



January/February 2010 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1244/01-2010)

AROUND THE WORLD: Trans World Radio Changes Its Name to TWR

Effective November 2009, **Trans World Radio**, a pioneer in media missions, changed its name to TWR. TWR has also adopted the positioning statement "Speaking Hope to the World" to fortify its new identity. "While our commitment to radio broadcasting remains steadfast, the name Trans World Radio no longer fully conveys the scope of our organization," says TWR president Lauren Libby. "TWR is more than radio. It is a multifaceted media ministry. By changing the name to TWR, we will maintain radio as a keystone communication component, all the while employing a strategic integration of new media platforms. In fact, we will even seek to enlarge our broadcasting footprint." (**Trans World Radio**)

CHINA: The Preaching Movement in China

Although an estimated seventy million Christians live in China today, there are only twenty-three seminaries (which graduate one thousand people a year) in the entire country, leading to the potential for a weaker biblical foundation for pastors. To address this issue, the JSM-Langham Preaching program has partnered with two organizations at work in Hong Kong to offer training seminars to forty-five pastors. (**JSM-Langham Partnership**)

COLOMBIA: Christians Held Captive and Told to Renounce Their Faith

In November 2009, it was reported that sixteen Christians belonging to the Kogui indigenous people group in Colombia were being held captive on their reserve in an attempt to force them to renounce Christianity. The group of believers, which includes men, women, and three babies, was captured during a meeting called by the Kogui governor. Community leaders shouted abuses at the believers throughout the night. They were later taken to a remote area of the reserve and told they would not be freed until they renounced their faith in Christ. At last report, two of the kidnapped infants were seriously ill. (**Voice of the Martyrs**)

INDIA: Hindu Radicals Targeting Christians

There is evidence that continued violence against Christians in India is fueled by animosity toward the conversion of many Hindus to Christianity. President of **Mission India** (MI), Dave Stravers, says the evidence comes from hard-line Hindu groups. According to Stravers, the Hindu radicals also believe the state of Andhra Pradesh could become Christian "if something isn't done." Stravers explains that the Hindus are shaken by the growth of the Church saying, "It used to be when you went through the villages, you saw only temples. But now you're seeing churches, and the temples are being closed. It's really confirming our experience that there is a powerful movement of Christ in India." Hindu radicals are reacting to these changes by threatening and attacking Christian pastors. (**Mission Network News**)

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA: SAT-7 Strategically Sharing the Gospel through Satellite Television

SAT-7's four channels, SAT-7 Arabic, PARS (Persian), KIDS (Arabic), and TURK, are watched in more than seventy nations, including more than twenty across the Middle East and North Africa (ME/NA). Up to ninety-five percent of the people in some of these ME/NA nations have access to satellite television, making SAT-7 a strategic ministry to reach this part of the world for Jesus. (**SAT-7**)

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA: 10/40 Window Most "Gospel-Deprived"

Thousands of unreached people groups inhabit the 10/40 Window, and approximately half of these groups have no access to Christian literature. "It is the most gospel-deprived, gospel-needy area of the world," says David Shibley of **Global Advance** (GA). After nearly a decade of evangelistic focus and effort, Shibley says the region is producing a harvest. Churches planted throughout the 10/40 Window are now sending their own believers out to plant the Word. GA's Frontline Shepherds leadership conferences help impart a vision in local pastors' hearts to further the gospel in their region. (**Mission Network News**)

MYANMAR: Minority Karen People Flee into Thailand

For nearly twenty-five years refugees from Myanmar have fled into Thailand. According to Patrick Klein of [Vision Beyond Borders](#) (VBB), there are currently over 150,000 refugees who have come into Thailand from (Myanmar) Burma, and there are still more flooding across the border. Many of the refugees are of the minority Karen people group, who are among the most discriminated against in Myanmar. Klein believes Myanmar's effort to rid itself of the Karen people is both ethnic and faith-based because many of the Karen are Christians. ([Mission Network News](#))

NEW ZEALAND: Call2Next Generation Gathering Set for January 2010

Thousands of university-age students from six continents will gather in Tauranga, New Zealand this month at the Bethlehem Institute for the historic Call2All Next Generation Gathering. Mark Anderson, president of [Global Pastors Network](#) (GPN) and [Call2All](#) said, "Something supernatural is building up for the Call2All Next Generation. Not only is there great excitement, there is a deep sense that God is going to use this gathering to launch a new move towards missions among the next generation." He noted that the event, scheduled for 19-22 January 2010, will receive thousands of participants from across the world, adding that they've already offered scholarships for the first one thousand delegates from the Majority World. ([Assist News Service](#))

NIGER: CURE to Open Its Eleventh Clinic

[Cure International](#) (CURE) will open its eleventh clinic this September to provide diagnosis and treatment for disabled children and their families. Executive director in Niger, Leron Lehman, says early research into the project showed a generous community welcome. CURE doesn't expect any resistance or opposition to the new clinic, even from the Muslim community. In some locations, sharing the love of Christ through medical care does raise hostility. "Early indications, based on some of the relationships we've developed there, are that they're welcoming us with open arms," Lehman says. ([Mission Network News](#))

PAKISTAN: Christians Freed after Efforts by Life for All

Fifty-nine imprisoned Christians in Pakistan were freed in November 2009, thanks to efforts by the Pakistani-based Christian organization Life for All. The prisoners, who have been in various jails in Pakistan, got the welcome news of their freedom after Rizwan Paul, president of Life for All, presented a petition to Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari asking for the pardon of these Christians whom he stated had been "falsely accused of minor crimes." Zardari reviewed the petition and approved the release of the prisoners. He also vowed to address the release of other prisoners after reviewing the nature of their crimes. It is estimated that more than 2,500 Christians remain in jails all over Pakistan and cannot afford the legal assistance for their release. ([Assist News Service](#))

PHILIPPINES: Cooperation between Protestants, Evangelicals, and Roman Catholics in Bible Translation

Cooperation between Protestants, Evangelicals, and Roman Catholics is growing strong a century after the Bible was translated into a local language in the Philippines, say Christian leaders. "We now come and celebrate together for this great gift of God through which his word, through translation, has become alive in us since one hundred years ago," said Methodist Bishop Nathanael Lazaro, president of the Philippine Bible Society. ([Ecumenical News International](#))

SOMALIA: Young Christian Executed for Trying to Convert a Muslim

Islamic extremists controlling part of the Somali capital of Mogadishu executed a young Christian in November 2009 that they accused of trying to convert a 15-year-old Muslim boy to Christianity. Members of the Islamic extremist group al Shabaab had taken 23-year-old Mumin Abdikarim Yusuf into custody after the 15-year-old boy reported him to the militants, an area source told [Compass Direct News](#) (CDN). Al Shabaab, said to have links with al Qaeda terrorists, controls parts of Mogadishu and much of southern parts of Somalia, as well as other areas of the nation. Their accusations against Yusuf had led the extremist group to raid Yusuf's home in Holwadag district, Mogadishu, sources said. After searching his home, militia didn't find anything relating to Christianity but still took him into custody. ([Assist News Service](#))

ZIMBABWE: Frontline Fellowship Provides Aid Amidst a New Wave of Violence

A new wave of violence is gripping Zimbabwe and [Frontline Fellowship](#) is providing books, Bibles, food, and medicine to churches, missions, hospitals, and prisons. Although President Robert Mugabe's Marxist ZANU-PF government has been repeatedly rejected by voters at elections, the Marxists refuse to step down and Frontline Fellowship reports that people are being beaten, tortured, and killed. ([Frontline Fellowship](#))

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Bringing God's Best to Our Broken World in 2010 by *Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP*. It is into a very broken world that Christ calls us to boldly follow him as his disciples and to share the good news of his love and grace. As we enter this New Year, let us resolve not to leave things in this world as they are, but to boldly follow Christ together and to bring his message of healing and hope in a new and revolutionary way.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1241/01-2010

THEMED ARTICLES: BEING CHRIST TO A BROKEN WORLD

South Africa and 2010: The Church's Role in Countering Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation by *Gill Dobson, communications director of African Enterprise South Africa*. 2009 marked fifteen years of freedom from the chains of the apartheid era for South Africa, a time to celebrate the successes of a peaceful transition to democracy and the many improvements to the lives of ordinary men and women in the intervening years. Sadly, however, not all is positive in this fledgling constitutional democracy; human trafficking is a bigger problem than ever. Countering trafficking is no easy task, Gill writes, and needs a four-pronged strategy if success is to be achieved.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1225/01-2010

Business as Transformation by *Mats Tunehag, senior associate on Business as Mission for Lausanne and the World Evangelical Alliance*. Sometimes we ask ourselves why Germans didn't react when Jews were brutally taken by force from their homes, marched down the streets to trucks which brought them to concentration camps. We ask: Why were people so indifferent? But the same question applies today, and should be asked of the thousands of people from every country who cannot avoid seeing what is going on in Thailand. Behind the friendly Thai smiles you may find slavery and human misery. Are we indifferent? In Thailand, there is a need for life-transforming alternatives based on human dignity and rights for women who are oppressed and victimized. Tunehag gives an example of one ministry that is making a difference. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1235/01-2010

Ask Their Names by *Jennifer Roemhildt Tunehag, founder of Lost Coin/Nea Zoi*. The area around Omonoia in Athens, Greece, is a nightmare of human misery. Drug addicts purchase and consume their dose; homeless refugees spill over the sidewalks to fill the streets. Women stand on corners and in shadowy doorways offering their bodies to anyone who can pay. It's not the kind of place where you want to loiter. However, the author heard God tell her to stop and ask one precious woman her name—and that made all the difference.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1236/01-2010

Water, Mission, and Evangelism by *Jerry Wiles, president of Living Water International*. Water alone can save lives and change destinies, but the living water of Jesus can save lives and change destinies for eternity. This is the story of how Living Water International is changing lives both now and for eternity.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1240/01-2010

PERSPECTIVES

Evangelicals and Interfaith Dialogue: A New Paradigm by *Gina A. Bellofatto, who graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary with an MA in religion*. Interfaith dialogue is currently experiencing a significant methodological shift where participants represent not only the liberal side of the faith spectrum, but also include conservatives with commitment to their respective religious traditions. This gradual shift from "old" to "new" paradigms is a change that is only beginning to take root, but is providing evangelical Christians an opportunity to engage in a field where encountering adherents of other religions is the primary objective. There are significant implications for this shift not only in the area of interfaith dialogue, but for evangelical Christian witness and evangelism among adherents of the world's religions. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1224/01-2010

Great Commission Prioritization of Countries: Helping to Make Completing the Great Commission More Meaningful for All Believers by *John Pitterle, who lived in Madagascar for four years, helping with the gospel for children and the first Malagasy study Bible*. Pitterle looks at the status of the Great Commission in the nations of the world to answer the question, "Where do people have the least opportunity to hear the gospel?" The nations are then prioritized using available data. Such findings can be helpful for praying, for churches regarding their mission

programs, for individual giving toward the Great Commission, etc. Possible next steps are offered. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1242/01-2010

Duplicated Effort vs. Partnership by *Ken Lane, senior director of global strategic development for Focus on the Family*. The author offers three common reasons why duplication of effort instead of partnership takes place—and offers suggestions on how to address these issues biblically. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1234/01-2010

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Leadership Profile: Mark Kolo, Missions Supporters League, Africa. Mark Kolo, who is involved in mobilizing human and material resources for ministry among unreached people groups throughout English-speaking Africa, discusses his passions, motivations, and hopes for a needy world. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadership_profiles.php/1237/01-2010

LAUSANNE REPORTS

The Countdown Is On! by *Naomi Frizzell, director of communications for Lausanne*. No matter where you are, you have the opportunity to participate in Cape Town 2010 through prayer, joining the Lausanne Global Conversation, being at a Cape Town GlobaLink site, studying the book of Ephesians, or becoming a volunteer. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1243/01-2010

March 2010 Theme: World Faiths: A Primer for Evangelism

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