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Cliff Isaac Maclean  
*Conference President*

MALAWI

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Samuel Kasakatira  
*Conference President*

MOZAMBIQUE

## Pastor Samuel Kasakatira

**title:** Conference President  
Mozambique AC Conference

**in office since:** March 2020

**lives in:** Marka, Malawi

**family/birthdays:**

Samuel – May 6  
Grace(wife) – May 23  
Gift – Jan. 9, 1990  
Mack – June 4, 1994  
Regina – May 3, 2001  
Blessings – June 20, 2004  
Margret – April 16, 2007  
Docus – April 7, 2011  
Jessica – Jan. 12, 2016  
Samuel Jr. – Feb. 25, 2019

Pastor Kasakatira attended Nyachilenda Full Primary School. Raised by a single mother, financially he was unable to continue his education. At 13-years-old, he attended an evening prayer service at a friend's church, he repented and confessed, asking Jesus to be his Lord and Savior.

Samuel became a pastor in 2003 under the leadership of late Bishop Paul Sosono (former Malawi AC Conference President). Believing in the doctrine and the powerful teachings, he joined the Mozambique Maranatha Advent Conference to teach and preach the gospel and win souls for Jesus.

In 2010, he founded the Faithful Church Ministry, which has now grown to nine churches. Samuel desires to minister to the unreached people groups in remote areas who have not heard the gospel and share with the Muslims in several districts that Jesus is Lord.

## Cliff Isaac Maclean

**title:** President  
Malawi AC Conference

**in office since:** 2017

**family/birthdays:**

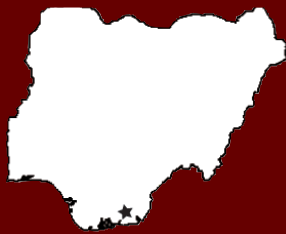
Cliff  
Annie Lizanyanda (wife)  
Joana  
Chikumbutso  
Bridget  
Cliff Jr.  
Joseph

After the death of Samuel Sosono in July 2017, his older brother was chosen as his successor. Cliff is currently in administration, working in public education for 30 years, and currently holds a principal's position at a major high school.

Cliff is currently living approximately five hours away from the nearest AC Church, but is planning to retire from his current position within the year and move to Nsanje to be able to better carry out his duties as president and to care for his aging mother.

Cliff gave his life to the Lord in Sunday school as a youngster. His father was a Christian leader and played a larger part in his spiritual growth.

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Imoh E. Akpan  
*Conference President*

**NIGERIA**

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Amos Komanya  
*Conference President*

**TANZANIA**

## Amos Komanya

**title:** President  
Tanzania AC Conference

**in office since:** 2018

**lives in:** Masanza Village, Ilemela District,  
Mwanza Region, County Tanzania

**family/birthdays:**

Amos – Dec. 4, 1979  
Scholastica (wife) – Sept. 10, 1989

Jacqueline – 2005

Irene – 2007

Daniel – 2009

Allen – 2012

Esther – 2015

Debora – 2021

"I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my savior at the age of 23. I met the Lord after nearly drowning in Lake Victoria while on a fishing trip. Six others died. I and a sailor were the only survivors. I was taken to a hospital where I was unconscious for two days. One month later, I heard pastor Mrisa preaching in an open-air crusade about God's grace and love. At that crusade I decided to receive Christ as my savior.

"I started going door-to-door to pray for the sick and those who in the bondage of the power of darkness. When I saw so many healed and set free I recognized that God was calling me into full-time ministry. I received my Bible training at a Bible School College called KBBA, receiving a diploma/certificate after five years. I continue to grow as I study and read Christian books.

"My wife started a Christian nursery school in Masanza Village."

## Reverend Imoh Emmanuel Akpan

**title:** Conference President  
AC Conference of Nigeria

**in office since:** 2020

**family/birthdays:**

Imoh – 1978

Esther Imoh Emmanuel (wife)

Gospel Imolity Emmanuel (m) – 2005

Success Imolity Emmanuel (f) – 2007

Testimony Imolity Emmanuel (f) – 2012

"According to my parents I was called by the Lord while I was yet in the womb. I was first aware of the Holy Spirit's call upon me at 3 years of age."

Imoh attended World Harvest Bible College and Seminary. He was ordained and certified as an Evangelist in April 1999, was ordained to pastoral ministry in 2010, and is presently enrolled in a master's degree program in religious and cultural studies at the University of Calabar, Cross Rivers State, Nigeria.



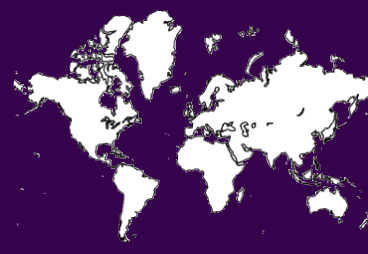
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**Bryce Whiting**  
*Area Director*

**AFRICA/EUROPE**

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**Jeff Walsh**  
*Director of International Missions*

**WORLDWIDE**

## Jeff Walsh

**title:** Director of International Missions  
Advent Christian General Conference

**in office since:** 2012

**address:**

PO Box 690848  
Charlotte, NC 28227

**phone:** (704) 545-6161

**e-mail:** imissions@acgc.us

**family/birthdays:**

Jeff – June 18  
Rhonda (wife) – Dec. 26

Ben – Apr. 29, 1997  
Isaac – Mar. 1, 1999  
Ethan – Sept. 5, 2002  
Joshua – Aug. 16, 2011

Jeff first sensed God's call to missionary work as a teen in Hickory, North Carolina.

After college and marriage to Rhonda, Jeff was at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary when God reestablished his call to missions.

The Walshes filled in at the AC Mission and Oro Bible College in the Philippines for 15 months. Back home, Jeff finished seminary and pastored Margaretville ACC in New York. In 2005, Jeff, Rhonda, and family returned to Oro Bible College, serving through 2011.

Jeff accepted the Directorship of International Missions in January 2012. He and Rhonda and sons Ben, Isaac, Ethan and Joshua moved to the Charlotte area in North Carolina.

As Director of International Missions, Jeff oversees a thriving AC Great Commission ministry, reaching more than 30 countries.

## Bryce Whiting

**title:** Africa/Europe Area Director  
AC International Missions

**in office since:** Jan. 2013

**phone:** (860) 314-0633

**e-mail:** bwhiting@acgc.us

**family/birthdays:**

Bryce – July 8  
Barbara – August 11

Bryce holds a BA from Berkshire Christian College and a MA from Wheaton Graduate School.

He pastored AC churches for 10 years in Newport Center, Vt., and Loudon, N.H., before he went back to school in response to a call to international ministry. He and his wife, Barbara, then joined Youth With a Mission serving in Switzerland and Togo, West Africa, until 1995. In 2000, he returned to the pastorate in Bristol, Conn., where he served until his retirement in 2023.

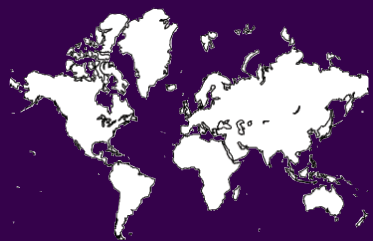
Recently, Bryce has visited the DRC, Mozambique, Croatia, Malawi, Liberia and Tanzania. Many of these visits mean pastoral training for our church leaders.

He has three daughters and three grandsons.

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Erwin & Rowena Cabrizos  
*Directors of Agape House Ministries*



WORLDWIDE

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imissions@acgc.us



Craig Libby  
*Area Director*



LATIN AMERICA

## Craig Libby

**title:** Latin America Area Director  
AC International Missions

**in office since:** 2023

**e-mail:** craigwlibby@gmail.com

**family/birthdays:**

Craig – September 24  
Kristi – February 2  
Josh – June 19  
Katie – May 16

Craig Libby grew up in Houlton, Maine where his passion for evangelism began at an early age. After graduating from Cedarville University, Craig moved to Portland, Maine where as an entrepreneur his businesses were able to sponsor evangelistic mission projects in the U.S., Central Europe and Asia.

It was through one of those mission projects that God called Craig to take a medical team to northeast India. On that team, he met Kristi Ellis, who grew up in Ashland AC Church and attended Hope Church while attending and subsequently serving at BICS. They married in 2004 and Craig felt God's call to transition to full-time missionary with Kristi.

Craig serves as an elder and treasurer of North Park Community ACC in San Diego, CA, and serves on the ministerial committee of the AC Conference of Southern California. Recently, he began service as ACGC's Latin America Area Director. In this role, he will assist country leaders with their leadership needs and use evangelistic medical outreaches as a tool to strengthen and grow current churches and develop new ones.

## Erwin & Rowena Cabrizos

**title:** Directors  
Agape House Ministries Worldwide

**in office since:** 2007

**live in:** Mati, the Philippines

**family/birthdays:**

Erwin – Jan. 7  
Rowena – June 11  
Shori – Nov. 5, 2005  
Zoe Aiji Rei – May 2, 2013  
Rei Anne Charis – July 14, 2015

Rowena Baylon met Erwin Cabrizos when they were active in music ministry in their native Philippines.

In 1999, Rowena went to Japan to pursue a doctorate in mathematics. The Lord led her to open an Agape House with the help of two Japanese AC pastors.

She married Erwin, attained her degree, and they worked in Japan for three years, overseeing four Agape Houses, starting a homeless feeding ministry, developing leaders and discipling.

In 2004, they returned to Mati, Philippines, and opened Agape House Ministries of Pujada — making disciples, providing medical and dental missions, educating and feeding children, aiding parents, and sheltering orphans and abandoned and abused children.

Rowena and Erwin oversee a growing Agape House ministry worldwide. They have three children: Shori (daughter), Zoe (son) and Charis (daughter).

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Miguel Arellano  
*Legal Representative*



MEXICO

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Efren Miranda  
*Conference Bishop*



PHILIPPINES

## Efren Miranda

**title:** Bishop  
Philippine AC Churches, Inc.

**in office since:** 2011

**lives in:** Iligan City, Mindanao, Philippines

**family/birthdays:**

Efren – June 18  
Deding (wife) – Aug. 17

Connie Fern – Dec. 4, 1986  
Ronnie – Aug. 9, 1989  
Efraim – Aug. 22, 1995

Bishop Miranda holds a Bachelor of Theology degree from our own Oro Bible College in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines.

He has held the roles of senior pastor, outreach pastor, church planter and council member with duties including directing the Public Relations Department of the conference. Pastor Efren also founded the New Life Bajao Community Fellowship.

During his term as bishop (president), the conference started an emergency relief fund called BEARS, and they adopted Vision 20/20, a discipleship effort that seeks to make each AC member someone who discipled — a goal of 20,000 disciplers by the year 2020.

## Miguel Arellano

**title:** Legal Authority & Power  
Iglesia Evangelica de la  
Comunidad  
(AC Conference of Mexico)

**in office since:** May 2004

**lives in:** Tecate, Mexico

**family/birthdays:**

Miguel – Sept. 29  
Maria – Aug. 7

Pastor Miguel's passion has always been teaching and reaching others with the compassionate love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After marriage to Maria he became director of Jericó Bible Institute in Tecate. In 1983 he returned to his alma mater, Seminario Teologico de Baja California (STBC), and still teaches there.

Pastor Miguel formed his present church "Iglesia Emáus" in 2001 in Tecate.

In May 2004, Pastor Miguel assumed the position of president of Iglesia Evangelica de la Comunidad.

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Megumi Oshikata  
*Conference President*

JAPAN

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Paul Selvin  
*Fellowship of Blessed Hope  
Conference President*

INDIA

## Paul Selvin

**title:** President  
Fellowship of Blessed Hope Conference  
(FBHC)

**in office since:** June 2023

**family/birthdays:**

Paul Selvin – October 10, 1978  
Sweetlin – June 10, 1984  
Paul Praisewin – May 9, 2005  
Wincy Wiselin – February 10, 2010

Pastor Paul Selvin has been president of the Fellowship of Blessed Hope Churches since June 2023. He has the Nandanam FBH Church for the past 19 years. His wife Sweetlin and two children have been faithfully building the kingdom of God in this area since 2004. Paul's dad, the late Rev. Paul Isaac, and mom Grace Isaac, as a Bible woman, were also part of American Advent mission in India. He finished his theology degree at College of Evangelism, in Kodaikannal, in 2002.

His son Paul Praisewin is studying for a B.A. in philosophy and daughter Wincy Wiselin is in high school.

## Megumi Oshikata

**title:** President  
Japan AC Conference

**in office since:** 2023

**address:**

1-269-6, Kuminoki, Osaka-sayama-shi,  
Osaka-fu 589-0013

Rev. Megumi Oshikata is the president of the Japanese Advent Christian Conference. She is also the pastor of Kongo Christ Hope Church in Osaka. Rev. Oshikata is a graduate of the Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies (BICS) in Lenox, MA.



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**Ernie Schache**  
*Chairman of ACCONZ  
and ACMissionNZ*

**NEW ZEALAND**

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**Nely Gamayon**  
*Oro Bible College Director*

**PHILIPPINES**

## Nely Gamayon

**title:** Director  
Oro Bible College

**in office since:** 2000

**lives in:** Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

**family/birthdays:**

Nathaniel – Jan. 8  
Nely (husband) – Aug. 10

Nely Asequia was 14 when she accepted the Lord and was baptized by AC Missionary Rev. George Teshera and Pastor Gerundio Sarillana.

Beginning in 1984 at Oro Bible College (OBC), she was active in campus Christian ministry. There she met Nathaniel Gamayon. They married and now have three grown children and one grandchild — Kerryn.

With education as her passion, Nely became a licensed teacher in 1986. Nely continued to work on her own education as she served as dean and instructor at OBC. Having earned her PhD from the Xavier University, she became director of and professor at the college in April of 2000.

OBC strives to achieve higher educational requirements set by government regulations.

## Ernie Schache

**title:** Chairman of Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand and Advent Christian Missions New Zealand Trust

**in office since:**

2007-2017 (Asia Team Leader)  
2011 (President)  
2018 (India Consultant)

**lives in:** Auckland, New Zealand

**e-mail:** [ernie.schache@acmissionz.org.nz](mailto:ernie.schache@acmissionz.org.nz)

**family/birthdays:**

Ernie – Jan. 29

Ernie's partnership with ACGC started years ago, when he organized work teams to the Philippines and India and chaired the Advent Christian Missions New Zealand (ACMissionNZ) board.

Ernie and wife Helen had been preparing for missionary work when Helen fell ill. She passed away in 2001. Ernie was able to carry out this part of their dream when he moved to India in 2002.

In India, Ernie supervised ministry finances and worked with Indian nationals in building churches, parsonages and related projects. He helped church members establish micro-businesses to support their families. In 2007, he assumed the role of India Field Leader. For over six years, he lived on the American Advent Mission Compound in Guindy.

In 2009 Ernie returned to NZ, and as Asia Team Leader worked with our AC ministries in India, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

He is currently the chairman of Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand and Advent Christian Missions New Zealand Trust.

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Russell & Pohn Yoon  
*Volunteer Missionaries*

THAILAND

## Russell & Pohn Yoon

**title:** Volunteer Missionaries

**family/birthdays:**

Russell – November 16

Pohn – October 9

Anda – January 1, 2012

Pohn is from the "Isan" area, the most unevangelized area of Thailand. Through the influence of Christian Mission Naratchakhwai (CMN) located in the same village as her family's home, Pohn came to know Christ. Russell currently serves at a local prison teaching inmates critical life skills using a curriculum that is faith-based with the goal of improving society and quality of life. He has worked in the secular marketplace for many years in various management and consulting roles.

The Yoons currently live at the Advent Christian Village in Dowling Park, Florida, and attend The Village Church. They plan to serve two 30-day missions at CMN annually. With Pohn's knowledge of the Thai language and culture as well as her familiarity with the people of CMN, and with Russell's leadership, ministry experience and desire to teach English as a second language they complement each other. Their focus is to help develop local leaders for ministry, and plant new Thai-led indigenous, self-supporting churches in the Isan area.

Donations should be sent to:  
Advent Christian General Conference (ACGC)  
PO Box 690848  
Charlotte, NC 28227

Please indicate "Thailand Travel" on the memo or subject line of checks. ACGC will issue tax deductible receipts to donors and will house all funds until the Yoons are ready to use them for travel.