Lausanne World Pulse
Providing Evangelism & Missions News, Information and Analysis

September 2010 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to: www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1323/09-2010)

AROUND THE WORLD: Eldon Barkman Serving as Interim President of JAARS
Eldon "Butch" Barkman is serving as interim president of JAARS until a new president is chosen. David Reeves resigned in April 2010 as president of JAARS. Reeves and his wife will continue in ministry with the organization. (JAARS)

BURMA (MYANMAR): Money Raised to Help Orphaned Children Fleeing Anti-Christian Violence
An urgent email appeal from Barnabas Aid earlier this year requested help for a group of one hundred Christian children on the brink of starvation. The children were making their way through the jungle to seek refuge in a Christian orphanage. Many were fleeing the anti-Christian violence through which they had lost one or both parents. Barnabas Aid raised more than $20,000USD for rice, blankets, pillows, mosquito nets, and other needs for the children and those already in the orphanage. (Barnabas Aid)

IRAN: Mass Arrest of New Christian Converts
According to reports received by Farsi Christian News Network (FCNN), on 18 July 2010 a group of fifteen newly-converted Christians, who were traveling to the provincial town of Bojnoord to fellowship with believers of that town, were arrested in Masshad. The detainees were transferred to the Ministry of Information's central detention center. During the ensuing week they were subjected to harsh and inhumane interrogations. After one week, thirteen of these believers were conditionally freed. Two did not agree to sign any forms, and thus remain in detention. (Assist News Service)

ISRAEL: River Jesus Baptized in "Too Polluted" for Pilgrims
Health concerns relating to water quality have triggered an environmental advocacy group to call for the banning of baptisms in the lower Jordan River in Jerusalem, where the Bible says Jesus was baptized. "For reasons of public health as well as religious integrity, baptism should be banned from taking place in the river," said Gidon Bromberg, the Israel director of EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME). Israeli authorities said that tests done on the water of the lower Jordan River show the popular site for baptismal ceremonies meets health ministry standards. Bromberg said, however, that baptisms should not take place until pollutants are removed from the water. FoEME said the lower Jordan River has long suffered from "severe mismanagement." (Ecumenical News International)

KYRGYZSTAN: Six More Churches Attacked and Robbed
Following news that an evangelical church in Bishkek was robbed three weeks ago and a church member badly beaten comes news that six other churches in the city have since been attacked. In the southern Kyrgyz city of Osh, recent ethnic tensions saw hundreds killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. In the violence, it was reported that Kyrgyz mobs attacked the Uzbek community and looted and burned entire Uzbek neighborhoods. (Assist News Service)

NORTH AMERICA: North America Indigenous Ministries Appoints Interim Executive Director
The Boards of North America Indigenous Ministries (NAIM) USA and NAIM Canada have appointed Clyde Cowan as interim executive director of NAIM. Cowan first came to NAIM in 1975, after six years in a multicultural pastorate. He and his wife served in a First Nation community for thirteen years and later he served as communications director of NAIM. He is co-founder of COMIX35. Former executive director Bill Taylor stepped down to serve as alumni secretary at his old boarding school in India where he was born and grew up. (North America Indigenous Ministries)

PAKISTAN: Disease Looms over Pakistan's Flood Survivors
The death toll from Pakistan's worst floods stands near 1,200, with waterborne disease emerging as a threat to survivors. Flash floods and landslides were brought on by monsoon rains, displacing two million people in the

northwest provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir. The Pakistani army has mobilized tens of thousands of troops, rescuing twenty thousand people from marooned areas. Fortunately, because of the military's offensive against the Taliban, many humanitarian agencies were already in place. However, food and fuel are running low. Bridges to some of the worst hit areas have washed away or broken apart with the force of the waters, making travel with humanitarian supplies nearly impossible. (Mission Network News)

SUDAN: Jaac Christian School Brings Hope to Displaced, Impoverished Children
Jaac, a squatter city home to over 200,000 Darfur refugees, sprawls next to the southern Sudan-Darfur border. Those in the city have seen much pain, but one pastor began a refugee school there, now called the Jaac Christian School. Although it meets in a pole hut, the school is a place where displaced and impoverished children can become educated, but also a place where kids can find clean water, as well as food and clothing. Smyrna Ministries International has partnered with the Persecution Project Foundation to assist the pastor and staff of this school to minister to thousands of children. (Smyrna Ministries International)

UNITED KINGDOM: International Gathering Launches Historic Five Hundred Days of Prayer
Several hundred Christians gathered at the Emmanuel Christian Centre in Westminster, London, on 1 August 2010 for the launch of an historic prayer chain. Organized by Celebration for the Nations and GDOP London, believers from South Korea, Spain, South America, Africa, and the U.K. came together for a powerful evening as Global Day of Prayer London began five hundred days of non-stop prayer and fasting for the nation. “There is tremendous power when the Church comes together to seek God. The social and spiritual transformation of our nation will happen as churches unite in prayer and action,” said Evangelical Alliance general director Steve Clifford. (Assist News Service)

PUBLISHER’S MEMO

Christians in the Public Arena: Our Calling from God *by Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP*. Christians and the public arena for the most part have not been peaceful bedfellows. However, Christians are called to be active in the public arena—to deliver God’s message of hope so others will believe in him. We must work toward creatively engaging the public arena with excellence in our work and testimony, Birdsall writes.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1316/09-2010

THEMED ARTICLES: CHRISTIANS IN THE PUBLIC ARENA

Christians in the Public Arena *by Ram Gidoomal, deputy chairman of the board for Lausanne*. There are Christians working in public service at all levels across the world, with major opportunities to represent Christ and impact society through their words and actions. Gidoomal offers six Christian principles for public service, including social justice, respect for life, reconciliation, active compassion, stewardship of resources, and empowerment.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1319/09-2010

Business as Ministry *by Dion Forster, a chaplain to the Global Day of Prayer and the Power Group of companies in Cape Town, South Africa*. Many Christians spend between sixty and seventy percent of their waking hours at work—but how many of us, as Christians, deliberately work toward “taking Jesus to work” with us so that others can encounter him? Forster shares an example from South Africa of how mission is being doing in the workplace.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1315/09-2010

Stewardship and Discipleship: Two Sides of the Same Coin *by Brett Elder, executive director of the Stewardship Council*. It is urgent for the future of the Church that we recover a whole-life model of discipleship that understands every legitimate human activity as responding to a call from God. Millions of churchgoers are “Christians” for only an hour a week—Christianity is something they do on Sunday morning rather than a way of life. The withering of discipleship is one of the gravest threats facing the Church today, Elder writes.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1314/09-2010

Christians in Public Service: Biblical Foundations, Lessons, and Dangers *by John Godson, international director of Pilgrim Mission International*. After pursing politics himself, Godson shares reasons Christians should get involved in politics and advice for those pursuing this realm of civic life and others supporting those in politics.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1322/09-2010

PERSPECTIVES

No Christians, No Scripture, No Missionaries: Priority People Groups *by Ted Bergman, editor of SIL Electronic Survey Reports, and Bill Morrison, compiler of the Joshua Project database*. The authors look at how many languages remain to be learned to reach the top priority unreached people groups. To carry out our Commission, Christians need data about where the peoples of the earth live and which ones do not have the Word of God and a core of growing believers. Bergman and Morrison discuss global databases and where the research stands. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1321/09-2010

A Simple Guide to People Group Lists for World Mission *by Dan Scribner, director of Joshua Project*. Scribner offers a general overview of definitions, history, and database material on people group information. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1320/09-2010

Operation World: Prayers with Global Impact *by Lynn Waalkes, a communications specialist at Biblica (formerly International Bible Society)*. The new edition of *Operation World* has just been released. In this article, Waalkes interviews current editor, Jason Mandryk, and former editor, Patrick Johnstone, about the book and about world missions. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1318/09-2010

Taking Chocolate to Vienna: Evangelism Postmodern-Style *by Janice Byrd, area vice presidents for Western Europe with International Commission*. Byrd shares an example of innovative outreach: using chocolate in Europe. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1325/09-2010

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Leadership Profile: Romjke Fountain, Trainer and Evangelist, Europe. Romjke Fountain has worked with Youth with a Mission since 1971, first as co-founder of the Dutch initiative and later in legal and administrative areas. Together with her husband, she is involved in Hope for Europe, with her main task co-leading the Women in Leadership network. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadership_profiles.php/1317/09-2010

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Brazilian Delegation Prepares for Cape Town *by C. Rosalee Velloso Ewell, New Testament editor for the* Latin American Bible Commentary. Nearly half of the Brazilian delegates to Cape Town gathered in June 2010 for meetings and prayer for the upcoming Lausanne III Congress. The group discussed issues related to the interconnectedness of Lausanne and Brazilian churches. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1324/09-2010

October/November 2010 Theme: Biblical Partnerships that Advance the Gospel

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