

### [NEWS BRIEFS \(www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/07-2008\)](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/07-2008)

#### **AROUND THE WORLD: World Vision International President to Retire in 2010**

World Vision International president Dean Hirsch will retire in September 2010. The organization has seen its revenue grow from 550 million USD to 2.4 billion USD under Hirsch, who has also made public advocacy an integral part of WVI's work and mounted major campaigns responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the Asian tsunami, child mortality and malnutrition, and the recent food crisis. (World Vision International)

#### **AROUND THE WORLD: NIV Bible Version Available for Download to Cell Phone**

First published in 1979, the New International Version (NIV) is currently the most popular English Bible translation in the world. Now the NIV will be downloadable to cell phones thanks to a partnership between Ecumen, a company that provides downloadable Christian content, and United Kingdom Christian publisher, Hodder and Stoughton. Cost to download is approximately 15USD. (ASSIST News)

#### **AZERBAIJAN: Global Advance Conference Well Received**

Global Advance recently held a well-received Frontline Shepherds Conference in Azerbaijan. This is the second conference GA has held in the country. Enthusiastic church leaders have asked the GA team to return in the future, saying the training received accurately addressed their needs. Outside of the Russian Orthodox Church, there are approximately ten thousand active Christians in this country of over eight million people. (Global Advance)

#### **BELARUS: Belarusians Seek Help from EU in Struggle for Religious Freedom**

Belarusians recently presented a petition, which calls for the revision of a 2002 law restricting religious freedom, to European Parliament president Hans-Gert Pöttering. An additional petition was filed asking the European Union to take action on the issue of religious freedom in Belarus. (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

#### **COLOMBIA: Christians Meet with Left-Wing Rebels Over Church Closures**

Open Doors International recently met with Columbian left-wing rebels to discuss the closure of more than 130 churches in the country as well as death threats against Columbian Christians. Both left-wing rebels and right-wing paramilitaries have forced church closures. Commanders of the left-wing Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) can order Christians put to death for violating rebel orders. FARC rules prohibit preaching against violence. Ongoing conflict in Columbia has killed an estimated forty thousand people in the last decade alone. (Bos News Life)

#### **INDIA: Five Thousand Tribal People Attend Rural Convention**

Five thousand people from various tribes gathered in rural Maharashtra, India, for Christian fellowship and worship. The 2-day conference, which was organized by native missionaries from Gospel for Asia, witnessed attendees traveling by foot and other simple means in order to reach its location about thirty kilometers from the nearest town. (Gospel for Asia)

#### **LATIN AMERICA: WEA Theological Commission Deepens Latin American Connections**

The World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission furthered connections with Latin America during an extensive tour by its executive director, Dr. David Parker. The tour covered five countries: Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Peru, and Guatemala, and included visits to seminaries and universities, and meetings with theological groups. Planning to hold its annual meeting in Latin America in 2009, the TC also hopes to appoint a Spanish-speaking theologian to its top board. (World Evangelical Alliance)

#### **MYANMAR: GFA Aid Received in Yangon**

Gospel for Asia's first shipment of relief supplies was received by the GFA/Believers Church in Myanmar. Despite

media reports of aid supplies being diverted, GFA has assurances that shipments will reach the victims. The Myanmar government has also granted permission for GFA to open medical clinics in its four hundred churches within the country. Storm toll estimates vary from 78,000 to 127,000 dead and as many as 2.5 million people left homeless. GFA's five hundred native missionaries in Myanmar will continue to serve victims long term. (Gospel for Asia)

**PHILIPPINES: Fast-Growing Church Ministers to Filipinos at Home and Abroad**

Founded in 1981, the Free Believers in Christ Fellowship, one of the fastest-growing evangelical churches in the Philippines, now reaches into China, Hong Kong, North America, Europe, and the Middle East. FBCF's founder, Bishop Moses Chungalao, and assistant senior pastor William Guzman, say that rather than proselytizing, the church's growth can be attributed to the working of the Holy Spirit, responding to invitations people make to hear the gospel and passionate examples of service to God. (Ecumenical News International)

**SUDAN: Border Area Taken by Northern Forces**

Northern Sudanese troops have taken control of Abeyi, an oil-rich border area of conflict between Khartoum government forces (SAF) and the Southern Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army. This takeover is in direct violation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and South. Indications are that ninety percent of homes in the area were burned down and thousands of people have been displaced. (International Christian Concern)

**UNITED KINGDOM: UK Celebrates Global Day of Prayer**

As one of at least 201 nations participating, the UK marked the fourth annual Global Day of Prayer on Pentecost Sunday with events in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Under the theme "Your Kingdom Come, on Earth as in Heaven," thousands of Christians of all denominations and traditions gathered in London's Millwall Stadium, praying particularly for communities plagued by violent crime. (ASSIST News)

**UNITED STATES: World Mission Centre Launches Arabic Translation of Live School**

In March 2008, the World Mission Centre introduced the Arabic translation of its Live School curriculum, a practical training tool used to equip indigenous people for the task of spreading the gospel. After a presentation with three hundred Arab church leaders attending, WMC was inundated with requests for Live School course sets. The next scheduled Live School translation will be into Swahili. (Live School)

**UNITED STATES: Leaders of Homeless Missions Gather Together**

The Association of Gospel Rescue Missions held its 95th annual convention in Dallas, Texas, with approximately 650 rescue mission leaders attending. The conference addressed the latest methods in providing care for hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted individuals. Founded in 1913, AGRM represents about three hundred rescue missions, collectively working in areas of rehabilitation, education, job training, and life skills programming. (Association of Gospel Rescue Missions)

**ZIMBABWE: Open-Air Prayer Meetings Banned**

As Zimbabwe faces waves of politically-motivated violence, police have imposed a ban on open-air prayer meetings in parts of the country. Churches in Bulawayo, a coalition of churches in the nation's second largest city, reports open prayer meetings may only take place on church premises. Groups such as Churches in Bulawayo and the YWCA are providing shelter for families displaced by violence. (Ecumenical News International)

**PUBLISHER'S MEMO**

**Migration and Evangelism** by *Lon Allison, co-publisher of LWP*. Evangelizing is not just done by "going" to distant places and reaching other ethnic communities. As the world becomes increasingly flat and people groups migrate, we must ask how churches, which by and large don't reach those most like them, will reach those of different ethnicities. Although it is a challenge, it can be—and is being—done brilliantly. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/07-2008)

**THEMED ARTICLES: THE NEXT GENERATION: THE EFFECT OF MIGRATION AND THE GROWING DIASPORA ON EVANGELISM EFFORTS**

**Migration, Diaspora Communities, and the New Missionary Encounter with Western Society** by *Jehu J. Hanciles*, a native of Sierra Leone and director of the Global Research Institute at Fuller Theological Seminary. In the same way that unprecedented European migrations from Christianity's old heartland provided the impetus for the European missionary movement, phenomenal migrations from Christianity's new heartlands (in Africa, Latin America, and Asia) have galvanized a massive non-Western missionary movement. Hanciles gives a glimpse of what non-Western Christian immigrants are doing in Europe and the United States—and reasons why these immigrants and new communities are important to world evangelization. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/975/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/975/07-2008)

**African-Led Christianity in Europe: Migration and Diaspora Evangelism** by *Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu*, dean and associate professor of religion and Pentecostal theology at Trinity Theological Seminary in Legon, Ghana. In African hands, mission and evangelization have truly gone international and African diaspora Christianity is at the forefront of the new initiatives. After an overview of the variety of African-led churches in Europe, Asamoah-Gyadu offers five reasons why the ministries of immigrant churches are serving the purposes of the Spirit in the work of renewal and mission. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/973/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/973/07-2008)

**New Religions, Subjective Life Spiritualities, and the Challenge to Missions in the Post-Christian West** by *John Morehead*, director of the Western Institute for Intercultural Studies. Morehead explains that one of the greatest challenges the Church faces in the modern Western context is the general turn away from interest in and involvement with institutionalized forms of religion, such as Christianity, and the corresponding move toward an inward and subjective expression of spirituality. He offers options for engagement with these types of people and a look at the development of missions models to new religions and Western subjective life spiritualities. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/970/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/970/07-2008)

**Getting Ready to Receive? German Churches and the "New Mission" from the South** by *Claudia Währisch-Oblau*, pastor of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland in Germany. While outwardly many people have come to Germany as refugees or economic migrants, many really see themselves as missionaries brought there by the Holy Spirit. These churches make up a "reverse mission" movement. In general, evangelicals have been more welcoming to migrant missionaries than mainline Protestants. Nevertheless, Protestant churches have begun to assist missionary migrant churches in certain ways. However, to overcome certain obstacles, Währisch-Oblau says three next steps need to happen: dialogue, considering the political dimension, and taking into account ecclesiological questions. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/971/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/971/07-2008)

## PERSPECTIVES

**MANI Southern Africa 2008 Consultation: "Working Together to Finish the Task"** by *Reuben E. Ezemadu and Dean Carlson*, continental coordinator of MANI and facilitator of MANI SA 08, respectively. In February 2008, official delegations from thirteen nations in southern and Portuguese-speaking Africa converged in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the MANI SA 08 Consultation. United by the theme, "Working Together to Finish the Task," MANI SA 08 encouraged leaders from nearly two hundred denominations and organizations to celebrate the advance of God's kingdom across the region and to assess the status of the remaining task. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/968/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/968/07-2008)

**From Buddha to Christ: An Interview with Jeab** by *Deborah Colby*, missionary in Bangkok, Thailand. Although raised a Buddhist, Jeab (Jeab) Duksukgaew became a Christian when she was fourteen years old. Now twenty-eight, she works as a translator and secretary at the Greater Grace Church of Bangkok, Thailand, and is in her third year of Bible College. Jeab shares how her life has changed since accepting Christ. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/972/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/972/07-2008)

**Audio Bible Ministry Reaches Amazon Tribes.** Audio Bibles are reaching the farthest corners of the earth and transforming lives in turn. One example is how a mission team presented a pastor in the Brazilian rainforest with the Proclaimer, a self-powered digital playback device that has an Audio New Testament pre-loaded on an embedded microchip. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/967/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/967/07-2008)

## URBAN COMMUNITIES

**Global Sporting Events and the Urban Poor** by Glenn Smith, executive director of Christian Direction. Smith offers an introduction on the issue of poverty in China and the impact the Olympic Games are having on their lives. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/980/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/980/07-2008)

**Urban Poverty and Urban Slums in China** by Peter Foggin, adjunct professor at Lanzhou University in northwestern China. Conservative estimates reveal that China's urban population is now close to forty-five percent of the total number of people in the country. There have traditionally been two classes of urban dwellers: those who have the official city residential permit (the *hukou*) and the more recent arrivals who do not, often referred to as the "floating population"—rural migrants who temporarily move to urban areas, most often living in ghettos filled with people who come from the same province. This is the context through which Christians must see the development of urban "slums" in China. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/977/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/977/07-2008)

**Beijing's Poor and the 2008 Olympic Games** by Y. Lee, a practitioner in Beijing. Since the Olympics were awarded to Beijing in 2001, there has been a boom in construction in the capital of a country that was already rapidly developing and urbanizing. With construction of the new has come much demolition of the old. In a report, the Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) said that an estimated 1.5 million people have been displaced because of the preparation for the games. Another aspect of the plight of the poor is that of migrant construction workers. Lee discusses both issues. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/978/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/978/07-2008)

**Many Faces of Poverty in China** by Richard and Haruyo Platt, on the team of Christian Direction. Richard Platt looks at four faces of poverty in China: children, migrant workers, street vendors, and taxes and inflation. He also gives examples of what Christians and NGOs are doing to bring hope to those in difficult circumstances. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/979/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/979/07-2008)

## RESEARCH

**Lausanne Fifth International Researchers' Conference Report** by Peter Brierley, Senior Lausanne Associate for Church Research. Sixty-seven delegates representing every continent attended the 5th International Lausanne Researchers' Conference in Melbourne, Australia, 8-12 April 2008. Thirty-three papers, reflecting ongoing research by the different members who attended, were presented. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/research.php/969/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/research.php/969/07-2008)

## LAUSANNE REPORTS

**Evangelism in Southern Asia** by Adrian De Visser, founder and senior pastor of Kithu Sevana Ministries, based in Sri Lanka. The countries in South Asia have the fastest growing churches in the world; however, they also have some of the strongest, most systematic forms of persecution against Christians. Great challenges the Church in Asia faces include: poverty, deprivation, marginalization, civil or military conflicts, rising tides of nationalism, multiple religions, diverse cultures, and hundreds of languages and dialects. According to De Visser, it is time the Church in Asia develops evangelistic strategies which are biblically sound, missiologically-focused, culturally relevant, and sacrificial in love. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/965/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/965/07-2008)

**The People Clusters of Southern Asia** by Justin Long, senior editor for Momentum magazine. South Asia is home to seventy-three people group clusters; however, the "major" thirty-nine groups represent 1.3 billion people in southern Asia. Long gives an overview of the major groups and the smaller clusters. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/966/07-2008](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/966/07-2008)

**August 2008 Theme:** Church Planting and Evangelism

Questions or comments about Lausanne World Pulse may be sent to: [editor@lausanneworldpulse.com](mailto:editor@lausanneworldpulse.com).