



**May 2009 Executive Summary**

**NEWS BRIEFS**, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:  
[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1153](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1153))

**AROUND THE WORLD: World Vision International Names New President**

Kevin Jenkins, managing director of a Canadian investment firm and vice chair of the board of [World Vision Canada](#), has been appointed president and chief executive officer of [World Vision International](#) (WVI). The appointment is effective 1 October 2009. The WVI board unanimously voted for Jenkins to succeed Dean Hirsch, who announced last year that he was stepping down as president. ([World Vision International](#))

**CAMBODIA: Self-sufficiency Program Ready to Launch in Local Churches**

The [FARMS International](#) self-sufficiency program, which provides microfinancing and lessons in technical skills through local churches in Cambodia, is almost ready to launch. Christians are especially excited about the program and will be the ones to get the program going. As other Cambodians see the progress Christians are making toward self-sufficiency, they will hopefully come to the Church for help. ([Mission Network News](#))

**GUATEMALA: Evangelistic Campaign a National Event**

Guatemala's president, first lady, vice president, and three ministers of state all attended the two-day *Guatemala Festival at Parque de la Democracia* 13-14 March 2009, a first in the history of evangelist [Luis Palau festivals](#). The country is known as one of the most evangelical nations in the Spanish-speaking world. Over three thousand Guatemalan churches invited Palau and his team to hold this historic campaign—the largest community service initiative the nation has ever seen. ([Assist News](#))

**PERU: New General Secretary Named to Latin American Council of Churches**

The Rev. Nilton Giese, a Lutheran pastor from Brazil, has been named as new general secretary of the [Latin American Council of Churches](#) (CLAI), following the resignation of its previous top official in 2008. “The aim is to consider national witness as a priority, to get closer to the national Church reality and, taking up these challenges, to shape an action plan for the programmes and regional desks of CLAI,” said Giese. ([Ecumenical News International](#))

**PUERTO RICO: COMIBAM Appoints New Executive Director**

Dr. Decio de Carvalho, a Brazilian living in Puerto Rico, has been appointed by the [COMIBAM](#) (Cooperacion Misionera Iberoamericana) board as the new executive director. He replaces Jesús Londoño, who has held the post since 2000. Carvalho has experience in mission in Brazil and in other countries in Latin America and has worked in Turkey and lived in the United States. The transition ceremony will occur during the General Assembly of COMIBAM in November 2009. ([World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission](#))

**TURKEY: Mistrust of Christians Presents a Barrier in Evangelism**

In Turkey, it is estimated that the number of Christian believers declined from twenty-two percent to only .2% between 1900 and 2000, and most of these Christians are non-Turkish. The other 99.8% of the Turkish population is Muslim. Behnan Konutgan with [I.N. Network](#) says that “identity mistrust” has been a challenge in their ministry. Church planting and evangelism are carried out by a small church that was planted in Istanbul, through personal visits and discipling church members and building them up in their faith. I.N. Network also works with internet evangelism. While evangelism is not specifically forbidden, many view it with suspicion. ([I.N. Network](#))

**UKRAINE: Churches Challenged to Address Children at Risk**

With 160 delegates gathered for the Eastern European Summit on Orphans and the Church 17-18 March 2009, Mikhail Kozitsky of Christian Foster Families in St. Petersburg, Russia, challenged churches to step out of their comfort zones and respond to the crisis of children at risk. According to conference director Karmen Friesen, director of [The](#)

CoMission for Children at Risk, the summit had a wide range of participants. Friesen hopes that not only will conference delegates be better equipped but will benefit from networking with other organizations. ([Assist News](#))

### **UNITED STATES: Number of Homeless Children Increasing**

One in every fifty American children experiences homelessness, according to a new report by the [National Center on Family Homelessness](#). In the midst of the growing numbers, [Joy Junction](#) (JJ) in New Mexico shows the love and patience of Jesus Christ to all guests in its shelter. JJ is a shelter providing both emergency and longer term food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and other services for homeless women and families. ([Assist News](#))

### **ZAMBIA: Compassion Program Deals with HIV/AIDS Care**

With an infection rate among adults nearing twenty percent and one of the highest proportions of orphans in the world, few countries in Africa have been harder hit by HIV/AIDS than Zambia. Motivated by the conviction that the Church should be the catalyst behind the needed change, Baptist Mid-Missions launched *A Refuge of Compassion Ministries* (ARC) in the southern province of Zambia. The ARC program partners with local Baptist churches and conducts a broad layer of ministry that uniquely mobilizes believers in biblical responsiveness and the compassionate care of orphans, widows, and the destitute. ([Baptist Mid-Mission](#))

## **PUBLISHER'S MEMO**

**Reconciliation between God and Humanity** by *Lon Allison, co-publisher of LWP*. Reconciliation brings warring parties, even nations, together. Reconciliation has the power to make friends of enemies. However, before we focus on reconciliation between people and nations, we must remember that the most powerful portrait of reconciliation is God with humanity. In 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, we see that reconciling includes at least three components: the world, enemies of God, and costly love. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1152](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1152)

## **THEMED ARTICLES: RECONCILIATION**

**Jesus Reconciles Man and Woman for Partnership** by *Leslie and Chad Neal Segraves who work in the area of gender and missions issues*. The first human relationship attacked on earth was between the male and the female. "Could this be a wrinkle in the Body of Christ that Jesus intends to be 'ironed out' so that the Church can impact society at its most fundamental level?" the authors ask. The work of Jesus on the cross reconciles God and humanity; however, the cross powerfully affects every type of relationship, including the relationship between men and women. The cross provides the opportunity for men and women to reflect again the *imago Dei* from a Trinitarian perspective of co-blessing, co-responsibility, and co-dominion. Their own theological journey and experience in God's mission, particularly with Chinese and Indian brothers and sisters, has led the Segraves to the conclusion that when the Church releases believers to use the gifts God gives, regardless of gender, the Great Commission advances. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1123](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1123)

**Reconciliation of God: Men and Women Working Together** by *Elke Werner, Lausanne senior associate for women in evangelism*. "How does the reconciliation of God in Christ apply to the question of men and women working together in the Church?" Werner asks. She answers this by looking at what Jesus did on the cross, when he died for men and women and brought them back to the place God had designed for them from the beginning of the world. Werner discusses the problem of the fall, the intervention of God, the command of the Great Commission, the impact on women in the Church, and a new way of men and women working together. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1141](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1141)

**Fighting for Peace in the Middle East** by *Rev. Canon Andrew White, president and CEO of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East*. Although there are many problems causing division in the Middle East—including land, territory, and occupation—a major area of vision is religion. Much destruction in the name of religion has occurred. White says this is what we are seeing with people who are killing others with the belief they are pleasing the Almighty. Sadly, many people in the diplomatic political world are scared of religion, White says; they fail to realize the role religion has in much of the world. In the Middle East, orthodoxy is fundamental. White provides an

update on the High Council of Religious Leaders in Iraq that he says is made up of top religious figures committed to bringing stability to the area. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1145](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1145)

**Environmental Ethics** by *Thomas Schirrmacher, professor of ethics and sociology of religion in Germany and Turkey*. Environmentalists have made the preservation of creation into a political issue, says Schirrmacher. Christians must remind them that there can be no creation without a creator, and that hope for creation implies hope in the creator. The Christian solution to the ecological crisis is not to equate humans with creation, but to see their role as something very special in and even above the rest of creation. This clearly includes humanity's responsibility of the care of all creation, which has too often suffered because of man falling into sin. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1124](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1124)

## PERSPECTIVES

**The Unseen Iraq** by *David LeCompte, co-director of Mission International*. A spiritual revival not seen in modern history is taking place in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, LeCompte says. Indeed since the war began in Iraq in 2003, the resurgence of Protestant evangelical believers has been at an incredible rate. Over sixty Iraqi Christian evangelical leaders and believers gathered recently for a Bible conference near the ancient city of Ninevah. From both Kurdish and Arab bloodlines, orthodox Christian and Muslim backgrounds, everyone came for one purpose: to see new leaders raised up to become pastors to disciple and lead new believers who are coming to Christ in Iraq in unprecedented numbers. This unique conference was organized through the efforts and cooperation of Iraqi evangelical pastors and leaders from Baghdad, Mosul, and Dohuk. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1143](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1143)

**New Data on World Religions: Introducing the International Religious Demography Project** by *Todd Johnson, research fellow in the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Brian Grim, senior research fellow at the Pew Forum*. Although there are thousands of sources for religious demography, little has been done by scholars in religion, sociology, or other disciplines to collect, collate, and analyze these. As a consequence, there is much confusion over the status of religion and its adherents around the world, Johnson and Grim explain. In 2008, the International Religious Demography (IRD) project was launched to collect, collate, and analyze primary and secondary source material on religious demography for all major religions in every country of the world. As data is collected and analyzed, estimates from these sources are made readily available and fully transparent to the scholarly community. The IRD project is currently publishing its findings in an online database, and in the future will publish its findings in print. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1128](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1128)

**ATS Theological Forum on Stewardship Draws 772 Participants**. The Fifth Asian Theological Seminary (ATS) Theological Forum with the theme "The Earth Is the Lord's and Everything in It: Reflections on Stewardship in the Asian Context" was held 12-13 February 2009. Nearly eight hundred people attended the twenty-six breakout sessions. The topics ranged from theological reflections and practical actions on the care and preservation of the environment to concrete models of financial stewardship. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1126](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1126)

## URBAN COMMUNITIES

**The Importance and Strategic Role of the City in Missio Dei** by *Duky Charles, vice-rector of student affairs at the Université chrétienne du nord d'Haïti in Limbé, Haiti*. Even with the most cursory flipping through the pages of the Bible, we quickly understand that God loves the city and counts on her to extend his kingdom to the four corners of the world, Charles writes. By referencing Jeremiah 29, he shares three universal truths of God's love for the city. He then discusses urbanization in Haiti as a case study. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1146](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1146)

## LAUSANNE REPORTS

**Learning from Each Other: Using New Tools** by *Raphael Anzenberger, general secretary of France Evangelisation*. The author shares how two innovations—the World Café and Dispatches: A Live 60-minute Television Magazine—used at a 2007 Lausanne meeting inspired participants at a recent Evangelist Forum in Switzerland. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1142](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1142)

**June 2009 Theme: Overcoming Barriers to the Gospel**

Questions or comments about Lausanne World Pulse may be sent to: [editor@lausanneworldpulse.com](mailto:editor@lausanneworldpulse.com).