



June 2009 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1153)

ANGOLA: Southern Baptists Respond to Effects of Severe Flooding

Severe flooding hit southern Africa earlier this year. About twenty-five thousand people in Angola have been displaced, and the Red Cross estimates that in the Cunene province, some 125,000 people have been affected. Reports indicate that in Angola more rain has fallen since December 2008 than fell during the entire 2007-2008 rainy season. Cholera and malaria are a constant threat. The World Health Organization has delivered five tons of healthcare kits and drinking water supplies. The [Southern Baptist International Mission Board's](#) ongoing work in Angola includes ministering to unreached people groups. ([Mission Network News](#))

AROUND THE WORLD: N1H1 Virus May Have Devastating Second Wave

The N1H1 influenza virus, commonly known as the swine flu, is subsiding in Mexico. However, Carolyn Wetzel with [Food for the Hungry](#) says the second and third waves could be worse, particularly in Africa: "Thirty percent of the population is infected with HIV. So if the pandemic flu reached there, we could see serious impact on a much greater scale than we would see in a more developed country." Wetzel added, "If we are prepared in case this situation does escalate, then we can really make a difference in terms of saving lives." ([Mission Network News](#))

AROUND THE WORLD: All God's Children International Appoints New President

John Blanchard was recently appointed president of [All God's Children International](#) (AGCI). With a background in business and education administration, Blanchard has filled roles such as director of operations for The Nature Conservancy of Oregon, vice president of the Oregon State University Foundation, and vice president of administrative services for Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon. For the past six months Blanchard has acted as CEO for AGCI. ([Christian Newswire](#))

INDIA: Operation Mobilization Launches Appeal to Help Children

In an effort to meet the needs of poor and deprived children in India, [Operation Mobilization](#) (OM) has launched an appeal for the sponsorship of children. The appeal, tagged "Help Feed a Child in India," is targeting more than fifteen thousand of the poorest children in India. The appeal is expected to give hope to children who are students in OM's nearly one hundred Dalit schools. ([Assist News Service](#))

MALAWI: Teen Missions International Goes Fishing

Lake Malawi holds approximately one thousand different kinds of fish. These fish could serve as a food source for the fifteen million AIDS orphans in Malawi, presenting a ministry opportunity for [Teen Missions International](#) (TMI). TMI plans to take twenty young "fishers of men" on a unique short-term mission trip to teach orphans to fish. Malawi fishing trip team members will receive training from mid-June to 5 July 2009. ([Mission Network News](#))

MIDDLE EAST: Plight of Women Highlighted in Documentary Series

Satellite television station SAT-7 has voiced the plight of women who are the sole providers for their children, their siblings, or their parents—women facing social, legal, and economic hardships. Through twenty-six documentaries from Egypt, Lebanon, and Morocco, these women tell their stories. The series, called *And I Am Not Just a Woman*, aired on 5 May 2009. ([SAT-7](#))

PAKISTAN: Country Facing Refugee Crisis

As Pakistan continues its press on the Taliban, thousands of people are fleeing the Swat Valley. A "peace" pact with the Taliban broke down when security forces began an assault to push the militants back into their territory. The rebels had begun to encroach upon Islamabad in a grab for land and power. The government is now preparing for up to 500,000 internal refugees, the largest displacement crisis in Pakistan's history. The refugee camps are hot,

overcrowded, and have inadequate sanitation facilities and no electricity. Add to that disease and a lack of medical help, and the situation deteriorates quickly. Teams from the [Christian Reformed World Relief Committee](#) are helping the refugees. ([Mission Network News](#))

TAJIKISTAN: New Law Hits Christians Hard

A new law in Tajikistan may force evangelical Christians underground in this predominantly Muslim Central Asian country. Allowing Christian literature into the country is a decision open to government officials' subjective interpretation of the law. Legally-registered Christian organizations, including [Bible League](#) (BL), will be required to re-register under the new law. Those re-registering should know by the end of June 2009 whether or not they have been approved. ([Bible League](#))

UNITED STATES: Missionary Gospel Fellowship Celebrates Seventy Years

Missionary Gospel Fellowship (MGF) is celebrating its seventieth anniversary this year, culminating in special events at its annual conference 8-12 August 2009. The event will honor long-term missionaries and supporters. Ministering to immigrants pouring into the U.S. from East Asia and the Middle East, MGF has established mission fields in areas heavily populated with Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims in the U.S. and Canada. ([Missionary Gospel Fellowship](#))

UNITED STATES: HCJB Announces Ministry Contest

On 20 April 2009, [HCJB Global](#) launched the "Be the Voice and Hands of Jesus" contest, part of the *Me and My Household* campaign. HCJB president Wayne Pederson explained, "We're encouraging listeners to declare and demonstrate Christ's love through a mission project, either in your community, within the U.S., or globally. Tell us what you're doing to be the voice and hands of Jesus this summer." The deadline for the contest is 1 August 2009. One can enter the contest by going to the website, <http://HCJBGlobal.org/contest>. ([HCJB Global](#))

ZIMBABWE: Emergency Supplies Airlifted to Those in Suffering

On 28 April 2009, [Medical Teams International](#) (MTI) airlifted \$2.5 million USD in emergency medical supplies to Zimbabwe to help people suffering from HIV and AIDS, malnutrition, and other severe health problems. Zimbabwe's economy is in ruins with hyperinflation and unemployment at around ninety percent. Millions are in need of food and the country's infrastructure and institutions are in shambles. Experts do not agree as to the cause of the collapse—mismanagement of the government, global recession, U.S. sanctions, or a combination of all factors. ([Medical Teams International](#))

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Overcoming Barriers so that the World Would See Jesus by *Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP*. We are called to not only actively communicate the hope of the gospel, but to clear the way of potential stumbling blocks (e.g., spiritual warfare, disability ministry, evangelism to those in New Age movements) that may prevent non-believers from coming to a saving knowledge of Christ, Birdsall says. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, God's people are called to be the light and salt of the earth—to be examples in leading others to serve, love, and worship the one true living God. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1155

THEMED ARTICLES: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO THE GOSPEL

New Age, New Mission? Evangelism and the Rise of "The New Spiritualities" by *Steve Hollinghurst, researcher in evangelism to post-Christian culture at the Church Army Sheffield Centre in the U.K.* Until recently, Christian literature on the New Age was not geared toward equipping Christians to share their faith with its followers, Hollinghurst writes. This has been changing as Christians have come to view those involved in such spiritualities as people with whom we are called to share faith in cross-cultural evangelism. Hollinghurst discusses the issues this raises for evangelism in our day and how we might approach people involved in such spiritualities. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1134

Powers and Principalities by *Knud Jørgensen, director of the Areopagos Foundation*. Evangelical theology views the conflict between Jesus and his adversary as a conflict between two kingdoms. Our allegiance is to the Kingdom of God. As citizens of this kingdom we are part of the new creation. Nevertheless, we see the impact of evil all around us in the form of violence, poverty, crime, racism, ethnic strife, betrayal, and brokenness. Satan exerts influence on the

societal and cultural levels. The primary weapon against this evil is the liberating message of Jesus, which is sufficient to bring down the whole army of powers and principalities. The gospel is the most powerful antidote for domination the world has ever known, Jorgensen says. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1150

A Forgotten Barrier: Attitudes toward Disability by David W. Anderson, president of Crossing Bridges, Inc. Attitudinal barriers to ministry to and with persons with disabilities often arise from cultural beliefs and traditional religious thinking. Lacking scientific answers, people in developing nations have devised superstitious or mythological explanations for disability, such as a lack of proper reverence for one's ancestors, broken taboos, witchcraft, evil spirits, or individual or parental sin. These erroneous views create prejudicial attitudes, which often result in exclusion of the individual by the community (or even by the family). The role of the Church should be to create communities in which people who are not alike can be found living and working together. This will allow the Church to assume its rightful position in shaping culture, and to become a visible expression of God's love for all humanity through constructive protest against the social conditions faced by men and women with disabilities, Anderson writes. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1148

Lessons from Our Daughter: Reflections of Church and Ethics by Daniel and Gayna Salinas, missionaries with the Latin America Mission. After their daughter passed away from complications of cerebral palsy, the Salinas began to look at the Church and disability ministry. Thinking they would find compassion, understanding, empathy, help, and respite in the Christian community; instead, they found the same utilitarian ethics in place as in the secular world. The Church has been influenced by the world's idea that the criterion to define life worth living is utility—the capacity to produce. Most Christian mission today is about reaching the highest numbers, in the shortest time, with the lowest costs and the best profits. Such a definition of mission leaves out the weak, the disabled, the orphan, the widow, the poor, and the displaced, because they seemingly bring only problems and meager offerings. We need to rediscover the doctrine of creation and the doctrine of God's providence and sovereignty, the Salinas encourage. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1133

Asian Missions in the Twenty-first Century—An Asian Perspective by Hwa Yung, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. With the extraordinary growth in population, production, and missions in Asia, the author asks, "What is God doing in the Asian Church?" A great deal, he concludes. However, if the Asian Church is to fulfill God's destiny for her, two considerations must be borne in mind: (1) we must learn to fully depend upon God and not on ourselves and (2) we must consider the need for genuine commitment and sacrifice. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1132

PERSPECTIVES

Spiritual Warfare: Arise, Fight, and Never Give Up! by John Godson, chair of the Lausanne Intercession Working Group. The day we decided to become disciples of Christ we declared war against the kingdom of the devil and all his works in our lives and our communities. Spiritual warfare is about overcoming the enemy, his temptations, and his traps. It is about winning new territories for God. We participate in this warfare through our prayers and witness. Godson (1) looks at Daniel as an example of someone engaged in spiritual warfare; (2) reminds us who our enemies are; and (3) gives us a visual of what radical, violent, and passionate prayer looks like. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1147

Media that Transforms Nations by Carol C., co-founder/director of Create International, a transnational ministry of Youth With A Mission (YWAM). As technology slowly infiltrates even the most unlikely of places, media "disciples" the nations in cities and villages around the world. Tragically, it can be a tool of evil (e.g., pornography, violence). Gloriously, the Body of Christ is also utilizing it to bring righteousness, joy, and the life-changing message of the gospel. Contextual media is the best form to ensure continued use by the audience, the author writes. Traditional cultural forms such as music, art, storytelling, and dance can be redirected to reveal one's true relationship with God and to communicate his message of love and salvation. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1131

Visible Christianity: A Call to Consider the Social Implications of Worship by Enoch Era, an itinerant preacher and writer based in Hyderabad, India. A quick look at the Christian landscape worldwide and church history reveals that it is littered with large gothic structures, ornate ecclesiastical orders, and elaborate worship patterns, Era says. For most Christians and non-Christians, "church" is something that is visible as a structure or on a Sunday morning. "Do

we actually need physical structures in order to worship God?” Era asks. Why are we so disturbed when our church buildings are demolished? Is the building a sacred place where the *sanctum sanctorum* is? Era takes a biblical look at the “right kind of worship.” www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1151

URBAN COMMUNITIES

The Haitian City and the Unease of the Church by Jules Monel, dean of the faculty of Theology at the *Université chrétienne du nord d’Haïti*. As both rural regions and urban centers in Haiti continue to decline, Monel calls on Christians to begin investing in finding a truly urban theology. The most recent census affirms that Haiti’s city/regions are mixed with wealth and slums and that rapid urbanization is taking place. The two largest cities (Port-au-Prince and Cap Haitien) have rich political, economic, and historical significance. Unfortunately, on their streets many Christians are not thinking biblically or theologically. The Church is called to care for her cities, Monel urges. This begins with a contextual reading of the biblical text, starting with Micah, for accentuating a solid urban theology. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1157

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Eurasian Lausanne Consultation for Younger Leaders by Marina Stetsenko, a country correspondent for *Lausanne Eurasia*. In March 2009, 214 participants from Eurasia entered the chapel of Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary (UETS) in Kiev, Ukraine, to open the Eurasian Lausanne Consultation for Younger Leaders. During the two-day consultation, younger leaders discussed thirteen issues, including cross-cultural evangelism, studying without isolation from evangelism, and evangelism diversity for the sake of unity in the Body of Christ. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1149

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