

[NEWS BRIEFS \(www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/05-2008\)](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/05-2008)

ARGENTINA: Largest Faith Celebration Ever in South America

Over 800,000 people filled Buenos Aires' famed Ave. 9 de Julio for global evangelist Luis Palau's *Si A La Vida* festival. It was the largest faith celebration ever seen in South America. More than twenty-three-thousand trained "Friends of the Festival" provided personal counseling to those who responded to Palau's invitation to follow life with Christ. More than sixteen thousand decision cards were collected, with officials anticipating thousands more as festival follow-up continues. (**ASSIST News Service**)

AROUND THE WORLD: Global Prayer for China during the Summer Olympics

Key organizations that work with the persecuted Church around the world launched a global campaign calling for prayer for China. In what is called "The Zurich Statement," the Religious Liberty Partnership, with member organizations that include Open Doors International, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Voice of the Martyrs (Canada), and the Religious Liberty Commission of World Evangelical Alliance, have called the worldwide Christian community to pray for China during the Summer 2008 Olympics. (**World Evangelical Alliance**)

AROUND THE WORLD: MTI Offers Lifesaving Antibiotics to Children Worldwide

In recent weeks, Medical Teams International (MTI) has shipped more than US\$5.5 million in donated medical supplies from Abbott Labs and Henry Schein, including basic but lifesaving antibiotics, syringes, and sterilizing equipment to help children in Liberia, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan, and Mexico. Last year, MTI surpassed US\$1 billion in humanitarian aid shipped around the world—a milestone it says was made possible by donations from pharmaceutical companies, equipment manufacturers and hospitals. Each year, MTI ships aid containers to 43 international partners. (**Medical Teams International**)

AROUND THE WORLD: Mission Aviation Planes Grounded Due to Lack of Fuel

Mission Aviation Fellowship has been forced to ground missionary pilots due to a shortage of aviation fuel or "av gas." Because of the shortage, some 150 airstrips are currently without service. In response to the crisis, MAF is embarking on an aggressive 10-year plan to acquire twenty of the new Kodiak 100 aircraft, manufactured by Quest Aircraft. Not only does the Kodiak use jet fuel, which is more readily available and cheaper, the plane is also larger, flies faster, and can still get in and out of small airstrips. (**ASSIST News Service**)

AROUND THE WORLD: Seven New Languages Available on Audio Bible Recordings

The audio Bible ministry Faith Comes By Hearing recently announced the availability of seven audio New Testament recordings in the following languages: Afrikaans, Chuj San Mateo Ixtatan, Javanese Caribbean, Kirghiz, Kuranko, Otomi Mezquital, and Thai. Individuals can download the recordings, as well as other MP3 Bibles, at no charge at: www.faithcomesbyhearing.com. These new offerings, which represent language groups of more than 105 million people on four continents, bring the total number of audio scriptures available to 341 recordings in 287 languages. (**Faith Comes By Hearing**)

BHUTAN: Historic Election May Lead to Freedom of Religion

The world's only Buddhist kingdom conducted its first democratic elections 25 March 2008. The newly elected officials will form the National Council, which will set in motion the creation of a constitution and the platform for a democratic government. Gospel for Asia president K. P. Yohannan says it is still too early to tell if the yet-to-be created government will allow true freedom of religion. Currently it is illegal to share the gospel in

Bhutan, and missionaries are limited to supplying humanitarian aid, as long as they do not talk about their faith. (**Gospel for Asia**)

CHAD: Bible Society Provides Scripture in Braille

A simple ceremony was held recently at the resource center for visually impaired young people in N'Djamena. Approximately sixty blind and partially sighted young people live at the center. During the ceremony, Pastor Jérôme Altana, general secretary of the Bible Society of Chad, and his team contributed ninety-six scripture volumes in Braille. (**United Bible Societies**)

NETHERLANDS: Second-Largest Number of Christian Denominations and Religious Movements

The reputation of the Netherlands as being a country with many Christian denominations has been boosted by the publication of a new reference book detailing church information. The authors tallied a list of 648 churches, congregations, and meetings, making the Netherlands the country with the second-largest number of Christian denominations and religious movements in the world, after the United States. (**Ecumenical News International**)

NORTH KOREA: College Students Arrested for Reading the Bible

Ten college students in North Korea were arrested for reading a Bible and watching a video CD about the Bible. According to Free North Korea Broadcasting, in March 2006 two hundred Life Bibles and several hundred CDs were purchased in China and secretly placed in flour bags before being smuggled into North Korea. The Bible smuggling was headed by individuals influenced by Christianity in China and underground Christians in Nasun City. All the leaders except one have been arrested and are reportedly being tortured. (**Voice of the Martyrs**)

RWANDA: Rural Pastors Commit to Planting Churches and Sharing the Gospel

Kiramuruzi, a small town with little electricity and running water, served as host to a recent Global Advance Frontline Shepherds conference, which drew over six hundred rural pastors and church leaders. The conference focused on strengthening the family, answering God's call to ministry, the marks of a true shepherd, God's desire for church growth, and the call of a missionary. Almost every pastor in attendance committed to plant a new church within the next twelve months and approximately seventy dedicated their lives for missionary service. (**Global Advance**)

UNITED KINGDOM: Muslims to Outnumber Traditional Churchgoers by 2020

Research shows that the number of Muslims worshipping at mosques in England and Wales will outstrip the number of Roman Catholics going to church by 2020. The figures show that if current trends continue, the number of Catholic worshippers at Sunday Mass will fall to 679,000. By that time, statisticians predict, the number of Muslims praying in mosques on Fridays will have increased to 683,000. (**Telegraph**)

UNITED STATES: Paul Tokunaga Named VP of Strategic Ministries for InterVarsity USA

Paul Tokunaga was recently appointed vice president and director for strategic ministries for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA. In his new role, Tokunaga will provide vision and leadership to expand the impact of current strategic ministries and initiate the creation of new strategic ministries. For the past fourteen years, Tokunaga has served as InterVarsity's national Asian American ministries coordinator. (**InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA**)

UZBEKISTAN: Christians under Increasing Pressure

Practicing their faith is becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous for Christians in Uzbekistan. The government, who fears the increasing influence of Islamic extremism throughout the country (eighty-eight percent of the country's population of twenty-seven million people is Sunni Muslim), continues to implement even stricter laws against religious activities, both Muslim and Christian. According to (?) Christian converts from Muslim backgrounds face particular pressure not only from the authorities but also suffer persecution from their own families and communities. (**Barnabas Aid**)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Determining "As" in Building a Solid Foundation for Mission by *Lon Allison, co-publisher of LWP*. We cannot understand the mission of God by depending on only the New Testament (and especially the Book of Acts) for our theology of mission. Our God is a missional God and the whole canon points to his relentless activity to save and redeem people and all of creation. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/951/05-2008

THEMED ARTICLES: BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR MISSION POLICY AND PRAXIS

Building a Solid Theological Foundation for Mission Policy and Praxis by *Samuel Escobar, a member of the committee that drafted the Lausanne Covenant*. Escobar details four areas in which the Lausanne Covenant exerted self-criticism and which are still points that those developing mission policies and shaping missionary practice would do well to pay attention to today. These areas include: gospel content, holistic mission, mission in partnership, and preparation for mission. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/952/05-2008

Partnership, Cooperation, and Vulnerability: Building a Solid Foundation for Mission Praxis in Africa by *Jim Harries, chair of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission*. Harries explores some of the implications and outcomes of three approaches (models) to “mission” in Africa in particular. These include the partnership model, the cooperation model, and the vulnerable model. Harries advocates for using vulnerable mission, which is done in the language and culture of the people being reached, without outside subsidy or influence. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/936/05-2008

The Doors Are Closing for the Gospel: A Call to Re-visit Our Theology of Missions and Strategies by *Enoch Era, an itinerant preacher based in Hyderabad, India*. While opposition to the gospel should not surprise us, there is an urgent need for Christians worldwide to be introspective, investigating, and revisiting our theology and our ministry strategies and practices, Era says. He offers thirteen areas which Christian leaders need to reinterpret and redefine before presenting the gospel. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/937/05-2008

The Whole Gospel as Focus of Lausanne Theology Working Group Consultation by *Sandra S. K. Lee, research associate with the Center for Study of Global Christianity*. Thirty-one participants representing twenty countries were in attendance for the 5-day “The Whole Gospel” consultation in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The event, convened by the Lausanne Theology Working Group, was the first in a 3-year project which will focus on three expressions used in the Lausanne Covenant: the whole gospel (2008), the whole Church (2009), and the whole world (2010). www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/935/05-2008

PERSPECTIVES

Rwanda—Bible Society NSW's Project Making a Difference in the Heart of Africa by *Daniel Willis, CEO of Bible Society NSW*. A reconciliation project run by Bible Society NSW, in association with local partner African Enterprise, is transforming both relationships and worldviews of children, adults, teachers, and pastors in Rwanda. After experiencing the 1994 genocide, adults are finding unity and children are vowing to not let such atrocity happen again. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/946/05-2008

Prepare the Way—Remove the Stones by *Colin Harbinson, international director of StoneWorks*. The neglect of the imagination in life and faith has impoverished the Body of Christ, Harbinson writes. Ninety percent of the biblical pattern in expressing God's love and redemptive purposes appealed to the imagination; today, only ten percent of the way we express the transforming narrative of the gospel is creative and imaginative. However, during the past few decades there has been a global renewal of interest in the arts and the imagination among believers. One global arts partnership, StoneWorks, has a vision to educate the Church, disciple the artist, and transform culture. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/939/05-2008

The Effect of the Dollar on the American Missionary Sending “Enterprise” by J. Shaw, a Masters student at the University of Texas at Austin. The devaluing of the US dollar not only impacts firms and consumers, it also affects the nontraditional economies of everyday life, such as the missionary sending enterprise. If current trends continue, four main effects are likely: (1) sending American missionaries abroad becomes relatively more expensive, (2) the amount of prayer for missionaries likely increases, (3) the average standard of living abroad decreases, and (4) the opportunity cost for funding missionaries abroad increases. However, Shaw reminds us that we are to obey Jesus no matter how great the real cost and opportunity cost.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/938/05-2008

URBAN COMMUNITIES

A Lesson on “Community Development” from Cambodia: A 10-Year, Bottom-up Approach by Kristen Jack, Asia coordinator for Servants to Asia’s Urban Poor. When we come into a situation of great need, and want to see deep and abiding change for the better, the first thing we should do is seek a few good men and women. This concept, Jack explains, is contrary to the typical way organizations “do development”: assemble good money, come up with a good plan, and attract good people (staff). Instead, we should work toward a bottom-up, long-term plan which centers on: finding good people, coming up with a good plan together, and trusting that whatever resources are needed will follow. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/950/05-2008

From Manila to Phnom Penh: An Interview with Efren and Becky Roxas by Craig Greenfield, international coordinator of Servants to Asia’s Urban Poor. Greenfield interviews Efren and Becky Roxas, cross-cultural missionaries to Cambodia. The Roxas grew up in impoverished rural Filipino families, but after meeting Christ they plunged into ministry among the urban poor of Manila, and later felt called to serve in Cambodia. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/949/05-2008

RESEARCH

The Internet: The New Missionary Challenge of the Twenty-first Century by Eric Célérier, founder of Topchretien.com, an internet portal for Christians. Célérier encourages Christians to send and be missionaries to the world’s newest “continent”...the Internet. These same missionaries, working in coordination with one another, could increase the visibility of Christian websites. The most popular religious website on the Internet is a site devoted to Islam; it is ranked 600th overall with one million visitors per day. In contrast, the most popular Christian website is ranked 3000th and has only 300,000 visitors per day.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/research.php/940/05-2008

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Lausanne Movement/MANI Southern Africa Younger Leaders Meeting in Johannesburg by Grace Samson, director of Partner Relations for the Call2All Cape Town office. Thirty young leaders from different areas of ministry and work in Southern Africa attended the Lausanne Movement/MANI Southern Africa Younger Leaders meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was the first meeting of its kind in Africa since the 2006 Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering in Malaysia and provided a unique platform for the young leaders to fellowship, connect, inspire, encourage, and strengthen one another.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/941/05-2008

June 2008 Theme: The Next Generation: Leadership and Communicating the Gospel

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