

September 2009 Executive Summary

[NEWS BRIEFS](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1201), condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1201)

AROUND THE WORLD: Global Media Outreach Reaches a Milestone

For the first time, [Global Media Outreach](#) (GMO) saw over one million people indicate decisions for Jesus Christ in a single month. In June 2009, 1,030,581 people indicated either a first-time decision to follow Jesus or a decision to recommit their lives to Christ through one of more than ninety GMO gospel websites. GMO has seen the number of people indicating decisions for Jesus on their gospel websites triple over the last year. ([Assist News Service](#))

AROUND THE WORLD: Thirty Days of Prayer Focuses on Ramadan

Muslims around the world are in the midst of Ramadan. Islam's holiest month began 22 August 2009. Ramadan is a time when Muslims are encouraged to re-evaluate their lives in light of Islamic guidance. For the eighteenth year in a row, [World Christian's](#) Paul Filidis is asking Christians to pray that many Muslims will come to know Christ during their holiest time of the year. He helped create the [30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus](#). This year, the thirty days occur from 22 August to 20 September. The [30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus](#) is a worldwide prayer effort designed to raise awareness, educate, and mobilize new support and workers to reach out to people groups who practice Islam. ([Mission Network News](#))

CONGO: Wycliffe Moves Quickly to Establish Bible Translation Center

War in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has ravaged the land for the past five years and has left three million dead. Estimates report that almost 1,200 people die each day "from conflict-related causes." In addition, the life expectancy rates are age 45 for men and 48 for women. [Wycliffe Associates](#) realizes this country needs Jesus more than ever and will be constructing a Bible translation center in the city of Bunia in northeastern DRC. Some of the violence has subsided in this region recently, according to Bruce Smith, president and CEO of Wycliffe Associates. The center will be located at Shalom University and will begin translating the Bible into five new languages. This will give 1.6 million people access to the scriptures in their own language for the first time. ([Wycliffe Associates](#))

GAZA: A One Heart Solution

[E3 Partners'](#) Tom Doyle was recently in the Gaza Strip on a short-term mission trip; his team visited Jerusalem, the Hypha area, Tel Aviv, Bethlehem, and the West Bank. In several of the areas they visited, such as Hypha, Jews and Arabs live together peacefully. Doyle said while Palestinians are often associated with terrorists, many just want peace. "The majority of the Palestinians that we know would love for there to be a peace. They really don't want to fight Israel," said Doyle. E3 Partners sees this as an open door to share with the Jews and Arabs in the region the inner peace Jesus gives. ([Mission Network News](#))

MOLDOVA: Donated Cancer Medicines Help the Poor

The [National Cancer Coalition](#) and German nonprofit [HFK Krebsallianz](#) recently donated \$130,000USD in cancer-fighting drugs to [Medical Teams International](#). These medications arrived in Moldova earlier this month and are already helping patients who cannot afford cancer treatments. This donation will benefit an estimated 150 children and adults seeking care at Moldova's largest cancer hospital. According to the United Nations, Moldova is the poorest country in Eastern Europe, with most families earning less than \$2,200EU per year. ([Medical Teams International](#))

PAKISTAN: Believers in Pakistan Urge Prayer

Christians in Pakistan invited believers around the world to join them in prayer for their nation and for the blasphemy laws to be repealed, according to [Voice of the Martyrs](#) (VOM) contacts. More than 575 pastors from different churches in Pakistan agreed to observe 26 July as a day of prayer for persecuted believers. Christians also ran a petition aimed at repealing the blasphemy laws that have led to the arrest of many believers. ([Voice of the Martyrs](#))

RWANDA: On the Road to Healing, Festival Draws Thousands

Fifteen years after the 1994 genocide that killed an estimated one million people in one hundred days, the people of Rwanda continue the hard work of healing and restoration, laying the groundwork for a strong future. Through Kigali Festival with Andrew Palau on 17-18 July 2009, and the festival's preceding Season of Service, hope and good news were offered in abundance. With attendance estimated at more than seventy thousand people, the evangelist's two-day festival was held on the Amahoro National Stadium grounds in Rwanda's capital city. Another three thousand people attended separate events for women, government, business, and civic leaders, and prisoners at Kigali Central Prison. More than five thousand people made public decisions for Jesus Christ. ([Andrew Palau](#))

VIETNAM: Violence Escalates, Church Property Confiscated

Catholics carried out mass demonstrations in Vietnam the week of 30 July 2009 against a violent police clampdown on a protest over a disputed site. Among the casualties was a priest who was beaten and thrown from the second floor of a hospital by gangs allegedly acting on police instructions. It was reported that armed police attacked a group of priests and lay people as they tried to erect a cross and altar at the ruins of Tam Toa Church in the coastal city of Dong Hoi. Police reportedly used stun guns, tear gas, and batons. On 26 July, Father Paul Dinh Phu Nguyen was attacked by a mob, including plain-clothed police, on his way to celebrate mass at Tam Toa. He was later visited in the hospital by Father Peter Nguyen The Binh, who was attacked by a gang and thrown from an upstairs window of the hospital. ([Christian Solidarity Worldwide](#))

UNITED KINGDOM: Soul Survivor Keeps Growing

July and August saw the seventeenth year of the growing U.K.-based youth movement, [Soul Survivor](#). Soul Survivor grew out of an Anglican church, St. Andrew's Chorleywood, which was equipping Christians to move in the power of the Holy Spirit through the [New Wine](#) family conferences. Because of significant growth in youth work at New Wine, leaders felt that something separate was needed for young people. So in 1993, Soul Survivor launched its first annual five-day conference in Shepton Mallet, Somerset in southwest England. This first event hosted just fewer than two thousand people, and the number of delegates has grown every year since. In 2008 approximately twenty-eight thousand people participated. Currently, six international Soul Survivor centers around the world share the movement's vision and values. ([Assist News Service](#))

UNITED STATES: Audio Bible Ministry Targets the Many Languages of Texas

[Faith Comes By Hearing](#) (FCBH) has been asked by the [Baptist General Convention of Texas](#) (BGCT) to provide audio Bibles for the Texas Hope 2010 campaign. Texas Hope 2010 is a BGCT outreach to more than 8.8 million homes in Texas. ([Faith Comes By Hearing](#))

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Advancing Scripture Translation by *Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP*. As far as we have come technologically from the 1960s, languages and their translation, with all their great variety and nuances, continue to be a tremendous hurdle to overcome. Many languages in Africa, Western Asia, and Southeast Asia do not have translations of the full Bible. Sadly, the lowest scripture translation availability is found in countries of Western Asia and North Africa—countries which are predominantly Muslim. Languages used by populations with very small Christian populations have an urgent need for scripture translation. There is also great need to reach the remote areas of the world, as they are the least touched by the advances of technology. MP3 downloads, podcasts, and Bibles in SMS format for mobile communication have served well those in urban areas with access to the Internet; however, they have not reached many of those in the Majority World. More and more, we are recognizing that Bible translation cannot lie in the hands of the global North, but rather it is a task for the global Church. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1200

THEMED ARTICLES: ADVANCING SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

Advancing Bible Translation for Non-Reading Audiences by *Viggo Sjøgaard, senior professor of communication at Fuller School of Intercultural Studies*. A strategy for “distributing” scripture to non-literates needs to be substantially different from the approaches used when distributing printed scripture. Active participation of the person in the process is necessary if effective communication of the message is to take place. The primary question is not which technique we should use, but rather the underlying philosophy or attitudes which we have toward non-literates. Recent calls for holistic involvement and engagement material are of extreme importance for agencies that aim to fulfill their mandate

of reaching all people. Søgaaard discusses implications and preparations for audio and video Bible translations.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1196

Advancing Scripture Translation by Empowering Nationals by *Véroni Krüger, founder and president of The Word for the World Bible Translators*. There are numerous advantages to having nationals translate the Bible for their own people. Two keys to successfully empowering nationals for the task of Bible translation are (1) training and (2) ensuring that an adequate number of Bible translation consultants are available.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1199

Bible Translation in History and into the Future by *Phil Noss, a consultant with the Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship with the American Bible Society*. Noss looks at the history of Bible translation—from the time of Christ, to the New Testament period, to the Reformation, to the missionary era, through today, and into the future. In the “translated church” not only are the words of the Bible translated, but concepts as well. In each community, when the Word of God enters the speech form of a people, it enters their culture.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1197

The Future of Scripture Translation by *Bryan Harmelink, international translation coordinator for SIL International*. As the author envisions the future of Bible translation, he sees: (1) more translation being carried out by teams that are representative of the complexion of the global Church, (2) an increased number of revisions of already existing translations, (3) a previously-thought-impossible number of consultants from diverse regions of the world working across the globe, and (4) unprecedented access to the Bible through a variety of media and mobile devices, some of which are not even in use or available today. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1198

PERSPECTIVES

Gaining Spiritual Sight: A Continuous Process by *Dana Ryan, part of International Bible Church and a volunteer with International Students Incorporated in Tempe, Arizona*. Working through obstacles in leading people to faith in Jesus is an important part of the witnessing journey. The author shares personal stories of what ministry and evangelism looks like among people who come from different starting points.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1189

Personal Renewal by *Marguerite Evans, national coordinator for Catch the Fire Ministries USA*. To live in a place of personal renewal, we first need to look at the issues of the heart which block renewal, Evans writes. We need to get rid of the things in the way of relationship and allow the Father’s love to transform our lives. When we let the Father’s love change us, we begin to know who we are in him, just by taking time to be with the one who created us.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1195

A Glance at Religions around the World. The least-evangelized groups of people with the highest populations in the world still get the least number of missionaries. Over twenty-seven percent of the world’s population is part of people groups who have no or very little access to the gospel. This article includes information on the top ten religions in the world, including details on number of followers, founder, view of God and the afterlife, and means to God.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1193

URBAN COMMUNITIES

Contemporary Paradigms in Urban Mission: A Case Study from Lima, Peru by *Israel Mandujano, assistant professor at the School of Religion, Education and Intercultural Studies–NLA in Bergen, Norway*. The author presents conditioning factors that might have contributed to the current and meaningful membership growth over the last thirty years in one of the evangelical Christian churches in Peru. These include the view of salvation and Christology, the Holy Spirit’s role, participation of Christians in ministry, generosity, and sacrifice, among others.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/1194

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Europe Today by *Ksenija Sabo, a respected Bible teacher in Serbia*. Delegates of twenty-two countries took part in Hope for Europe's Women in Leadership conference in Slovakia. Topics such as family relationships, human trafficking, and freedom of religion were discussed. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1186

October/November 2009 Theme: The Gospel in Oral Tradition

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