

[NEWS BRIEFS \(http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/12-2007\)](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/12-2007)

AROUND THE WORLD: MAF Integrates Field Operations

Mission Aviation Fellowship is integrating its worldwide field operations under one international umbrella that will function as an operations entity. The new structure, which takes effect 1 January 2008, combines the field programs of the US-based MAF with the field programs of other MAF entities in Canada, Europe, Australia and South Africa. (**Mission Aviation Fellowship**)

AROUND THE WORLD: Tucker Announces Retirement as TWR CEO/President

After eleven years as CEO and president of **Trans World Radio**, David G. Tucker will retire 30 April 2008. Tucker is only the third person to hold TWR's top leadership post in the organization's 53-year history. Thomas Lowell, who preceded Tucker as CEO and president, will assume interim CEO responsibilities. Day-to-day operational oversight will be provided by the ministry's 10-member Global Leadership Team. (**Trans World Radio**)

AROUND THE WORLD: GoBible Available in New International Version

The GoBible, an audio Bible that has modernized how people study God's word, is now available in the New International Version. Through a strategic partnership with the Fellowship for the Performing Arts, GoBible, LLC, will carry "The Listener's Bible." The small hand-held device comes preloaded with the entire audio version of the Bible and is supported by technology which allows users to scan through various books, chapters and verses using an interactive menu. (**Christian Newswire**)

CHINA: Communist Party Includes the Word "Religion" in its Constitution

A group of Asian and African Anglican leaders have praised a decision by the country's ruling Communist Party to include the word "religion" in its constitution. "This is a recognition of the increasing role that the Church plays in the nation's economic and social development," the Anglican leaders said in a statement issued after their 21-30 October 2007 visit to China. State media said the change had been made to meet the demands posed by the "new situation and new tasks." (**Ecumenical News International**)

HONG KONG: Christians Need to Increase Charity and Social Services in China

Charity and social services not only help alleviate social problems like poverty and HIV/AIDS, they also help Chinese people know about Christianity, said Qiu Zhonghui, general secretary of the **Amity Foundation**. "In China, the basic need to feed and shelter thirty million people has not been answered. There are 300 million people in rural areas threatened by unhygienic drinking water. We believe that through sharing in Christ, more and more people begin to know what Christians are and know about Christianity." (**Ecumenical News International**)

IRAN: SAT-7 PARS Drawing Millions of Viewers

It is estimated that at least two million Farsi-speakers watch SAT-7 PARS in Iran regularly. In the nine months SAT-7 PARS has been on Iranian television, countless people in this predominantly Muslim nation have come to Christ. SAT-7 PARS provides round-the-clock programming. Many believe this Christian station is the most watched satellite channel in Iran. (**SAT-7**)

KENYA: Bible Agency Representatives Discuss HIV/AIDS

Nearly ninety representatives from thirty-two Bible agencies and organizations recently gathered for a consultation on Bible engagement in the context of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Discussions were guided by theologians and by personal stories of those affected by or living with HIV/AIDS. At the heart of the discussions was the need to address the feelings of loss and stigma that those affected often experience. (**United Bible Societies**)

KENYA: Warning of “Christians” Using the Gospel for Personal Financial Gain

Religious groups in Kenya line up by the thousands to seek legal recognition as churches. But as the number of corrupt “preachers” increases, Christian leaders are warning the public of those using the gospel for personal financial gains. "Groups masquerading as churches thrive in Kenya," said Dr. Mwaya Kitavi, **Bible League's** associate director of Africa ministry. "And the need for Bible-based churches is as great as ever. Many Kenyans are unable to distinguish genuine religious organizations from 'big business' under the guise of evangelism." (**Bible League**)

MIDDLE EAST: Religious Leaders Pledge to Protect Holy Sites

A group of Middle East Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders has pledged to make the protection of holy sites a foundation of any peace effort for the region. "Each religious community should treat the holy sites of other faiths in a manner that respects their integrity and independence and avoids any act of desecration, aggression or harm," ten members of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land said in a statement following meetings in Washington DC, USA. (**Ecumenical News International**)

SWITZERLAND: Muslim Scholars Urge for Cooperation between Christians and Muslims

More than 130 Muslim scholars have said in a letter to Christian leaders that world peace depends on cooperation between Christianity and Islam. "Our common future is at stake. The very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake," the 138 signatories stated in the letter. In a response to the letter, the Archbishop of Canterbury said, "The call to respect, peace and goodwill should now be taken up by Christians and Muslims at all levels and in all countries." (**Ecumenical News International**)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: WARC Calls for Assembly in 2010

Leaders of the **World Alliance of Reformed Churches** have proposed that a global assembly be held in the United States in 2010 to seal its union with the Reformed Ecumenical Council. "I hope this will give Reformed Christians a renewed sense of commitment to overcoming divisions," WARC general secretary the Rev. Setri Nyomi said. "This will be a time when we can celebrate the sense of communion in the Reformed family...while also remaining committed to the ecumenical movement." (**Ecumenical News International**)

UNITED STATES: Christian Leaders Gather for Historic Meeting with UN Head

Christian leaders came together for a historic gathering attended by the secretary general of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, international director of **World Evangelical Alliance**, was among a host of evangelical leaders who joined the Global Leaders Forum with Ki-moon. The event was convened by **Micah Challenge USA** and the **National Association of Evangelicals** to educate and inform evangelical opinion makers about the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs), and emphasize the significance of the MDGs and their potential of making a lasting impact on poverty. It is also the first time Ki-moon has met church leaders on the MDGs since they were agreed by country leaders in 2000. (**World Evangelical Alliance**)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Doxological Evangelism: Learning to Share God's Glory with the World by Doug Birdsall, co-publisher, LWP.

Doxological evangelism does three things: (1) it reminds us that our message of the gospel and our worship must first be focused on God, (2) it requires us to be humble and acknowledge who is in control of the work of evangelism and (3) it calls us to work together as a body. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/864/12-2007

THEMED ARTICLES: WORSHIP AND EVANGELISM

Worship and Evangelism: Is there a Relationship? by Youssef Samir, associate pastor at Faggala Presbyterian Church in Cairo. The attempt to separate worship and evangelism emanates from a long heritage that tried forcefully to keep the Church away from dealing with the secular. However, in the first years of the Church the new community included in its daily life both believers and non-believers. Worship was an activity in which both groups participated: the former by practice, the latter by observation, which God sometimes used to draw these unbelievers to himself. Samir uses the New Testament to explain how worship and evangelism are directly linked. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/861/12-2007

Worship in a Place Where It Will Bother the Darkness by *Marcell Steuernagel, a Brazilian Christian musician.* Never have we seen such a surge of “worship culture” as we do today. With a plethora of CDs, planning programs and concerts, Steuernagel asks, “Who are we demonstrating to?” Fellow worshippers, who already know the Lord? Are we admiring each other’s new moves before the altar and doing nothing more? Instead, he calls us to worship outside the walls of the temple—in the places where worship is needed, and in the places where it will bother the darkness. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/877/12-2007

Evangelization and Worship: Toward a Doxological Evangelization by *Alberto Fernando Roldán, director of the masters of religion program at the Theological Institute FIET in Argentina.* The transmission of the gospel—evangelization—implies a message that displays what God has proposed to do with his creation through Jesus Christ. There are at least three aspects of doxological evangelization: it is Trinitarian in its content and exposition, it promotes the glory of God and it is tied to the eschatological vision of eternal glory. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/862/12-2007

Declare His Glory! Worship, Evangelism and Mission by *Rose Dowsett, conference and training minister at large for OMF International.* According to Dowsett, authentic worship must be preoccupied with God. Sadly, much that is labeled worship is focused not on God and his glory; but on our feelings and needs. Worship is about honoring God. It is about giving him the glory that is his by right and declaring it to one another (and to an unbelieving world) with gladness and thanksgiving. Perhaps we need to look long and hard at the widespread trivialization of “worship” and come back to what it should be. Dowsett suggests five ways in which worship and evangelism belong together: worship as: the purpose of evangelism, the inspiration of evangelism, the means of evangelism, the dimension of evangelism and the consummation of evangelism. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/866/12-2007

PERSPECTIVES

Forum of Bible Agencies International Addresses HIV/AIDS in Africa. Estimates in 2006 showed that almost two-thirds of all persons infected with HIV lived in sub-Saharan Africa. In light of this, the Forum of Bible Agencies International and the Africa Forum of Bible Agencies sponsored “Bible Engagement in the Context of HIV and AIDS in Africa” to reframe the HIV/AIDS discussion from “a problem that needs fixing” to “a life issue that needs to be addressed.” The representatives of thirty-two agencies expressed a commitment to “encouraging approaches to the Bible that enable people to discover and experience its life transforming and liberating power.” www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/872/12-2007

Highlights of India Missions Association’s Advance Mission Leadership Training by *Ragland Remo Paul, training coordinator for India Missions Association.* Twenty-two emerging leaders from nine organizations attended this year’s AMLT in India. AMLT 2007 included objectives such as: envisioning more leaders to meet the increasing challenges in transforming the nation; envisioning a bigger picture of the national and global mission challenges and preparing adequate leadership; assisting in understanding the contemporary missiological issues and mission scenario; and creating a desire for continuous learning of leadership, management and communication. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/873/12-2007

URBAN COMMUNITIES

Bhopal, India, Rebuilding after One of the Worst Industrial Disasters in History by *Willy Kotiuga, director of the Power Systems Consulting Group in one of the world’s largest engineering firms.* Twenty-three years after one of the world’s worst industrial disasters, the people and communities of Bhopal, India, are still recovering—emotionally, spiritually, financially. Bhopal’s slums are typical to those seen around the world—communities of “homes” barely held together and with only the minimum of essential services such as water, sewage and electricity. There are a number of NGOs doing what they can to bring hope and alleviate suffering in the slums; however, without changes to the local economic structure and government policy and without improved infrastructure, these programs are more like relief efforts than community development programs. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/859/12-2007

A Different Form of Mission with Slums: Reflections of a Change Agent in Bhopal, India by Willy Kotiuga, director of the Power Systems Consulting Group in one of the world's largest engineering firms. An effective mission strategy for transforming the slums targets the three primary levels where change takes place: the slum dwellers, institutional officials and government policymakers. Kotiuga shares how he uses his position to suggest policies for the power sector that are friendly to people living in poverty and address issues related to accessibility and ability and willingness to pay. By using several examples, he demonstrates how using our gifts can help break the poverty cycle and begin to transform lives for Christ. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/860/12-2007

RESEARCH

Letting the Gospel Thrive on the Inside: A Note on Insider Movements by Greg H. Parsons, general director of the U.S. Center for World Mission. Parsons offers a definition of an “insider movement” as any movement to faith in Christ where (a) the gospel flows through pre-existing communities and social networks and where (b) believing families, as valid expressions of the Body of Christ, remain inside their socio-religious communities, retaining their identity as members of that community while living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible. Parson asserts that this definition can help both westerners and non-westerners to keep the spread of the gospel from being Western in style and nature. Insider movements allow people to remain in their families, castes and cultures rather than being pulled into something foreign. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/research.php/875/12-2007

LAUSANNE REPORTS

United Nations Prayer Summit by John Godson, international director for Pilgrim Mission International. Two hundred delegates from fifty nations attended the first ever United Nations Prayer Summit, organized by the International Prayer Council and World Vision International. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/874/12-2007

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