



December 2008 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/1058)

AROUND THE WORLD: Trans World Radio Selects New President

Trans World Radio (TWR) announced in October 2008 that Lauren Libby would serve as its new president and CEO. The decision was unanimous by TWR's Board of Directors following a 6-month search process. Prior to this new position Libby served as vice president and CEO for The Navigators. (Trans World Radio)

AROUND THE WORLD: WEA Appoints Spokesperson on Human Trafficking

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) announced the appointment of Christine MacMillan as a spokesperson for the WEA on human trafficking issues. MacMillan is director of the International Social Justice Commission of The Salvation Army and has spent much of her life providing social services for women and children. (World Evangelical Alliance)

AROUND THE WORLD: Youth For Christ Holds International Conference

Youth for Christ (YFC) recently held an international conference attended by 750 people from eighty countries. According to national director of YFC in the United States, Dan Wolgemuth, about half of the attendees were under the age of thirty. Wolgemuth called for prayer for the "continual movement toward young people who are on the fringes and are being discarded around the world." (Mission Network News)

CHINA: Langham Foundation Develops Program for Chinese Pastors

In fellowship with local leaders, Langham Foundation Hong Kong has been working to launch a small pilot project for pastors from mainland China. Langham Preaching will help with the development of a week-long seminar for about thirty mainland pastors from various parts of China, focusing on the development of biblical preaching in church life. It will be an opportunity to assess needs in different Chinese contexts, prepare materials that might have wider applications, and look toward further development in a mainland Chinese context. (John Stott Ministries)

CONGO: MAF Ministers to Congolese Refugees

Amidst renewed attacks by the rebel group LRA in the North Kivu region of eastern Congo, many Congolese have been fleeing to neighboring Uganda. According to Fran Derocher, Africa director of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), "Many of our guys are flying in support of a lot of relief agencies who are trying to get some aid and medicines and food up there." Although MAF specializes in working in remote areas, expenses, particularly rising fuel costs, have made operations more difficult. (Mission Network News)

ETHIOPIA: World Serve Pushes On in Difficult Circumstances

World Serve Ministries has partnered with several Ethiopian churches to help starving Ethiopians who are victims of a large economic crisis. With global food prices rising, there is much to do, and efforts are complicated by problems such as HIV infection and lack of housing. However, World Serve estimates that there are over six hundred emerging churches in the country and over five hundred missionaries serving them. (Mission Network News)

EUROPE: Thousands Pray For Millions to Know Christ

On 23 October 2008, more than ten thousand people responded to Greater Europe Mission's (GEM) call to prayer for Europe. Since then, the number continues to grow. GEM created "virtual prayer journeys" for each of the forty-seven countries of Europe (plus Turkey and the Mediterranean Region), featuring pictures, facts, related web links, and strategic prayer requests for that area. (Greater Europe Mission)

GERMANY: Youth Conference Challenges, Connects, and Celebrates

More than 6,500 people gathered in Leipzig to attend the fifteenth Baptist Youth World Conference. Young people

representing eighty-nine countries participated in Bible studies, workshops, family groups, and evening celebrations, giving them an opportunity to interact with different cultures. Small groups provided the youth a forum to share the experiences and challenges of living out their Christian faith. (Baptist World Alliance)

HAITI: Bringing Water and Christ's Love to Hurricane Victims

Many Haitians remained without food, water, or shelter in October 2008, following three devastating hurricanes over the summer. Because Haitians in the hard-hit city of Gonaives walk very great distances to find working water pumps, Living Water International (LWI) has been working hard to rebuild wells and repair hand pumps in the area. Gonaives is reported to be a city where voodoo is practiced widely, so the ministry of LWI is an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ and debunk beliefs in witchcraft. (Mission Network News)

IRAQ: Iraqi Christians Send Urgent Text Messages to Christian Television Station

In October 2008, SAT-7 reported receiving urgent text messages from persecuted Christians in Iraq. The messages urged prayer for Christians in Mosul, from where many Christians are reported to have fled due to increasing pressure by extremists. There have also been reports of Christians being killed and homes being bombed, as well as death threats made to those who do not convert to Islam or pay a special tax that positions them as second-class citizens. (SAT-7)

JORDAN: Arab Anglican Women Meet in Jordan

Women of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem met at the second Arab Anglican Women's Convention in Amman, Jordan, in early October 2008. The Diocese of Tokyo, which wanted to learn more about Jerusalem after one of its member attended the first convention in 2007, financed the gathering. Twenty-five Arab Anglican women from Jerusalem, the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan participated, as did seventeen members of the Tokyo diocese. (Ecumenical News International)

KAZAKHSTAN: Religious Freedom Faces Further Threats

A new proposal in Kazakhstan calls for tighter registration requirements for all religious groups, a smaller number of religious communities, and increased penalties for members of unregistered communities. Under the current draft, repeat "offences" would lead to a religious community being banned. Although Kazakhstan's constitution guaranteed freedom of religion in early 2002, parliament actions have moved a different direction. (Mission Network News)

KENYA: Trans World Radio Awarded Seven FM Frequencies

Trans World Radio (TWR) announced the awarding of seven FM radio frequencies to broadcast to outlying areas of Kenya and remote northern and eastern portions of the country where no Christian broadcasting has existed. TWR-Kenya produces over thirty-two different programs with over sixty hours of programming each week. The new frequencies will allow TWR to reach refugees who have fled to Kenya from war-torn parts of East Africa. (Trans World Radio-Africa)

LATIN AMERICA: TWR Launches City Lights Project

With ever-increasing numbers of people moving into urban areas around the world, Trans World Radio (TWR) is focusing some new projects on city dwellers. One such project is City Lights in Latin America. City Lights "links churches and individuals throughout the United States with Latin American churches and radio stations to bring God's principles into fifty Latin American cities over the next few years." TWR gives each city a package of original programming designed to connect biblical teachings with listeners' everyday lives. Partner offices in ten Latin American countries produce and distribute programming to local stations. (Trans World Radio)

SOUTH KOREA: Audio New Testament Fits Hectic Lifestyle

Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH) recently released the South Korean Audio Drama New Testament. This dramatized format, available for free download, includes background music, sound effects, and multiple characters. It is estimated that ninety percent of South Koreans have broadband access, which allows the South Korean Audio Drama New Testament (about twenty-five hours of audio) to be downloaded in approximately twenty minutes. (Faith Comes By Hearing)

UNITED STATES: International Teams USA Commissions New President

In October 2008, International Teams (ITeams) USA hosted a commissioning service for new president, Scott Olson. The event also celebrated the service of past presidents Mark Dyer, Stephen Freed, and David Schroeder, and board chairman Stephen Fraser. Guests included members of the original team of missionaries that traveled to Calcutta in 1961. (International Teams)

UNITED STATES: The Navigators Elects New President

In August 2008, the U.S. Navigators' Board of Directors commissioned Dr. Doug Nuenke as president and director. Nuenke assumed his new role in October. Pursuing an international mission assignment, he and his wife, Pam, joined Navigators in 1992. In 2004, Nuenke joined the leadership of The Navigators' U.S. Metro Mission, and last year, he completed his doctorate through Denver Seminary with a focus on executive leadership. (The Navigators)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Church History & World Evangelism by *Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP*. Birdsall believes that only by looking back at our history can we be properly rooted and guided in our trajectory for the future as we: cull the wisdom and experiences of our forerunners, learn to avoid repeating mistakes, and appropriately translate their wisdom to be applied into our own times. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1052

THEMED ARTICLES: UNDERSTANDING THE INFLUENCE OF CHURCH HISTORY IN TODAY'S EVANGELISM

Evangelism: Lessons from the Early Church, Part 1 by *Lindsay Brown, Lausanne international director*. Brown discusses important reasons for how and why the early Church grew, including the nature of the messengers, their flexibility in proclaiming the gospel, and the message they proclaimed. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1061

Evangelism: Lessons from the Early Church, Part 2 by *Lindsay Brown, Lausanne international director*. Brown continues on in his discussion of how and why the early Church grew. Some of these reasons included: the use of the home, a clearly reasoned presentation of the gospel, the strong character of the Church, and the gospel message and women. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1062

Understanding the Contextual Realities of the Church in Liberia, Part 1 by *Jerry P. Kulah, district superintendent of the Monrovia District of the Liberia Conference*. Although its current constitution declares Liberia a secular state, Liberia is indeed a Christian nation, says Kulah. He explains the history of the country and Christian mission. He also touches upon the realities of the Liberian Church in the context of missions, including the fact that: sixty percent of Liberia's population is still unreached, Islam is growing at a faster rate in Liberia than Christianity, and the Church in Liberia has not yet prioritized indigenous mission work. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1064

Understanding the Contextual Realities of the Church in Liberia, Part 2, by *Jerry P. Kulah, district superintendent of the Monrovia District of the Liberia Conference*. After generally touching upon the factors that hinder mission endeavors in Liberia, Kulah looks at the challenges unique to a post-war country, including: the need for God-fearing, honest, credible, and accountable leaders; the challenge of rampant corruption that has invaded every sector of Liberian society; and the need for sound theological education that is holistic in nature. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1065

United, Focused Prayer: Changes in the Way We Are Praying for the World, Part 1 by *Steve Hawthorne, mission/prayer mobilizer with WayMakers*. This is the first of two installments of how prayer related to evangelization has increased and changed in phenomenal ways since the 1984 International Prayer Assembly for World Evangelization. According to one report, there are an estimated 200 million Christians praying regularly for the advance of the gospel and world evangelization. While this number is significant, the ways in which prayer has morphed and movements of prayer have matured are even more noteworthy, Hawthorne writes. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1063

PERSPECTIVES

Prayer Networks by John Godson, *intercessory director of Cape Town 2010: The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization*. Prayer networks seem to be God's answer to the lukewarm situation of our churches today. It is believed that millions of people are involved in prayer networks. Godson discusses three ways of classifying prayer and reminds readers that prayer networks look different—and are referred to differently—in various parts of the world. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1059

Vulnerable Mission—A Normalisation of Christian Mission Practices in Anticipation of a Post-colonial Situation by Jim Harries, *chair of the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission*. Scholars and laypeople alike often accuse Christian missions of being a child of colonialism. Harries asks, “Is there a case for becoming vulnerable to be more useful to God?” The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission advocates that some Western missionaries to the Majority World follow two simple principles to “de-power” themselves: (1) using the language of the people being reached in ministry and (2) conducting ministry using only locally available resources. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1060

Top Christian Leaders Assemble at Call2all East African Congress by Grace Samson, *director of Partner Relations for the Call2All Cape Town office*. Hundreds of leaders gathered at Nairobi Baptist Church 14-17 October 2008 for the first African regional Call2all Congress in East Africa. The purpose of the event was to strategically mobilize and connect leaders from twelve East African countries in order to network and focus resources toward fulfilling the task of reaching the least and the lost in East Africa and beyond. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1054

Wayne Pederson Named New President of HCJB Global. Wayne Pederson recently became HCJB Global's new president. Formerly vice president of Moody Broadcasting, Pederson is the seventh person to serve as HCJB Global's president. Prior to joining Moody Broadcasting, Pederson was executive director of Christian Music Broadcasters, president of the Mission America Coalition, and president and chairman of the National Religious Broadcasters. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1053

WEA Theological Commission: Social Action and Evangelism Must Not Be Separated. The World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission, which met in Bangkok, Thailand, 23-25 October 2008, has reaffirmed the importance of holistic mission, despite the tragic murder of Christian worker Gayle Williams. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1055

URBAN COMMUNITIES

What Is Community Development? What Is Community Organizing? by Glenn Smith, *Lausanne senior associate for urban mission*. Community development fundamentally aims to improve living conditions and revitalize neighborhoods. Smith discusses why the Church should pursue sustainable and transformational community development and says that if we accept that scripture calls the people of God to take all dimensions of life seriously, then we must take the necessary steps to a more holistic notion of transformation. A framework that points to the best of a human future for our city/regions can then be rooted in the reign of God. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1066

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Cape Town 2010 Update. Leaders from around the world were in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2008 for a Cape Town 2010 planning meeting. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1057

January 2009 Theme: God's Mission in Our World Today

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