

Celebrating the Gospel through Generosity

Where: Seoul, Korea

When: 30 October 2025

1. Executive Summary / Abstract

This report summarises the critical discourse from the plenary session, "Celebrating the Gospel through Generosity," held at the World Evangelical Alliance General Assembly. The session confronted a pivotal challenge facing the global Church: a pervasive crisis of credibility, largely fuelled by financial mismanagement and corruption, which significantly stifles generosity and impedes the advancement of the gospel. The central thesis, articulated with urgency by Dr. Gary Hope and powerfully supported by panellists, is that the biblical principle of "order and oversight," derived from Titus 1:5, is the indispensable key to restoring trust and unlocking the immense financial resources required for the Church's global mission.

The panellists argued that a reliance on informal, relationship-based giving is an unsustainable model. Instead, they presented a compelling case for implementing robust, transparent accountability structures. Delegate reflections enriched this dialogue, highlighting that this battle against corruption is not merely organisational but begins with foundational discipleship within the family, where a "mind of corruption" can be inadvertently nurtured. Furthermore, these principles of accountability must be thoughtfully contextualised to be effective at every level, from large international bodies to the smallest village church. Drawing on the success of bodies like the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), the session framed accountability not as a bureaucratic burden but as a fundamental act of Christian stewardship. The discussion concluded with a direct call to action for global leaders to champion ecosystems of accountability, foster cultures of integrity from the home outwards, and make stewardship a core tenet of discipleship in their unique contexts, thereby enabling generational generosity and the multiplication of the Church's impact.

2. Detailed Summary of the Key Content

The plenary session, moderated by Dr. Gary Hope of Global Trust Partners (GTP), framed the contemporary landscape of the global Church as one of both significant challenges and profound opportunities. Dr. Hope identified a central tension: while ministries desire increased generosity, donors, particularly Gen Z and wealthy stewards, are demanding greater trust and transparency. He asserted that widespread corruption has created a credibility gap, posing the critical question: "What should we do in such times?"

The Theological Mandate: "Order and Oversight"

Dr. Hope turned the Assembly's attention to Titus 1:5, where the Apostle Paul instructs his protégé: "I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you may put in order what remains to be done and put oversight in every city as I directed you." This verse became the session's anchor, distilled into the memorable and actionable mantra: "order and oversight." Dr. Hope argued that this instruction was the essential framework required for the gospel to advance sustainably. Using large-scale secular examples, from Toronto's freeways to a Coca-Cola facility in China, he illustrated how complex systems thrive on this principle. The direct application was clear: for the Church to fulfil its global mission, it must embrace this same commitment to structure and accountability.

The Problem of Relational Giving and the Solution of Peer Accountability

Dr. Hope diagnosed a systemic weakness in many ministry contexts: the absence of formal structures means that giving flows primarily through fragile personal relationships. He stated bluntly, "I see this worldwide: when people die, the ministry dies." He introduced Global Trust Partners (GTP) as a solution, an entity born from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) in the USA. He recounted how ECFA was formed in 1979 during a crisis of trust in American televangelists. By accrediting organisations that adhere to high standards, ECFA's "seal of trust" has been remarkably effective, with its 2,800 members receiving over \$32 billion in revenue last year alone. He explained that GTP's mission is to help replicate this successful model globally, creating an "ecosystem of accountability" that facilitates rich and abundant generosity.

Panel Perspectives and Delegate Insights

The session then transitioned to the panel, where their expert commentary was further illuminated by reflections from the Assembly delegates.

Valentine Gitoho delivered a passionate testimony from her work as an accountant. She recounted finding an organisation's financial systems to be structurally perfect on paper, yet discovering the reported work had not been done. This powerful anecdote served as her central point: structures are meaningless without a corresponding change of heart. Accountability, for her, is about profound integrity. "We are standing in the way of blessing for the gospel," she declared.

This sentiment resonated deeply with a delegate who observed that the roots of corruption often lie not in faulty organisational charts but in a failure of discipleship at the most fundamental level: the family. The attendee noted that a "mind of corruption" can be cultivated in children when, for example, money is used transactionally to secure love or silence truth within the home. This insight powerfully reinforced Valentine's argument, highlighting that if children are raised without a deep, scriptural foundation of integrity, they will carry a corruptible mindset into their adult lives and, eventually, into the Church itself, regardless of any external systems in place.

Simoun Ung followed with a sharp, theologically grounded perspective, defining financial accountability as "a very, very basic form of stewardship." He reminded the audience that we serve an omniscient God and that the resources we manage are not ours, but the Lord's. Drawing from his professional background in banking, he described checks and balances as a natural part of any serious enterprise. He also addressed a crucial cultural dynamic where a high value on relationships can sometimes create a weakness in governance, urging a paradigm shift to see accountability not as a "burden" but as an "enabler."

This call for a paradigm shift was echoed in a second delegate's reflection, which focused on the challenge of practical application. The attendee voiced the concern of many grassroots leaders, asking how the grand principles of "order and oversight" apply to a small, under-resourced church in a village. This perspective stressed the critical need for *contextualisation*. The delegate argued that accountability need not begin with complex, Western-style systems but with foundational, accessible steps. They suggested that pastors must begin by teaching stewardship from the pulpit as a core component of discipleship and by implementing simple, transparent practices, such as publicly reporting "what is coming in and what is going out." This practical insight served as a vital bridge, connecting the high-level vision of GTP and ECFA to the on-the-ground reality of the global Church, affirming that a culture of transparency must be built from the ground up.

Concluding Charge and Vision for the Future

Dr. Hope powerfully concluded by re-emphasising the core message, warning against a ministry model that "grows by addition," leading to exhaustion. He contrasted this with "growth by

multiplication," which is only possible when built on a foundation of order and oversight. He then laid down a visionary challenge, asking delegates to imagine their nation's generosity landscape 46 years from now, the time elapsed since ECFA's founding transformed the giving culture in the US. The panel's hope was for the leaders to dream of a similar transformation, sparked by a collective commitment to accountability.

3. Main Topic and Core Message

Main Topic: The indispensable and urgent relationship between financial accountability, donor trust, and Christian generosity, contextualised for every level of the global Church.

Core Message: To unlock the immense potential of Christian generosity, the global Church must implement robust structures of "order and oversight." This commitment to accountability is not a bureaucratic imposition but a fundamental act of biblical stewardship that must be both structural *and* deeply personal. It requires building transparent systems that are contextualised for every ministry setting, while simultaneously fostering a culture of integrity that begins with intentional discipleship in the home to combat corruption at its root.

4. Primary Arguments, Key Principles, and Theological Points

Primary Arguments

- A crisis of trust, driven by financial mismanagement, is a primary obstacle to Christian generosity.
- Relying solely on informal, relational giving models is unsustainable and limits ministry longevity.
- The challenge of corruption is not merely systemic but is rooted in a failure of discipleship at the personal and family level, where corrupt mindsets can be inadvertently nurtured.
- Shared, verifiable standards for financial accountability create a vital "ecosystem of accountability" that builds donor confidence.
- The historical success of ECFA provides a proven model for how accountability can transform a nation's giving culture over time.

Key Principles

- **Order and Oversight:** The central operational principle for all ministry, representing the need for clear structures, transparent governance, and auditable processes.
- **Contextualised Accountability:** The principles of 'order and oversight' must be adapted and applied appropriately to diverse ministry contexts, from large national alliances to small, rural churches, starting with foundational practices of transparency and stewardship education.
- **Trust is the Currency of Generosity:** Trust must be earned through demonstrated transparency and verifiable credibility.
- **From Addition to Multiplication:** Ministries built on a foundation of accountability are positioned for exponential growth ("multiplication"), creating a sustainable and expanding legacy.

Theological Points

- **The Mandate of Titus 1:5:** The instruction to "put in order... and put oversight" is a foundational biblical command for church administration, prerequisite for long-term success.
- **Stewardship before an Omniscient God:** Financial accountability is a core expression of Christian stewardship, flowing from the recognition that all resources belong to God.
- **Integrity of the Heart:** True accountability transcends mere compliance; it must be rooted in a heart of integrity that is nurtured through life-long discipleship, beginning in childhood, to combat corruption before it takes hold.
- **Accountability and Divine Blessing:** A lack of integrity can act as a spiritual barrier to God's blessing. Faithfulness in this area opens the door for God to entrust an organisation with more.

5. Main Call to Action / Conclusion

The concluding call to action was a direct challenge for global leaders to cease perpetuating unsustainable models of ministry. They were urged to embrace the biblical mandate of Titus 1:5 by actively establishing systems of "order and oversight" within their spheres of influence. This call was broadened by the understanding that this is a multi-layered task. It requires not only building organisational structures but also championing a culture of integrity that begins with personal and family discipleship. Leaders at the grassroots level were encouraged to take the first simple steps of transparency and stewardship education, while leaders of larger networks were called to establish national standards. The ultimate purpose is to shift the paradigm from "addition" to "multiplication," thereby unlocking Christian generosity, restoring credibility, and accelerating the mission of bringing the gospel to everyone.

Invitation for Further Contribution

Your voice is a vital part of this global conversation. We invite you to add your reflections, insights, and questions to this discussion by visiting the link below: <https://weafeedback.com/thursday-30/>

To engage with the report and contextualise the content for your ministry context, please follow these steps:

1. Access Spock.chat (if you have not yet registered, click here - <https://app.spock.chat/conference/wea>). It is highly recommended that you personalise your AI before engaging with the reports. To do so, select the 'Personalise your AI' agent in the Menu Bar and follow the instructions.
2. Within the Agent section you will find the report, select it and start asking it any questions such as, 'Provide me with five practical application to how this report is applicable in my ministry context'.