

March 2010 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1257/03-2010)

EGYPT: Large Christian Population Faces Many Threats

The Christian population in Egypt is very large—estimated at six to nine million people, or between eight and twelve percent of the population. However, Egyptian Christians face discrimination in education, employment, and the courts, as well as harassment in daily life. Most prosperous Egyptian Christians have left Egypt. Christians who remain often live in extreme poverty. Those in rural areas are vulnerable to violence, and the police seldom offer protection. Incidents of anti-Christian brutality, kidnapping, and forced conversion to Islam are rarely followed by successful prosecution of the perpetrators. ([Barnabas Aid](#))

EGYPT: Coptic Christian Youths Arrested without Charge

Egyptian State Security has intensified its intimidation of the Coptic Church and Christians in Nag Hammadi and neighboring Bahgoura by carrying out random arrests of Christian youth. According to the Assyrian International News Agency (AINA), the ongoing campaign against Christians started in early January 2010. More than one hundred Christian youth have been arrested without charge. Tension in the area has escalated following the 5 January 2010 shooting in which several Christians and a security guard were killed following Mass marking Coptic Christmas. ([Assist News Service](#))

ERITREA: Another Christian Dies in Detention Center

On 24 January 2010, Hana Hagos Asgedom, 41, became the eleventh believer to die in an Eritrean detention center. Asgedom reportedly suffered a heart attack while being held in solitary confinement at Alla Military Camp. According to sources with Open Doors, "Shortly before her death, she apparently endured beatings with an iron rod for refusing to 'make the chief commander in the camp a cup of coffee.' When Asgedom resisted this order (which Christians interpret as a sexual advance), she was apparently sent back to her cell where she endured punishment and later succumbed to the heart attack." It was reported that Asgedom was serving a life sentence in solitary confinement because she refused to renounce her faith. ([Mission Network News](#))

FRANCE: French Lawmakers Consider Ban on Face-Covering Veils

Six years after banning Muslim girls from wearing headscarves in public schools, French lawmakers appear close to a measure to ban women from wearing face-covering veils in some public spaces. On 26 January 2010, a parliamentary commission delivered a long-awaited report recommending that women be barred from wearing the full veil in public institutions and on public transportation. The bipartisan panel also recommended that foreigners who wear the full veil be denied French citizenship and residency. But in an indication of the issue's sensitivity, the panel did not call for banning the garment from private buildings or public spaces such as streets. ([Ecumenical News International](#))

HAITI: World Hope International Sends Aid, But Suffers Losses

Many of World Hope International's (WHI) orphanages, hospitals, and schools suffered damage from the catastrophic 12 January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. WHI reports that although the need is great in Port-au-Prince, they are also working in surrounding regions that are being neglected. "A lot of the efforts...are in Port-au-Prince," explains WHI's Karl Eastlack. "World Hope International tends to go out into the other cities and do work. We found when we got out there that it was just devastation." ([Mission Network News](#))

HAITI: HCJB Global Rotates Medical Teams, Finds Inspiring Moments

Immediately following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, HCJB Global sent a medical team into Port-au-Prince. The team was working at the Baptist Haiti Mission Hospital, one of the only standing hospitals in the region. In the midst of the despair there have been moments of hope and encouragement. Pederson says, "We were thrilled when about twenty Billy Graham chaplains arrived at the hospital earlier this week. And they are having devotions with the

patients and sharing Christ. We heard Monday morning that on Sunday, twenty people prayed to receive Christ in the hospital." ([HCJB Global](#))

INDIA: Church Planters Will Take the Gospel to New Places

India Gospel League (IGL) is commissioning one thousand church planters throughout the next three to five years to minister in areas mostly untouched by the gospel. "For two thousand years, India has been resistant to the gospel. Now, all of a sudden, it seems that the floodgates have opened, and now is the time for us to reap the harvest in India," said David Rice, executive director of IGL. Rice said with the number of workers they are sending out and based upon past witnessing in new areas, they could see as many as two million people come to Christ." ([Mission Network News](#))

MALAYSIA: Non-Islamic Faiths Targeted for Using the Word "Allah"

More places of worship belonging to religious minorities in Malaysia have been targeted in a continuing dispute over the use of "Allah" by non-Islamic faiths, and the World Council of Churches (WCC) has expressed "deep concern" about the situation in the Muslim-majority country. Attacks against Christian churches followed a court decision that outraged Muslim hardliners, as it opened the way for Christians and other non-Muslims to use the word "Allah" in their religious publications and prayers. At least ten churches are reported to have been attacked. ([Ecumenical News International](#))

RWANDA: Prison Fellowship Responds to Children in Need

According to UNICEF, there are approximately 100,000 children living on the streets of Rwanda without a parent or guardian. Two years ago, Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) began a program to help these struggling children. PFR now serves more than eighty-five young children with meals, counseling, group activities, and Bible teaching. They also provide medical insurance for many children and literacy training, since their situations have forced most of the children to drop out of school. ([Prison Fellowship International](#))

UNITED KINGDOM: Praying the Lord's Prayer at Noon Each Day

The leaders of the Global Day of Prayer London (GDOP London) are calling for one million Christians to pray the Lord's Prayer at noon every day. Organizers hold a vision to host the GDOP event at Wembley Stadium in 2011. Ahead of Wembley preparations are well underway for this year's event at West Ham Stadium on 30 May 2010. ([Assist News Service](#))

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

A Wideness in God's Mercy and an Urgency to Proclaim by Lon Allison, co-publisher of LWP. Allison shares two stirring thoughts he had going through his mind while reading this month's issue of LWP: *how expansive and expensive is the love of God revealed in the historical reality of Jesus the Messiah and there is an urgency to proclaim him.* www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1261/03-2010

THEMED ARTICLES: WORLD FAITHS: A PRIMER FOR EVANGELISM

The Uniqueness of Christ and Committed Pluralism: PART 1 by Knud Jørgensen, dean of Tao Fong Shan in Hong Kong and associate professor at the Norwegian School of Theology. What does it mean to be a committed pluralist while still holding Christ as the only means of salvation? the author asks. He discusses "committed pluralism," religion as ultimate commitment, and commitment without judgment.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1247/03-2010

The Uniqueness of Christ and Committed Pluralism: PART 2 by Knud Jørgensen, dean of Tao Fong Shan in Hong Kong and associate professor at the Norwegian School of Theology. The author continues his discussion on committed pluralism, by touching upon what it means to understand the cross of Christ, mission, and the glory of God in a pluralistic society. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1248/03-2010

Not Messiah to the Jews, Not Messiah at All: On Jewish Evangelism by Kai Kjær-Hansen, international coordinator of the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism. If we keep the gospel to ourselves, not only will

Jews suffer, but also our own understanding of what Jesus' life, death, and resurrection mean. Jewish evangelism must go hand in hand with world evangelism. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1246/03-2010

Interfaith Interface with Buddhists by *Chandler H. Im, director of Ethnic Ministries at the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College*. For the goal of mutual understanding and enrichment, and also for the sake of evangelism, we need to listen to and learn from the teachings of Buddhism. Im shares a history of Buddhism, teachings of Buddhism, and how Christians can begin conversations with those who call themselves Buddhists. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1252/03-2010

Sharing Christ in Hindu Contexts by *Lalsangkima Pachuau, director of the Post-graduate Studies Program and associate professor of the History and Theology of Mission at Asbury Theological Seminary*. The author asks, "What form of faith affirmation should be expected from caste Hindus if they are to be converted to Christianity?" He shares basic characteristics of Hinduism and evangelistic efforts among Hindus. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1253/03-2010

Christian Response to Islam: A Struggle for the Soul of Christianity by *John Azumah, lecturer in Islamic and director for the Centre of Islamic Studies at the London School of Theology*. Islam *per se* is not necessarily the greatest challenge facing Christians today, but rather how Christians choose to respond to Islam, Azumah writes. To work out what constitutes an appropriate Christian response to Islam, there is a need to identify the various faces of Islam needing Christian responses; he suggests four. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1256/03-2010

PERSPECTIVES

2010-2020: A "Decade from Heaven" by *Grant McClung, president of Missions Resource Group*. McClung shares four encouraging reasons Christians can hope to see positive changes in the Church from 2010 to 2020. These include defined discipleship, demographic destiny, desperate desire, and divine determination. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1249/03-2010

Consumerism & Human Trafficking: A Socio-political View from an Eastern European Perspective by *Vladimir Ubeivlc, president of Beginning of Life, a Non-Governmental Organization in Moldova*. Ubeivlc shares why consumerism is fueling the fires of human trafficking, with special emphasis on Moldova. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1250/03-2010

Cross-cultural Guest Speaking: Helping Those in the West Make the Greatest Impact by *Kimberly Rae Thigpen, a former missionary*. Thigpen offers suggestions for English speakers who wish to be effective while speaking in a cross-cultural setting. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1251/03-2010

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Leadership Profile: Mark Russell, Russell Media. Mark Russell heads up his own company, Russell Media, which was created to rally the Global Church to transformational causes. Here, Russell discusses his passions, motivations, and hopes for a needy world. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadership_profiles.php/1239/03-2010

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Summary Report: Cape Town 2010 U.S. Participants Meeting, 25-27 January 2010 in Dallas, Texas by *Dave Bennett, senior program advisor for the 2010 Lausanne Cape Town Congress*. Nearly three hundred men and women gathered at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, for a foretaste of this October's Cape Town 2010 and the Lausanne Global Conversation that will lead up to and ripple out from it. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1258/03-2010

April 2010 Theme: Jesus Our Reconciler

Questions or comments about Lausanne World Pulse may be sent to: editor@lausanneworldpulse.com.