



February 2009 Executive Summary

[NEWS BRIEFS](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1094), condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:  
[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1094](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1094))

**ARABIAN GULF: Frontiers Begins New “Gap” Program**

**Frontiers** will soon begin a new “Gap” program in the Arabian Gulf. In the past, the program, which prepares new overseas workers through on-the-job training, has been held in northern Iraq. More than eighty Gap workers have been sent to Iraq in the last five years, and more than seventy percent of Gap graduates go on to long-term service. (**Frontiers**)

**AROUND THE WORLD: Youth Gearing Up for Online Mission Trip**

Nearly two thousand teens have signed up to participate in the “Online Mission Trip,” an organized effort to inundate popular social networking sites with the message of Christ. For two weeks, 1–14 February 2009, students will electronically share the gospel. Participants will upload videos and photos, post links and blogs, and use status updates to share their personal walks with God. (**Assist News**)

**AROUND THE WORLD: JAARS Gets New Wings**

**JAARS** is the first mission or humanitarian organization to purchase and receive a new Kodiak aircraft, which it will use in its mission to provide support to Bible translation efforts. The Kodiak comes at a time when JAARS’ primarily piston-driven fleet is aging to the point of affecting the group’s ability to carry out its work. (**Assist News**)

**CONGO: Hundreds Killed in Christmas Massacre**

Several news sources have reported that a Christmas massacre took place in the Democratic Republic of Congo, killing an estimated four hundred people. The killing spree is reported to have happened in various villages in northeastern Congo. One of the sites was a Catholic church, where forty-five civilians, mostly women and children, were reportedly hacked to death. Ugandan officials are said to be placing blame on the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a Uganda-based rebel group. The LRA denies responsibility for the attacks. (**Mission Network News**)

**FINLAND: Nokia Revival Gathers Thousands over the Years**

Over the past eighteen years an estimated fifteen thousand people have come to Jesus through the “Nokia Revival,” a celebration that began when former Lutheran vicar Markku Koivisto was miraculously healed of terminal cancer in 1991. After Koivisto parted with the Lutheran Church, the revival continued and is now a denomination called Nokia Mission Church. The revival has reportedly helped heal many others and has been the starting point of numerous church cell groups. (**Assist News**)

**GAZA: World Vision Appeals for Aid to Thousands Suffering in Violence**

**World Vision** (WV) has launched an appeal for \$1 million USD to provide emergency assistance to fifty thousand of the most affected people in Gaza. As soon as the situation in Gaza permits, WV plans to provide food parcels to the most vulnerable families. WV will also distribute blankets and other basic supplies to help them cope short term. (**World Vision**)

**INDIA: Supreme Court Orders Protection for Orissa Christians**

India’s Supreme Court has ordered authorities in Orissa to provide protection to thousands of Christians who fled their homes last year during some of the worst religious violence in decades. Founder and president of **Serve India Ministries**, Ebenezer Samuel, said the court’s decision is significant and not just a political statement. Violence against Christians broke out in August 2008 after the murder of a local Hindu leader. Samuel said that despite the violence, church growth has not slowed. (**Mission Network News**)

### **JAPAN: *The Manga Messiah* Comes to Japan**

Operation Mobilization (OM) workers will be using a new tool, *The Manga Messiah*, to communicate the gospel in Japan. Published by [New Life League](#), the 300-page comic book depicts Jesus' life from birth to resurrection. Comics in Japan are enjoyed by all age groups, with *Manga* now a large part of the Japanese publishing industry. During the Christmas season, *The Manga Messiah* was passed out by volunteers to busy shoppers in the town of Karuizawa. One missionary stated, "For reaching the Japanese, this book is far more effective than showing the JESUS film." ([Assist News](#))

### **LATIN AMERICA: Latin America Mission Appoints New President**

Cypress Community Church (Salinas, California, USA) pastor Steven Rayford Johnson has been appointed president of the [Latin America Mission](#). Johnson will take office in early February, succeeding the interim president, Jack Voelkel. Johnson was commissioned in 1987 to serve in Argentina with [OC International](#). There, he co-pastored an Argentine church for four years alongside the president of the Argentine National Association of Evangelicals. ([Latin America Mission](#))

### **MALDIVES: Non-Muslims Declared Non-citizens**

In December 2008, the [Institute on Religion and Public Policy](#) (IRPP) released a full legal analysis of the new Maldivian constitution, which the agency had been watching since August 2008 for its tough stance against religious freedom. While the constitution offers new protections for human rights, including freedom of assembly and expression, the document is severely restrictive in that article 9(d) states, "A non-Muslim may not become a citizen of the Maldives." ([Institute on Religion and Public Policy](#))

### **PAKISTAN: Christians' Homes Destroyed for Building of a Stable**

A powerful Muslim village elder and his nephews forcibly evicted approximately thirty impoverished Christian families from their homes to make way for a livestock stable. The incident has left the families homeless in their village near Lahore, Pakistan. Boota Masih, a local Christian elder, said the hard-line Muslim leader of the Kotla Punjubaig village and his nephews carried deadly firearms when they invaded the homes and tossed the people and their belongings out. The leader, Muhammad Mansha, appeared to have permission from local officials in the Land Requisition Department to take over the land where the homes were located. ([International Christian Concern](#))

### **THAILAND: Book of Hope Continues Working Despite Unrest**

Amidst months of political unrest leading up to the selection of a new prime minister, [Book of Hope](#), a ministry based in Florida, was able to continue its regular work in Thailand despite turmoil that included protestors occupying Bangkok's main international airport for several days in November 2008. The organization is piloting a new method in distributing its materials, including working directly with families. ([Mission Network News](#))

### **UNITED KINGDOM: Summer School Training in Jewish Evangelism**

UK-based [Christian Witness to Israel](#) (CWI) will offer training in sharing the gospel with the Jewish community. "A Kosher Encounter," held in North London at CWI's International Summer School, will explore Jewish life, culture, faith, and history. Attendees will meet experienced workers and share the gospel in the heart of London's Jewish community. The program will be held 21-30 July 2009. ([Christian Witness to Israel](#))

### **UNITED KINGDOM: New Leader for Evangelical Alliance**

Steve Clifford will become the new general director of the [Evangelical Alliance](#) (EA), effective April 2009. Clifford has been behind a range of national church campaigns in the past decade. Former EA general director Joel Edwards stepped down last year to devote more time to the [World Evangelical Alliance's](#) anti-poverty movement, Micah Challenge. Clifford previously chaired the leadership team of international youth ministry Soul Survivor, where he will remain active. ([Evangelical Alliance](#))

### **UNITED STATES: SGA Celebrates Seventy-fifth Anniversary**

The [Slavic Gospel Association](#) (SGA) is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2009 with a series of publications and special events across North America. SGA was founded in Chicago and will host a major international conference there in September as part of the celebration. ([Slavic Gospel Association](#))

## **ZIMBABWE: Food Supplies Unable to Reach Intended Destination**

Responding to the enormous need for emergency food in Zimbabwe, [Serving in Mission](#) (SIM) partnered with the SIM Zimbabwe HOPE for AIDS team, [Multi Ministries](#), and the Central Methodist Church of Johannesburg to distribute a high nutrition porridge meal that has been used extensively across southern Africa in areas of starvation.

Unfortunately, permission to import the relief food into Zimbabwe was reportedly withheld. So instead, the food was distributed in two Zimbabwean refugee camps in Johannesburg and Musina, South Africa. ([Mission Network News](#))

## **PUBLISHER'S MEMO**

**Christ in Culture: At the Very Heart of the Mission of God** by *Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP*. Throughout the twenty centuries of Christian history, missionaries have drawn inspiration and instruction from the model of Christ's life and ministry. Expounding upon the idea of "Christ in Culture," Birdsall shares an update of Cape Town 2010. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1096](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1096)

## **THEMED ARTICLES: CHRIST IN CULTURE**

**Christ and Culture: Re-educating Congregations for Missional Engagement with Their Contexts** by *Glenn Smith, executive director of Christian Direction*. Over the past sixty years there has been a renewed interest in the relationship of local congregations and the contexts in which they minister. Smith offers five ways to re-educate churches to engage their contexts with the good news of God's rule in Jesus Christ.

[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1085](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1085)

**Shalom & Eirene: The Full Framework for Health Care** by *Apolos Landa Tucto, founder of Asociacion San Lucas in Moyobamba*. The Church and Christianity have not given enough centrality to wholeness and harmony in all spheres of human life, especially in its temporal and physical conditions and relationships, Tucto writes. Thus health, equity, and justice, as key conditions for reconciling humanity and the world into wholeness, tend to be neglected. The Western-influenced dualism of "spirit" versus "body" in today's Christianity is totally alien to the biblical view of the person. The word that denotes this state of completeness, harmony, soundness, and well-being is the Hebrew word *shalom*. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1089](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1089)

**Shalom & Eirene: Ministering to the Whole Person** by *Apolos Landa Tucto, founder of Asociacion San Lucas in Moyobamba*. To be fully human is to be a constitutive part of the whole creation in an enhancing relationship with God, says Tucto. Although sin has occurred, God has not given up on his creation. The meaning of healing is closely related to salvation, and a vision of the Kingdom of God is a vision of a creation brought to wholeness, to a state of *shalom*. It is also a vision of a society in which the values of justice, peace, and joy in relationship prevail without exclusion. Healing involves a struggle against injustice by making the necessary resources available to the poor. This is the attitude in which the mission for salvation or healing must be forwarded in the world.

[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1090](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1090)

**The Spiritual Mission of Microfinance** by *Mark Russell, director of spiritual integration at HOPE International*. Poverty is a daily reality for billions of people. Part of the mission of the Church is not only to treat "the least of these" with respect and dignity, but to find practical ways to restore them to the life God intends for them, Russell writes. The spiritual mission of microfinance is not to simply help the poor be less poor; it is to radically transform their lives and give them the practical and spiritual tools to live life as God intends.

[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1092](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1092)

**Digital Ministry—Incredible Mission Opportunities** by *Tony Whittaker, coordinator of Internet Evangelism Day and a moderator for Guide Network*. With over one billion current users, and "the second billion" expected to come online in the next few years (almost entirely in the non-Western world), the Web has enormous potential for pioneer evangelism, as well as for discipling believers. The Internet links people with ideas and builds relationships. Since evangelism is also based upon connecting and 2-way relationships, there is a perfect match.

[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1087](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1087)

## **PERSPECTIVES**

**Desperately Needed: More Outsiders. A Biblical Mandate for Cross-cultural Missions** by *Craig Greenfield, international coordinator of Servants to Asia's Urban Poor*. Throughout biblical and recent history, God has used outsiders to bring about his purposes in foreign nations. God continues to do this through “returners” and “relocators.” [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1084](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1084)

**Living Humanly in the Coming Kingdom** by *Daphne Eck Coppock, international associate director of advocacy for Word Made Flesh*. As our awareness of world poverty, suffering, and injustice sets in, we immediately and rightfully must consider how God would call us to respond. Yet many of us skip an important step: worship. This includes prayer, silence, and the proclamation of God’s goodness, mercy, and love. We cannot jump from awareness into action unless we are first refined by love, Coppock says. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1086](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1086)

**HIV/AIDS: An Open Door to the Gospel** by *Dan Hitzhusen, vice president of e3 Partners Ministry*. Since the EvangeCube was first used, thousands of people have made professions of faith and thousands of churches have been planted as volunteers have shared their faith one-on-one or in small groups. Like the EvangeCube, the HIV Hope Cube uses no written words, so it can be used to explain the key points for people to protect themselves and their families from HIV/AIDS. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1091](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1091)

**Zimbabwe Today: A Nation in Need of Prayer** by *June Dickie, a South African member of Wycliffe Bible Translators*. In the midst of massive government corruption, grave illness, and a lack of daily needs, the people of Zimbabwe are crying out to the Lord. Dickie shares what life is like for the people of Zimbabwe today. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1088](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1088)

**New Publication Examines North American Short-term Missions** by *Naomi Frizzell, director of communications for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization*. *Engaging the Church: Analyzing the Canvas of Short-term Missions* is a new 235-page resource for churches and individuals beginning short-term mission (STM) work and for those managing others involved in short-term mission work. The book is divided into six sections: biblical and spiritual foundations of STMs, history and trends of STMs, critiques and suggestions for change and improvement in STMs, types of STMs, case studies in STMs, and resources for STMs. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1083](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1083)

## URBAN COMMUNITIES

**Engaging in Art with Missional Intent in Paris** by *Steve Thrall, who works in creative ministry in Paris*. Art, as a human artifact, has value in and of itself, being created and produced by people who are themselves made in the creator’s image. Art produced by men and women who become Christians will gradually reveal a change in values—a worldview shift. And it is not just individual artists who are called to engage in mission with artistic gifts—it is the Church as a broad community of believers (including artists) who are called to labor together. There are several reasons why the use of art as a way to witness for Christ in France is ideal: (1) a Christian witness through the use of art is a public witness, (2) art, by its very nature, is indirect, and (3) art asks questions. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1082](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1082)

## LAUSANNE REPORTS

**Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering West Africa Report** by *Mark Kolo, facilitator of the Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering West Africa*. Fifteen mentors/speakers and fifty younger leaders from the English-speaking West African countries of Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria met in Nigeria for the Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering West Africa. Attendees discussed what it means to “live and lead like Jesus.” [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1093](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1093)

### **February 2009 Theme: Migration, Diaspora, and Displaced People**

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