

NEWS BRIEFS (www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/844/10-2007)

AROUND THE WORLD: Top Ten Places of Persecution

The top ten places where ethnic and religious minorities are persecuted are: Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Angola and the Russian Federation. (Minority Rights Group International)

AROUND THE WORLD: Leadership Changes for WEA Theological Commission

At the August meeting of the World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission (WEA-TC), several transitions in leadership took place. Among them: Dr. Rolf Hille stepped down from his dual role of chair and executive director to become chair. Dr. David Parker was appointed executive director. Dr. Brian Edgar was appointed vice-chair, replacing Dr. Ken Gnanakan. (World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission)

ASIA AND AFRICA: Asia and Africa Dominate Top Twenty Bible Translation Needs List

Asian and African nations account for three-quarters of the world's top twenty countries with the greatest remaining need for Bible translation. Following are the twenty countries most in need of translation work: Indonesia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, India, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Malaysia, Tanzania, Nepal, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Sudan, Iran, Myanmar, Laos, Chad, Central African Republic, Mexico and Russia. (Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada)

CANADA: IFES Welcomes New General Secretary

At its 2007 World Assembly in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Daniel Bourdagné of Chad became the fourth general secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), succeeding Lindsay Brown. Bourdagné gave the closing World Assembly address in French. Bourdagné also serves as the Lausanne International Deputy Director for Francophone Africa. (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA)

CHINA SAR (Special Administrative Region): Religious Freedom

A year before the opening of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Hong Kong Christian leaders have asked China to grant true religious freedom in the country. "Even though Beijing tried to give the impression it would improve its human rights record, when it was applying to host the 2008 Olympic Games, there was no substantial evidence to show its human rights situation had improved," the Rev. Kwok Nai-Wang, a consultant to the Christian Conference of Asia, said. (Ecumenical News International)

ERITREA: One More Martyrdom

Christians in Eritrea confirmed that 33-year-old Migsti Haile died 5 September 2007, reportedly as a result of torture for refusing to sign a letter recanting her faith. Haile was among a group of ten single Christian women who had been arrested in 2006 at a church gathering in Keren. She spent eighteen months imprisoned under severe pressure. More than two thousand Eritrean Christians remain locked up and subjected to severe torture for their religious beliefs in the nation's jails, police stations and military camps. (Open Doors USA)

FRANCE: Agreed upon Code of Conduct for Christian Conversions

A World Evangelical Alliance theologian says his group, which stresses the importance of the proclamation of the gospel, is ready to support a code of conduct on seeking conversions to Christianity. The code of conduct is being worked on by a group of traditional Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox churches as well as by Roman Catholics. (Ecumenical News International)

HONG KONG: New President for Asian Outreach

After serving as international president for Asian Outreach for twenty-five years, the Rev. Dr. David Wang has transferred the duties to Dr. Francis Tsui. Wang will continue to serve as president emeritus, as a minister-at-large and in a mentoring role. Most recently, Tsui served as vice president, supporter and board member of Asian Outreach. (Asian Outreach)

ROMANIA: The Role of Christianity in Promoting European Unification

European Commission (EU) president José Manuel Barroso has praised the role of Christianity in promoting European unification, and has appealed to religions to strengthen the values on which the unity of the continent is based. "A union that is reduced to its economic and geographic dimensions alone would lack unity," Barroso said. (Ecumenical News International)

SRI LANKA: Churches Ethnically Divided

A senior leader in Sri Lanka's National Christian Council says that even the churches in his conflict-ridden country are ethnically divided and need "to break down the walls of separation." So, he has outlined one way in which this might begin to happen. "If the churches are encouraged to break down the walls of separation in their local communities, they can become the life in their neighborhoods," asserted Peiris, a priest in the (Anglican) Church of Ceylon. (Ecumenical News International)

UNITED KINGDOM: New Executive Director of Churches in Mission for EA

Dr. Krish Kandiah has been named the new executive director of churches in mission for the Evangelical Alliance (EA). Previously, he served as director of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics and tutor in evangelism at Wycliffe Hall. (Evangelical Alliance) Read a June 2006 LWP article by Kandiah at: <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/365/06-2006>.

UNITED STATES: Wesleyan Coalition Strategic Planning Consultation

Approximately forty leaders from three holiness denominations met in August 2007 at the Wesleyan Church World Headquarters, for what is being called the "Wesleyan Coalition Strategic Planning Consultation." General superintendents, general officials and district superintendents from the Wesleyan Church, the Evangelical Church of North America and the Evangelical Methodist Church met in the all-day sessions. (Wesleyan Information Network)

PUBLISHERS MEMO

Reconciliation in World Evangelism *by Doug Birdsall, co-publisher, LWP*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 says that as Christians we are saved and called for the essential work and ministry of reconciliation. We are to work to reconcile: (1) sinners to our compassionate God, (2) warring factions to a community of peace and grace and (3) a broken body to the radiant body of the Church she was called to be. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/833/10-2007

THEMED ARTICLES: RECONCILIATION AND EVANGELISM

What Does Faithful Christian Witness Look Like in a World of Destructive Conflicts? *by Chris Rice, co-director of the Duke Center for Reconciliation.* What are the implications when mission not only takes place on a landscape of destructive conflicts, but when the Christian community itself is often caught up in these conflicts? Although reconciliation is at the core of God's mission, many "ideologies of escape" steer Christians away from faithful witness. To fight against these, we must develop a solid theological framework for peace and a true understanding of reconciliation as the heart of Christian mission. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/838/10-2007

Understanding and Witnessing as a Christian in Baghdad *by the Rev'd Cannon Andrew White, president and CEO of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, chaplain of St. Georges Church*

Baghdad, Anglican/Episcopal chaplain of the International Zone Baghdad and senior advisor in Inter Religious Affairs to the Prime Minister of Iraq. In the midst of war and Christian persecution, believers in Baghdad are boldly sharing the gospel with others through love and prayer. Christian missionaries from outside of Iraq rarely understand what it means to witness in a context filled with violence and oppression. Rev'd Cannon White explains that above all, five things are necessary for the global Church to come alongside the Church in Baghdad: love, prayer, the study of Islam and Arabic, seriously supporting local Christians and expecting miracles. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/851/10-2007

The Reconciliation Journey to and since the 2004 Lausanne Forum by *Dr. Samuel Barkat, executive director of the Institute for Collaborative Engagement.* Since the symbolic foot-washing ceremony between members of the Reconciliation Issue Group at the 2004 Lausanne Forum, the Issue Group participants have committed to accompanying each other on the journey of reconciliation. This has led to their participation and leadership in the Global Network for Reconciliation. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/835/10-2007

The Culture of Peace and Evangelism by *Paulus Widjaja, secretary of the Mennonite World Conference Peace Council.* A look at the early Church, Justin Martyr and Brian McLaren brings clarity to the reality that the Church's mission is ultimately to call Christians equally to both the ministry of proclaiming the good news and to living out the new reality of God's kingdom of peace. Evangelism and reconciliation must go hand in hand in order for the global Church to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/839/10-2007

Remembering Genocide with Hope: Rwanda by *Celestin Musekura, president and founder of African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries, Inc.* A recent conference, conducted by Alarm-Rwanda, sought to bring church leaders together to discuss the Church's role in remembering the 1994 genocide which devastated the country. It was the first occasion in which church leaders together acknowledged the failure of the Church in preventing genocide through its teachings. Visible demonstrations of reconciliation between Hutus and Tutsis were included. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/837/10-2007

Reconciliation in the Middle East by *Lisa Loden, co-founder of the Messianic congregation Beit Asaph in Israel.* The gospel has reached both Israel and the Arab world and today there are vibrant communities of believers in Jesus living among both peoples. Musalaha Ministries is the only faith-based reconciliation ministry in Israel that intentionally involves Arab Christians from the Palestinian territories and Gaza together with Arab Israeli Christians and Messianic Jews. Musalaha brings together people from these different communities in order to deepen understanding and relationship; participants often find themselves facing new challenges that require them to leave their comfort zones. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/828/10-2007

Actions for Peace in Colombia by *Grace Morillo, general secretary of Unidad Cristiana Universitaria in Colombia.* Amidst great humanitarian crisis, war, neo-liberal policies, corruption and deteriorating social conditions, the challenge to lead the Colombian society into peace and reconciliation is huge. Sadly, the majority of the evangelical churches have embraced the dominating view of society, verbally proclaiming victory and peace. However, actions on the part of individuals and churches are creating new hope for peace where it had once been lost. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/829/10-2007

PERSPECTIVES

The Internet Missionary Society of 2020 by *John Edmiston, chair and CEO of the Asian Internet Bible Institute and www.Cybermissions.org.* The coming years of Internet and technology advances will include new ways for Christians to share their faith. Through avatars (online personalities) and information technology, a mission agency could reach tens of millions of inquirers annually with the plan of salvation and then connect them with local churches in their area. The rise in technology will also mean that average users can become sophisticated content creators who can make their own video, audio and text presentations of the gospel. Distance education and TEE (Theological Education by Extension) will be revolutionized and technology will

allow a missionary to inexpensively conduct large-scale training by video while being simultaneously translated into dozens of different languages. Touch interfaces with symbols, voice recognition and improved interface usability will make it easy for non-literates to use technology and to benefit from it.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/831/10-2007

Learning from Ants: The Possibility of Missionary Swarms by Justin Long, manager of *strategicnetwork.org* and senior editor for *Momentum* magazine. After a brief overview of the universal elements and the theories on church planting movements, Long discusses the ten values a “swarming mission” would have. These include: daily living by common purposes, prizing cooperation over command, focusing on rapid reproduction, being rapidly incorporated into work, coming together to form “super colonies,” increasing accountability and more.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/832/10-2007

URBAN COMMUNITIES

The Roma (Gypsy) Community in Bucharest, Romania by Simona Grigore, a worker in the central region of Romania. Generally, the over 180,000 Roma people who reside in Bucharest are barred from acquiring proper housing and restrained from finding job opportunities. The Roma working class, if gainfully employed, are engaged in civic sanitary services, garbage pick-up, street cleaning, restaurant dish washing and other menial services. Sadly, in a city teeming with social disorder, street kids, prostitution, poverty, disability, disease and homeless children and adults, it is rare to find a church with either social or evangelistic outreach. This reserved mentality is more cultural than by design or choice. Throughout the Communist era, and carried forward to this day, the government has recognized and financed only fifteen religious entities. Today, there are a significant number of social programs being carried on by foreign-sponsored, faith-based NGOs.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/840/10-2007

God's Church in Stefanesti by Simona Grigore, a worker in the central region of Romania. Stefanesti, a slum community in Romania, is home to thousands of Roma people. Over the past eight years, God has been using Child Evangelism Fellowship to build his Church among the Roma people.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/841/10-2007

RESEARCH

What Happened to People Group Thinking? by S. Kent Parks, facilitator for Lausanne’s Least Reached Peoples Special Interest Group. What has happened to the momentum to reach the one-quarter of the world who have little or no access to the gospel? Seven key misconceptions have emerged and seem to impede movement forward: great publicity is confused with real progress; “balance” is sought; everyone is a people group; unreached people are “remote,” only “tribal” or only “illiterate” peoples; the goal to engage each UPG is misunderstood as an end goal rather than a first step; an over-balanced “returning mission to the Church” concept; and it is time for the Majority World or the Global South to finish the job.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/research.php/834/10-2007

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Women Who Can Change the World by Elke Werner, Lausanne senior associate for women in evangelism. Werner, the new Lausanne senior associate for women in evangelism, and former senior associate Robyn Claydon invited women in the Lausanne network to Germany for a week of prayer and fellowship in June 2007.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/830/10-2007

November LWP Issue Topic: HIV/AIDS and Holistic Evangelism

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