

## **Go & Make! 27<sup>th</sup> Pentecostal World Conference**

SUMMARY/WEDNESDAY June 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

Approximately 6,000 guests from 97 countries have registered for the Pentecostal "Go & Make!" World Conference. On the opening day, June 4th, a press conference and an opening celebration were held, featuring welcome speeches from, among others, the President of the Republic Alexander Stubb and Dr. Billy Wilson, Chair of the Pentecostal World Fellowship. The greeting from the Finnish Ecumenical Council was delivered by Archbishop Elia of the Orthodox Church.

The day's musical programme was offered by the worship groups Nordic Worship and ORU Music, the sinfonietta orchestra conducted by Teemu Hämäläinen, a vocal ensemble led by Lasse Heikkilä, and several soloists including Ida Elina, Atro Hietala, Sara Brandao, and Susan Yli-Knuutila.

### **Welcome Addresses**

In his written greeting, President **Alexander Stubb** welcomed the participants to Helsinki and to "the happiest country in the world."

"The Pentecostal World Conference brings together people united by a shared desire to build a better world. In a time when uncertainty, polarization, and fear threaten our sense of community, we need more moments to pause and reflect on our core values: human dignity, responsibility, and hope. These values are timeless, but still we need them now more than ever," the President wrote in his message.

The President expressed his gratitude to the international Pentecostal movement for its development cooperation and humanitarian aid, which have impacted the lives of millions of people. According to him, the work has been "both practical and principled."

The President concluded his message with an important reminder: "Finally, let us take care of one another. That's at the heart of Finnish identity."

Dr. Billy Wilson, leader of the Pentecostal World Fellowship (PWF), reflected on the history of the world conferences in his welcome address. The first conference was held in 1948, and the event was last hosted in Finland in 1964. Wilson noted that Pentecostalism is currently the fastest-growing spiritual movement in the world, and many churches have set the goal of fulfilling the Great Commission by the year 2033.

"Pentecostalism is a growing and vibrant movement—highly diverse, yet strongly united," Wilson stated. "Jesus has called His followers to carry out the Great Commission, and where brothers live together in unity, there is blessing."

### **Excerpts from the Speeches of International Guest Speakers**

**Niclas Lindgren**, representing the Swedish Pentecostal Church, interviewed **Dr. Denis Mukwege** — a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, human rights activist, surgeon, and also a pastor.

Dr. Mukwege emphasized that in the Kingdom of God, every person has equal value and human rights. He challenged churches to move beyond their walls to meet people and their problems, to take responsibility, and to actively fight against inequality and discrimination.

“The world is going backwards in its respect for justice and human dignity, and we cannot simply stand by and watch. If we want to make a difference, we must be present in politics, society, and the business world.”

Dr. Mukwege stressed that there can be no lasting peace without justice. According to him, the world is suffering from a lack of love. The threats of war, poverty, and other major global challenges today stem, in his view, from love growing cold—because we no longer see each other as recipients of God’s love.

“To love also means to recognize the same human dignity and the image of God in every person.”

*(YOU CAN ALSO READ DR. MUKWEGE’S SPEECH GIVEN AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, AVAILABLE IN THE MEDIA BANK.)*

**Sebastian Stakset** from Sweden used to live a destructive and criminal life and was known as a gangster rapper. Faith changed his direction, and today Stakset leads the Heart of Evangelism organization he founded, with a mission to bring hope to young people.

“How do you tell a 14-year-old girl cutting herself in the school bathroom that she is valuable? Or a 13-year-old boy who just ran away from a group home and is about to commit his first contract killing that he doesn’t need to do it to gain respect?” Stakset asked.

His favorite Bible story is the account of the sinful woman. Reflecting on his own background, Stakset shared that sin is a punishment in itself—it brings shame, guilt, loneliness, and hopelessness. As a remedy, people need to experience their worth and be shown love.

“That’s why it’s so important to remember that human dignity is preserved through love—but only Jesus can heal the heart and transform an entire life.”

### **Rick Warren, Founder of Saddleback Church and Leader of Finishing the Task**

Exceptionally, Rick Warren shared his personal testimony during his message. Even as a schoolboy, he found it natural to talk to his friends about Jesus. During his years in Japan, he realized the importance of learning the local culture and seeking opportunities to live in close connection with local people. Warren emphasized that believers should not spend all their time only with other believers. People need to learn to trust Christians before they can learn to trust Jesus.

“You can waste your life, spend your life, or invest your life. The best choice is to invest it for God’s purposes,” Warren said.

### **Carla Hornung – Agua Viva Church, Peru**

Carla Hornung, who serves with her husband at Agua Viva Church in Peru, encouraged listeners to trust in God and His care. We do not need to be great or successful; we can trust that God will do everything in His time and His way. As an example, she shared how during the COVID-19 pandemic, their church decided to use funds reserved for building renovations to feed people instead. God blessed their decision, and after the pandemic, they found they still had the same amount available for renovations as before.

### **Pastor Younghoon Lee – Seoul, South Korea**

Pastor Younghoon Lee, who serves in Seoul, South Korea, reminded attendees why Jesus came to earth. It was the greatest event in human history and the greatest miracle on earth—so that Jesus' death could atone for the sins of all. Jesus' life resolved humanity's problem with sin, but it also offered healing from sickness. One-third of Jesus' miracles were healing miracles. In Younghoon's church in South Korea, prayers for healing—personal, familial, and national—are a weekly part of Sunday services. He concluded his message with a communal prayer, asking in Jesus' name for healing over, among others, the nation of Finland.

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## **Conference Guest Reflections**

### **Steve McCoy – Global Disciple Tools & Training**

*What brought you to this conference?*

– We were invited because church culture often focuses heavily on getting people to believe—but at that very moment, we tend to forget the new believers. We offer tools already used in 140 countries and 75 languages, which we provide completely free to pastors and churches. These tools help guide new believers in their faith and help them grow.

*What was your first impression upon arriving in Finland and at the Go & Make! conference?*

– My first feeling was excitement. People here are smart, open, and kind. It's truly meaningful to be part of a global community like this—when people from all over the world gather around a shared calling. It really feels fulfilling.

### **Nelly Tulimäki – Head of the Photography Team**

*What brought you here and how does it feel to be part of this event?*

– Work! I'm a professional photographer, and somehow I ended up leading the photography team for this event. I'm a little anxious—even though I've been doing this for years. This is the biggest Pentecostal event I've ever been a part of. It's exciting, totally crazy—it feels like a party is happening!

*What's it like to be part of something this big?*

– It hasn't fully sunk in yet—it's only the first day. There are people here from all over the world, and we all believe in the same God, the same calling. That's powerful. The things that matter most to us bring us together. People travel all the way to Finland—it's amazing how God unites us.

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### **Pentecostal World Conference – At a Glance**

An inspiring, equipping, and spiritually formative event.

| Held every three years.

| First conference in 1947 in Zurich, Switzerland.

| Previously held once in Finland, in 1964.

| The “Go & Make!” conference (June 4–7, 2025) is organized by the Pentecostal World Fellowship, the Pentecostal Church of Finland, Fida International, and Helsinki Saalem Church.