

# COMIBAM 2025 REPORT

## “The Same Mission for a Moving Church”

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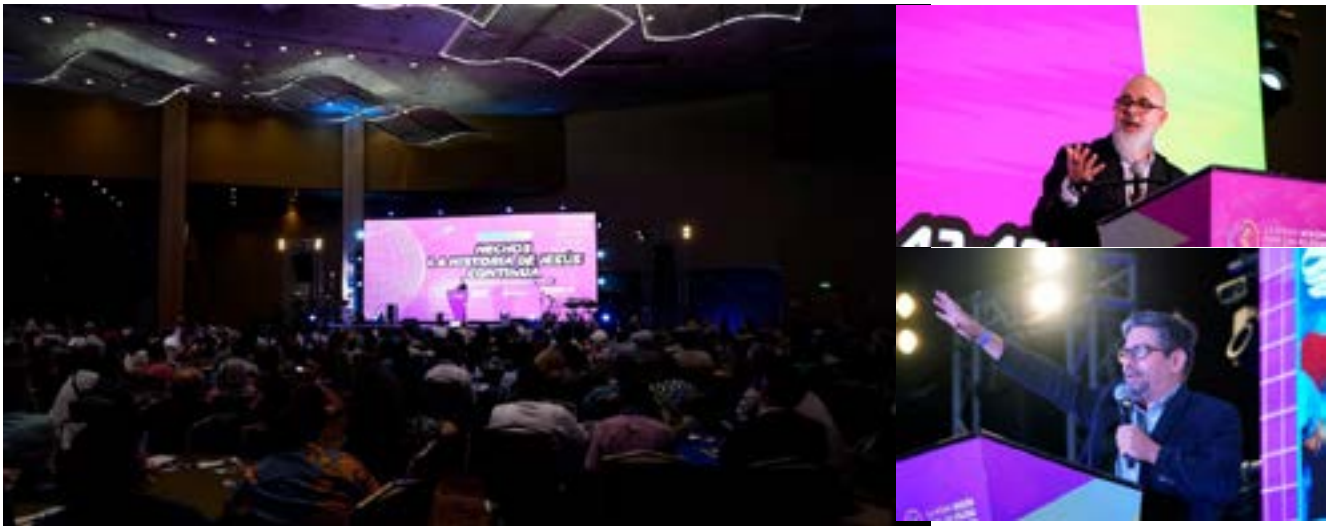
### Panama Hosts the Fifth Ibero-American Missionary Congress

Panama, April 2025 — Panama City served as the backdrop for the Fifth Ibero-American Missionary Congress, held from April 22 to 25, which brought together 1,600 pastors, missionaries, religious leaders, and observers from over 25 countries across Ibero-America and other regions of the world. Under the theme “The Same Mission for a Moving Church”, the event became a space for celebration, inspiration, reflection, and strategic planning to strengthen

commitment to vulnerable populations.

During the congress, attendees participated in workshops and sessions on emerging areas and future horizons of missions, including polycentric missions, working with immigrants, refugees, indigenous communities, diasporas, and utilizing sports and arts as evangelization tools. Emphasis was also placed on adopting an attitude of listening, compassion, and incarnation to bridge cultural and religious differences, rather than approaching them with aggressive apologetic methods.

The event concluded with an inspirational message



missionary work in the region.

Since its founding in 1987, COMIBAM — the Ibero-American Cooperation for Missions — has evolved from a simple mission field to a dynamic force that coordinates and promotes collaboration among countries, churches, and organizations. During the congress, leaders and attendees reaffirmed the importance of relying on the Holy Spirit and God’s power to fulfill the mission, expressed by COMIBAM’s president, Paulo Feniman: “There is no testimony without power.”

The figures show significant growth in the number of Ibero-American missionaries: only 1,350 in 1987, and today over 34,000, with more than 19,000 serving within the region. Additionally, over 80% of these workers have chosen to dedicate their lives indefinitely to missions.

Despite these advances, the data also highlight notable challenges. Only 6% of sending churches actively participate in missions, and just 12% are involved in Bible translation efforts. However, an encouraging 36% of mission-engaged churches work with indigenous communities, demonstrating a

from Cristian Castro, who shared an ambitious vision: “We are praying for 10,000 new workers and 20,000 new churches in the next ten years. We must keep praying and giving ourselves to missions.”

As the congress ended, participants departed with a renewed commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every corner of the world, reaffirming that the church’s mission is the same — in motion, it can be fulfilled with passion and purpose.



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