



July 2009 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1176)

AFRICA: Increased Information Technology Capacity Critical for Bible Translation Work

JAARS Africa area liaison Bill Mayes envisions a day when every Bible translation center on that continent can enjoy Web page retrieval rates of less than five seconds, as opposed to twenty seconds or more, the current rate. Toward that goal, he is developing plans for enhancing information technology capacity, an indispensable foundation needed for seeing God's word translated into the languages of Africa and carrying out the Last Languages Initiative, a campaign launched by JAARS project partner Wycliffe. (JAARS)

INDONESIA: Group Makes Threats and Warns Legislator to Convert to Islam

On 23 April 2009, after Dominikus Supriyanto won a seat in the district legislature in West Sumatra, his celebration was cut short when an Islamic group warned him to convert to Islam or lose his seat. The group, which identified itself as the Islamic Forum of West Pasaman, attacked Supriyanto's home. Supriyanto was home at the time and heard them yell threats about becoming Muslim to stay in politics. (Mission Network News)

ISRAEL: CISF Names First Recipient of Scholar-Leader Award

Dr. Salim Munayer has been named the first recipient of the Christian International Scholarship Foundation (CISF) scholar-leader award for his work as founder and director of Jerusalem-based Musalaha Ministry of Reconciliation and for his service as academic dean of Bethlehem Bible College from 1989 to 2008. Munayer was raised in a Palestinian Christian family in the Orthodox tradition and can trace his roots to the Holy Land for generations. (Assist News Service)

MEXICO: 2009 Culiacan Project Peaceful and Productive

Global Recordings Network (GRN) reported in June that its 2009 Culiacan Project reached thousands of people without any dangerous incidents. This is a special blessing in that the level of violence in Culiacan had been very high during the last part of 2008 due to increased drug activity. GRN further reported that almost seven thousand cassettes or CDs were given out in over 120 different Indian languages and dialects. Christian resources in Spanish and native languages, along with blankets, clothing, sewing kits, and glasses also were handed out. The project seeks to reach the thousands of indigenous Indians who travel from many parts of Mexico to Culiacan to harvest crops. (Global Recording Network)

MIDDLE EAST: Arab Youth Tune into Strongholds Program

The Lebanese worship band *Stongholds* recently launched a live program on SAT-7 as a way to reach more people, both on the air and via text messages, email, and a Facebook site. During each show, band members introduce Arabic worship videos, take requests, and perform songs. They also talk to viewers. At the end of each show the hosts encourage viewers to visit the Facebook site to send prayer requests and to list songs or topics they would like to see in the next episode. (SAT-7)

NEPAL: OneHope Plans "Hope Nepal"

An effort targeted for Christmas 2009 called "Hope Nepal" will attempt to reach many for Christ in a country only recently declared a secular state. Part of the effort will be televising *The GodMan* film around the country over a period of a few days. The computer-generated photo-realistic animation film of the *Book of Hope* tells the life story of Jesus. The event will resemble a similar one held in India called "Hope India." Over 400 million people viewed *The GodMan* through that event, including over twelve million children who received copies of the *Book of Hope*. (Mission Network News)

PAKISTAN: Refugees in Urgent Need of Relief Supplies

Pakistan's Swat Valley, once a beautiful valley with lush green mountains, is now a deadly war zone. Authorities estimate that eighty-five percent of the province's population is now displaced by violence. World Vision (WV) staff members are ready to help and distribute relief supplies; currently, however, there just aren't enough supplies to go around. "With such a strain on scarce resources, there is potential for conflict over time. So it's critical for relief groups to meet the needs of not only the displaced, but also the communities hosting them," said Graham Strong, WV's director in Pakistan. ([World Vision](#))

PARAGUAY: Indigenous Peoples Come Together at Mennonite Conference

Mennonite Mission Network representatives in South America joined Anabaptists worldwide in preparing for the Mennonite World Conference Assembly Gathered this month in Asuncion, Paraguay. Nearly thirty members of First Nations congregations in the USA and Canada will visit the homes and churches of their indigenous brothers and sisters following Assembly Gathered. In addition to their Paraguayan hosts, they will be joined by other Latin American indigenous Mennonite leaders. ([Mennonite Mission Network](#))

SIERRA LEONE: Barnabas Aid Works Amidst Growing Anti-Christian Sentiment

Barnabas Aid is supporting ongoing ministry in Sierra Leone. The country is predominantly Islamic, and Christians number only about twelve percent of the population. President Koroma, elected in 2007, is a Christian; however, the influence of Islam is growing in the country. Hostility toward Christians became evident during Ramadan in 2008, when some Christians and churches were attacked. One church, with many converts from Islam in its congregation, was attacked during worship service on 5 September 2008. Police intervened and at least twenty-five Muslims were arrested. ([Barnabas Aid](#))

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Literature Partnership Distributes Work by Indian Christian Leader

JSM-Langham Literature has launched a project to distribute *The Holy Spirit: Lord and Life-Giver* by Langham Scholar Ivan Satyavrata to pastors and scholars in Southeast Asia, as well as to more than thirty countries in the Majority World. The text was selected as the seventh title in the Global Christian Library, a series of resources produced in partnership by John Stott Ministries, Langham Literature and InterVarsity Press. As a theologian and leader of the Church in India, Satyavrata is committed to sharing how the presence of the Holy Spirit is key to this transformative time when millions of new believers in the region are experiencing a hunger for God. ([John Stott Ministries](#))

SRI LANKA: Gospel for Asia Continues Work in the Wake of Long Civil War

Civil war between Sri Lanka's government and the Tamil Tigers rebel group is now over, and it is time to minister to the survivors, according to Gospel for Asia (GFA) president K.P. Yohannan. The United Nations estimates that seventy thousand civilians were killed in the fighting during the last thirty years. There is a concern that the number will increase. GFA-supported missionaries have been working in Sri Lanka for many years. Some are former rebel fighters, while others come from the majority Sinhalese population. Most of these missionaries now serve as pastors of Sri Lankan churches. ([Assist News Service](#))

UZBEKISTAN: Karakalpakstan Republic Bans the Bible

The senior religious affairs official for the Karakalpakstan Autonomous Republic of north-western Uzbekistan has banned specific religious books and films that have also been confiscated from religious believers on at least three occasions in 2009. Items banned for import, distribution, or use in teaching on the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan include the Bible, a hymn book, a Bible Encyclopedia, a Bible dictionary, and a children's Bible. ([Assist News Service](#))

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Wanted: A GPS for Global Mission by *Lon Allison, co-publisher of LWP*. A major "turn" is coming for the global evangelical movement in regards to the sending of missionaries. The issue at hand is the realization that the demographic center of Christianity has moved from the "West" (North America/Europe/Australia) to the Global South and East. Since the nineteenth century the axiom of missions has been the "West to the Rest" of the world. That has changed. Now we know many Majority World countries are sending missionaries to the West, Allison writes. This

shift is vital to the health of global evangelization, but the implications are vast.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1183

THEMED ARTICLES: CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER WORLDVIEWS

Christianity and Worldviews by Jerry Root, associate professor of evangelism at Wheaton College, and Justin Conrad, who is active in theological, philosophical, and political researching and writing. An evangelist would do well to understand the nature of worldviews: how they work and how they can be both an asset and a liability for sharing the gospel. Although it is possible to get a sure word about any given truth, it is impossible to get a last word, say Root and Conrad. Therefore, whatever the Christian worldview might be, it is incomplete. Christian worldviews as they develop do so in light of questions which are asked about God and his world in a certain time and place. Some, however, transcend all times and all places. Here, Root and Conrad discuss these issues, including creation and intention, Trinity and community, unity and personality, and incarnation and purpose.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1168

Pioneering Church Planting Movements by Younoussa Djaou, who is with New Generations International and Serving In Mission (SIM). Using Luke 10:1-11, Djaou discusses seven principles and a process that have made breakthrough possible among some of the remaining nations to be reached. Among these is the need to go where Jesus is about to go, remembering to pray, looking for a person of peace, and taking part in compassion ministries.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1169

Christian Response to Islam: A Struggle for the Soul of Christianity by John Azumah, director of the Centre for Islamic Studies at the London School of Theology. Islam *per se* is not necessarily the greatest challenge facing Christians today, but rather how Christians choose to respond to Islam, Azumah writes. To work out what constitutes an appropriate Christian response to Islam, there is a need to identify the various faces of Islam needing Christian responses, he suggests four: (1) the militant and violent face of Islam, including Islamic terrorism; (2) the ideological face of Islam in the form of Islamists conceptions of an Islamic State; (3) Islamic/Muslim criticism, rejection, and polemics against Christian beliefs; and (4) Islamic missionary activity—*daw'ah*.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1175

Overcoming Illiteracy: God's Word and Lasting Fruit by Jerry Jackson, co-founder and president of Hosanna, Faith Comes By Hearing. With over half the world functionally or completely illiterate, oral devices such as audio players are vital to getting the word of God to the masses. One such device is the Proclaimer, a self-contained, solar-powered audio player. Almost 120,000 Proclaimers have been sent to more than one hundred countries. Once on the field, trained workers use the units to set up listening/discipleship groups where those in poverty and those who are illiterate can hear the gospel message. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1164

PERSPECTIVES

Wholism and the Bible by Kristin Jack, the Asia coordinator of Servants to Asia's Urban Poor. When applied to humanity, wholism sees the person not so much as a bipartite (body and soul) or even tripartite (body, soul, and spirit) being, but rather as multipartite. Truly, the human being is fearfully and wonderfully made, with physical, spiritual, social/communal, emotional, intellectual, aesthetic, and moral dimensions to his or her make up, Jack says. From this understanding flows the concept of wholistic ministry: the belief that God created all these dimensions for his glory and that, in Jesus, the deepest, God-planted longings of each of these dimensions are ultimately fulfilled. Jack takes a look at Jesus' ministry and how wholistic ministry can be understood as the only way to minister.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1173

Three Men...Three Worlds...One Choice by Grant McClung, a member of the Church of God International Executive Council. McClung highlights the lives of three men who will one day stand before the judgment seat of God. Using these examples, he emphasizes that Christians must embrace the missional command to share the gospel to all ends of the earth. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1174

The Great Commission—An Exploration of the Old and New Testament by Thomas Schirmacher, professor of ethics and sociology of religion in Germany and Turkey. How was the Great Commission understood in history? How

do Christians understand it today? Schirmacher takes a bird's eye view of the Old Testament and the New Testament to gain deeper knowledge of the truth of the "Great Commission."

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1165

URBAN COMMUNITIES

Greater New York and the Five Boroughs: Prayer, Part 1 by Mac Pier, *president of the New York City Leadership Center and Concerts of Prayer Greater New York*. Of the more than eight million people who speak more than 170 languages and hail from more than one hundred countries, New Yorkers can be divided roughly into three types: native New Yorkers give the region its solidity; commuters give New York its velocity; and immigrants give New York its dreams, Pier summarizes. He documents the partial realization of the 4,000-year-old dream given to Abraham—that all the nations would be blessed. All the nations now reside in the neighborhoods of Greater New York and Pier takes an extraordinary panoramic view of New York and its spiritual history and current spiritual state.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1166

Greater New York and the Five Boroughs: Prayer, Part 2 by Mac Pier, *president of the New York City Leadership Center and Concerts of Prayer Greater New York*. Pier gives an overview of prayer in New York City from the 1700s through today, discusses prayer movements that have come and gone and some that endure today.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1167

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Himalayan Global Summit 2009 by Charisma Lepcha, *a freelance writer from Darjeeling, India*. 250 leaders from the Himalayan Nepali Church and the Nepali Diaspora Church, representing fourteen countries, gathered 19-21 March 2009 at the Baptist Conference Centre in Jomtien Beach, Pattaya, Thailand, for the Himalayan Global Summit 2009. The summit was an attempt to go beyond the Himalayan borders in order to understand and engage in the present-day growth of Nepali diaspora churches around the world. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1163

August 2009 Theme: The Church in Exile

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