

[NEWS BRIEFS \(http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/01-2008\)](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/01-2008)

AROUND THE WORLD: Gospel Communications Launches Volunteer Matching Site

Gospel Communications is launching an online volunteer matching site in partnership with TechMission to match Christians with volunteer opportunities in ministries serving under-resourced communities. Potential volunteers can search over 2,200 volunteer and short-term missions opportunities from over 1,300 organizations. The site is in partnership with TechMission's ChristianVolunteering.org, which is the first major website to attempt to match volunteers with Christian volunteer service opportunities. **(Christian Newswire)**

ETHIOPIA: GRN Team Records Gospel in Twenty-four Languages

Three Global Recordings Network recordists from Sierra Leone recently traveled to Ethiopia, where they recorded the gospel in twenty-four languages during a six-week period. Three Ethiopian believers assisted the team on "The Sheba Recording Project." **(Global Recordings Network)**

FRANCE: Faith-based Organizations Not Using Assets to Fullest

Faith-based organizations have failed to use the power of their investment funds to transform global money markets, leaders of Christian, Jewish and Buddhist groups have been told. "The great faiths wield enormous economic power in stock and shares," Joost Douma, secretary general of the International Interfaith Investment Group (3iG) told representatives. "The assets of 3iG's members alone are equivalent to more than the Bank of England's entire foreign currency and gold reserves." **(Ecumenical News International)**

GERMANY: Charismatic and Pentecostal Christians Among Most Faithful Churchgoers

Charismatic and Pentecostal Christians are among Germany's most faithful churchgoers. Although they make up only slightly more than one percent of all twenty-six million Protestants, they account for twenty percent of the worshippers on an average Sunday. The mainline Protestant churches have twenty-five million members on their rolls. About four percent worship on a regular Sunday. Catholics go to church in greater numbers; fourteen percent of the 26.6 million Catholics attend mass. **(ASSIST News Service)**

HONG KONG: Fifty Million Bibles Produced

Celebrations are planned in China to mark the production of more than fifty million Bibles in the People's Republic by the Amity Printing Company, a joint venture between the United Bible Societies and the Amity Foundation. "After the cultural revolution of 1966 to 1976, many Chinese Christians are doing their best to take the chance to read the Bible," Qiu Zhonghui, general secretary of the Amity Foundation, said. **(Ecumenical News International)**

MAURITIUS: Bible Society Responds to Rise in Violence

Violence pe briz lavenir nou zanfan (Violence is ruining our children's future) is the theme of a campaign launched by the Bible Society of Mauritius in response to a rise in violent crime. "Cases reported to the police clearly indicate that there is an upsurge of violence in this country," said Bible Society executive director Marc Etive. "This is the result of a profound sense of ill-being in our society. The Bible Society and its partners have printed three thousand posters and 100,000 brochures, which will be distributed across the country. **(Bible Society)**

NETHERLANDS: Ten Days with the Bible Travels the Country

Quizzes, television programs, dance workshops, Bible reading marathons and more were used to encourage people to engage with the Bible during the recent *10 Days with the Bible* event organized by the Netherlands Bible Society. Across the country, *10 Days with the Bible* events brought God's word into venues such as schools, shopping centers, marketplaces and homes for the elderly. Many churches also celebrated Bible Sunday during the same period. **(Bible Society)**

PHILIPPINES: WCC General Secretary Speaks on Christianity in Asia and Africa

Asia and Africa may become the center of gravity for twenty-first century Christianity, says World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary the Rev. Samuel Kobia, who has challenged Philippine church leaders to prepare for this shift. "Christianity is declining in Europe but growing in Asia and Africa," Kobia, a Methodist from Kenya, told bishops and other church leaders in Manila. The WCC leader said that church buildings in Europe are being sold to Muslims and business people. (**Ecumenical News International**)

SWITZERLAND: Caring for the Aging Population in Europe

Europe's largest grouping of churches has noted the continent's steadily growing proportion of people over the age of sixty-five and is calling for the rediscovery of "the interdependence between generations." The executive committee of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches said in a statement that less than three percent of Europe's population was over sixty-five a generation ago, but that by 2050 it could be twenty percent, with only half of the population of working age. (**Ecumenical News International**)

UNITED KINGDOM: Walking School Bus Plan for Green Church of the Year

The first parish in England to be named the Green Church of the Year took steps to reduce its carbon footprint eighteen months ago with a "walking school bus" scheme for adults to walk children to school rather than driving them. Sixty separate daily car journeys have been eliminated since the Rev. Cathy Horder and other leaders set up a roster to escort the children to school. Since then, Holy Trinity (Anglican) Church has switched to a green energy supplier, run its own recycling scheme and campaigned against the extension of the Bristol airport. (**Ecumenical News International**)

UNITED STATES: Third Annual Saddleback Global Summit on AIDS & The Church

The third annual Saddleback Global Summit on AIDS & The Church was recently held with a challenge from Dr. Rick and Mrs. Kay Warren to the more than 1,700 attendees for the Church to lead with love in the global response to HIV/AIDS. "It all comes down to whether you accept the world's or Jesus' response to AIDS," Warren said, "The world's response is A.I.D.S.: Avoidance, Intolerance, Distance and Superstition. But Jesus' mandate to respond to people with AIDS is for us to replace each of those with H.O.P.E.: Help, Openness, Presence and Education." The summit remains the only HIV/AIDS conference worldwide to be built entirely on a practical "local church-based" strategy. (**ASSIST News Service**)

UNITED STATES: Majority of Teens Okay Occasional Dishonest and Violent Behavior

A significant percentage of American teenagers confident in their ability to make ethical decisions regard dishonest and even violent behavior as necessary for success. Seventy-one percent of teens say they feel fully prepared to make ethical decisions when they enter the workforce. Yet thirty-eight percent believe it is sometimes necessary to cheat, plagiarize, lie or even behave violently in order to succeed. Twenty-three percent surveyed think violence toward another person is acceptable on some level. (**Deloitte & Touche USA LLP**)

UNITED STATES: Pat Robertson Steps Down as CEO of CBN

Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), has relinquished his duties as Chief Executive Officer of the network. He will continue on as chairman of the board. His son, Gordon Robertson, was named the new CEO. As chairman, Pat Robertson will continue active involvement in the ministry he founded as well as the presidency of Regent University. (**ASSIST News Service**)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

War, Genocide, Trauma...Gospel? by *Lon Allison, co-publisher of LWP*. In a world filled with great sorrow and injustice, Christians can find hope in a Just God who not only hates, wars against and punishes perpetrators of evil, but surprises the universe by taking the evil onto himself and bearing the penalty and punishment of such sin. When we understand the gospel, we understand that God himself steps into the evil and conquers it by letting its full weight of sadness befall him. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/893/01-2008

THEMED ARTICLES:PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN AN ERA OF INCREASING WAR, GENOCIDE AND TRAUMA

The Church as an Instrument for Redemption, not Administration by *The Rev. Canon Andrew White, president and CEO of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East.* The main item in the latest Iraqi Anglican Church Council—“How do we stop our leaders in St. George's Memorial Church in Baghdad from being kidnapped and killed?”—led the members to reflect on the ministry of redemption. White reminds us that we must not forget the key purposes of the Church: to share the good news of Jesus, to bring redemption, to change lives and to take risks. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/868/01-2008

Bringing a Relevant and Holistic Message of Hope to a Broken World: A Case Study in Uganda by *Dana Ryan, a writer at Food for the Hungry.* In the past nineteen years, an estimated fifty thousand children have been kidnapped and forced to become soldiers and sex slaves for the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda. Girls who escape often return as child mothers with children they conceived as the “wives” of LRA rebels. Ryan asks, “How do we, as Christians, proclaim the message of Christ in this context?” and explains more about a residential rehabilitation center called the New Life Center in Kitgum that provides holistic development and psychosocial support to formerly-abducted child mothers and their children. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/878/01-2008

Five Reasons Indigenous Media Ministries Are Vital to Christian Witness in the Middle East by *Terence Ascott, CEO of SAT-7, and David Harder, communications manager for SAT-7.* In the Middle East and North Africa (ME/NA), modern media is not only helpful, it is indispensable and has become critically important to the existence of the Church. There are five reasons indigenous media efforts in this region need and deserve our help: (1) they are the only means to proclaim the gospel in many parts of the ME/NA; (2) Middle Eastern churches are suffering and disappearing; (3) they reach women, the illiterate and other marginalized groups; (4) they offer the best way to reach youth and children; and (5) they are sensitive and effective. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/879/01-2008

Reaching Out to Iraq's Displaced, Suffering Christians by *Jerry Dykstra, media relations coordinator for Open Doors USA.* Persecution, violence and a lack of resources are causing nearly sixty thousand people to be displaced in Iraq each month. The plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Iraq is difficult, with many fleeing to the northern part of the country where there are little opportunities for work. Dykstra includes two personal stories of women affected by the anti-Christian violence. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/894/01-2008

PERSPECTIVES

Taking the Orality Plunge: Confessions of a Print Addict Unawares by *Phill Butler, director of visionSynergy.* According to UNESCO, about 2.5 billion in the world are absolute non-literates. However, another 1.4 to 1.5 billion are functional non-literates and receive at least ninety-five percent of their information orally. Butler, who had always relied on the “indissoluble” link between print and oral communication, shares how he and others began collaborating on an oral partnership training course to equip pastors who fall into this group and who minister to others in this group. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/871/01-2008

Following Christ in World Evangelization by *Grant McClung, an international missions leader with Church of God World Missions.* Following Christ in world evangelization demands the pursuit of a personal experience with the Triune God through the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit—with a corresponding passion to make Christ known among the nations. It also means following Christ's example in evangelization. McClung shares eight examples from Luke 3-6 on Jesus' models and strategies for evangelization. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/880/01-2008

Seeking Justice and Loving Mercy: Christians for Biblical Equality 2007 Conference by *Mimi Haddad, president of Christians for Biblical Equality (CBE); Chelsea Dearmond, editor of Mutuality Magazine; and Mary Ann Ngugen.* Christians from around the world gathered to explore the biblical foundations of gift-based ministry and the biblical and theological basis for gender justice and Christian service. CBE leaders unanimously affirmed prayer as a

fundamental principle in the ministry of biblical equality and in the work of reforming the Church and the world.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/869/01-2008

URBAN COMMUNITIES

Kolkata, India: An Overview. Kolkata is believed to be the city with the lowest urban standard of living in the world, with 5.5 million residents living in squatter conditions. Approximately seventy-six percent of Kolkata's residents are Hindus, twenty-three percent are Muslims and less than one-tenth of one percent are evangelical Christians.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/888/01-2008

Restoring Life in the Red Light Districts of Kolkata, India by Sarah Lance, *Word Made Flesh Kolkata field director and the director of Sari Bari*. It is estimated that there are more than sixty thousand women and girls in prostitution in Kolkata. Seven thousand of those women are living in the red light area called Sonagacchi. Here, a group of North Americans and Bengalis have been seeking the incarnation of Jesus in Songacchi for more than six years. One of ways this is happening is through Word Made Flesh's ministry, Sari Bari, in which women earn a living by making bags and blankets. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/884/01-2008

RESEARCH

Awakening Through Storytelling by Grant Lovejoy, *director of Orality Strategies for the International Mission Board (SBC)*. Many cultures have a high regard for group decision-making. Moving from Bible translation work to oral storytelling, Jose and Isabel witnessed the N people—an oral culture—make a unanimous group decision to follow Jesus. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/research.php/886/01-2008.

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Lausanne Regional Reports: An Overview by Lindsay Brown, *international director for Lausanne, and Naomi Frizzell, director of communications for Lausanne*. In 2008, LWP will offer a series of articles from Lausanne's twelve International Deputy Directors that will provide a closer look at each region of the world. The goal for these articles is twofold: (1) to offer encouragement as leaders share their perspectives and offer stories of perseverance in the face of extraordinary obstacles and (2) to educate leaders about challenges faced by fellow Christians so that we can pray in a more informed manner and respond in appropriate ways to the needs presented.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/890/01-2008

New African Enterprise Centre for Urban Mission and Evangelism in South Africa by John V. Tooke, *program director for the African Enterprise Leadership Training Center*. One of the visions of African Enterprise founder Michael Cassidy has been solid training for pastors in evangelism and missions. This vision has resulted in the creation of the Centre for Urban Mission and Evangelism in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/881/01-2008

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