

### NEWS BRIEFS

**Canada.** The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has established the Centre for Research and Canadian Evangelicalism in order to enhance the effectiveness of ministry carried out by evangelicals in Canada and shed light on the character and role of evangelicalism in Canada. The Centre will engage in research and research partnerships, and will publish the results in an online publication called *Church & Faith Trends*. The Centre will also act as a clearinghouse and portal for external research on Canadian evangelicalism. (Evangelical Fellowship of Canada)

**China.** For decades, the Chinese government has been denying the true extent of Chinese Christianity. However, China Aid Association recently reported that Yie Xiaowen, director of the Chinese State Administration for Religious Affairs, said that the number of Christians in China has reached 130 million (ten percent of the population). The vast majority of China's Christians are Protestants who worship mostly in unregistered house churches. (ASSIST News Service)

**India.** A Christian council in India has appealed to the governor of the state of Andhra Pradesh to halt legislation that would ban non-Hindu religious activity around the Hindu temple town of Tirupati. "This order is in total violation of both the letter and spirit of the Indian constitution," the Global Council of Indian Christians said in its appeal to the governor, Rameshwar Thakur. The council said the legislation to ban all religious activity except that connected to Hinduism around the shrine of Tirumala is "likely to be misused to harass the adherents of other faiths who happen to be the residents of the temple town." (Ecumenical News International)

**Malaysia.** Representatives of Dusun-speaking churches attended the recent dedication of the revised Dusun Bible. Dusun is one of the main indigenous languages in the province of Sabah, northern Borneo. The first edition of the Bible in this language was launched in 1990. In response to feedback from Dusun pastors, the Bible Society of Malaysia implemented some revisions. Many local Christians will have an opportunity to obtain their own copy of the revised Dusun Bible when leaders visit Dusun-speaking churches in smaller towns around Kota Kinabalu. (United Bible Societies)

**Rwanda.** Three years ago, Antoine Rutayisire, African Enterprise Rwandan team leader, received a copy of *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. After reading it, he decided the Rwandan people should have the privilege of reading it in Kinyarwanda, their native language. He recently finished the translation. The intention was not only to turn the churches of Rwanda into "purpose driven churches" but to turn the whole nation into a "purpose driven nation." In fact, Rwandan president Paul Kagame invited Rutayisire "to help turn Rwanda into a purpose driven nation." (African Enterprise)

**United Kingdom.** Hundreds of United Kingdom churches are expected to hold Micah Sunday 07 events this fall. Micah Sunday is an annual event which aims to galvanize the international Church family to act on behalf of the world's poorest people. The theme in the UK is HIV and AIDS. According to Andy Clasper, executive director of Micah Challenge UK, "Micah Sunday 07 will be a chance for us to look again at God's heart for the poor and to remind ourselves that when the Church family stands up and speaks out in support of the poor, it makes a difference." (Micah Challenge UK)

**United States.** Representing more than thirty countries around the world, some 102,000 people gathered 3-5 August 2007 in Anaheim, California, USA, for the annual Southern California Harvest Crusade with Greg Laurie. Over the course of the weekend, 9,521 people made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Another 32,959

people watched the Harvest Crusade virtually over the Internet. A Harvest Crusade blog gave readers up-to-the-minute information about the crusades and gave opportunity to post feedback. (ASSIST News Service)

**United States.** Christians continue to be martyred abroad, but few American believers are aware of how pervasive religious persecution is around the world. "Christians in this nation don't realize how fortunate they are to live in the US," observes Jim Jacobson, president of Christian Freedom International. Jacobson cites examples from Afghanistan, Turkey, India, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, China, Iraq and more. American Christians "belong to an international fellowship of believers," explains Jacobson, and "have an obligation to care for their brethren around the world." (Christian Newswire)

### PUBLISHERS MEMO

**The Poor, the Needy and the Hope of Heaven** by *Lon Allison, co-publisher, LWP*. God speaking through the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 22:16) tells us that defending the poor and needy is what it means to know him. This work of mercy and justice may distinguish the Church more than anything else from every other institution. There is little "pay back" that comes from mercy ministry. And yet we must do it, Allison says. Why? Because every human being is made in the *imago dei*, the image of God, and creation is created by God. We are therefore brothers to all, and stewards of the world in which people dwell, he affirms.  
<http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/813/09-2007>

### ARTICLES

#### UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE

**Christ's Compassion for the Least** by *Joni Eareckson Tada, Joni and Friends International Disability Center*. Only five to ten percent of the world's 600 million disabled people are effectively being reached with the gospel. This makes the disability community one of the largest unreached or hidden people groups in the world. Disabled people in most parts of the world live in crushing poverty and isolation. They lack simple mobility and are often hidden away because of fear and prejudice. In most Western nations, abortion, infanticide and euthanasia are seen as disability-prevention strategies. The Church has the opportunity to lead the way in serving and becoming a loving, healing community to this population. Tada gives nine personal guidelines to follow when encountering a disabled person or his or her family. She also highlights at least three models churches can use to show the compassion of Christ to disabled people.  
<http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/811/09-2007>

**Reducing Poverty, Not the Poor** by *Chris Heuertz, Word Made Flesh*. In a highly stratified, over-categorized, globalized world, Christians have yet to take significant steps in reducing poverty. Christians have, however, taken great strides in reducing the victims of our disobedience to the command found in Deuteronomy 15 to those we refer to as "the poor." The power of naming is a tool used in society to control the victims of poverty. Terms and names such as beggars, street kids, squatters, bums, rag-pickers and hookers have become tools that further the dehumanizing process of marginalization. As Christians, we need to move away from the place where our attempts at compassionate ministries degrade poor people by turning them into beneficiaries, and we must embrace poor persons in relationships that affirm their identity and dignity, Heuertz writes. One organization which is doing this is Word Made Flesh, a community who have given themselves to serving Jesus among the poorest of the poor. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/812/09-2007>

**The Least of These** by *Alan Andrews, The Navigators*. God treats the poor and needy with marvelous dignity and respect, but he does more than merely love them. He attempts to lift them up. God in Jesus Christ became poor for us, says 2 Corinthians 8:9. Jesus' poverty must not be spiritualized. The more we are among the poor, the more we love the poor, Andrews says. For most of God's people, developing a heart for the poor is cultivated by being among the poor. One of the tragedies of the Body of Christ is that many have justified their lack of involvement with the poor by simply saying, "I'm not called to serve the poor." We are all called to

serve among the poor in some way, according to Andrews. It is in the very DNA of the Kingdom of God.  
<http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/810/09-2007>

**Helping Hurting People Around the World** by *Hannah Olonade, WOGIN*. In Africa, where women are often “to be seen and not heard,” Women of God International (WOGIN) is seeing God raise up more women to serve in leadership responsibilities both in the Church and elsewhere. WOGIN’s mission is to serve women through prayer, evangelism, edification, teaching, social concerns and leadership events so that they in turn will serve the Body of Christ at the local church and across cultures. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/808/09-2007>

## PERSPECTIVES

**Migrant Workers: The Responsive Wave** by *Bryan Galloway (IMB-SBC) and Jessie Rushing*. It is estimated that migrant workers and their families total around 120 million worldwide. Asian Pacific countries house over twelve million migrant workers, a number which shows steady increase. Many Asia Pacific countries depend upon migrant workers to supplement their indigenous workforce if economic growth targets are to be achieved and if they are to maintain their international competitiveness and strategic position globally. Many migrant workers believe they will find a better life. Many are disappointed. However, during this period of transition and loss of roots, many migrants are open to hearing the gospel. Cross-cultural workers and nationals are creatively using this unique opportunity to minister to this people group. Their desire is that migrant worker converts will take the message of Christ back to their homeland. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/792/09-2007>

**Using Mass Media to Flood South Africa** by *Val Pauquet, The Mass Media Project*. The Mass Media Project and HEARTLINES is seeking to move people from professed values such as trust, compassion and forgiveness to lived values, as a way of addressing some of the key issues (such as crime, poverty, corruption and HIV/AIDS) that the South African society faces. Nationwide, seventy-nine percent of the population professes to be Christians; over ninety percent adhere to various religious affiliations; and ninety-five percent claim to believe in very positive values. Evidence based on the high crime rate, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other social ills suggests that there is a huge gap between lived and professed values. The Church was the perfect vehicle to spearhead the HEARTLINES values’ project. Eight films depicting the values of acceptance, compassion, honesty, forgiveness, responsibility, perseverance, self-control and second-chances (grace) were produced. Each one was the backdrop of a home-grown story in multiple languages with which every South African could identify. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/814/09-2007>

**Hope 08** by *Roy Crowne, YFC Britain*. Based on three realities of God working in the United Kingdom (he is committing the Church to word and deed mission; he is bringing different denominations together; and he is asking Christians to take huge steps of faith), Hope 08 was founded. Hope 08, to be held throughout 2008, will be a grassroots movement, with the UK Church coming together to build on existing work local churches and missions are doing, launch new initiatives and raise the bar to reach thousands more in the name of Jesus. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/807/09-2007>

**Learning from Ants** by *Justin Long, Momentum magazine*. A closer look at ants reveals a trait called swarm intelligence which may benefit the missions community. There are six characteristics of swarm intelligence (defined as “the study of the collective behavior of decentralized, self-organized systems”): decentralized control, a vision for only the immediate surroundings, the ability to change the environment, the need to capitalize on randomness, flexibility and endurance. There are two major examples of swarm intelligence in the human realm: Skype and the VISA credit card. Can we use this type of intelligence in missions as well? <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/815/09-2007>

## URBAN COMMUNITIES

**Introduction on Series on Ministry with Slum Communities** by *Glenn Smith, Christian Direction*. Beginning this month, Lausanne World Pulse begins a year-long focus on urban slum ministry around the world. You will

hear from practitioners and missionaries from twelve different communities. We begin with some definitions, numbers and resources. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/816/09-2007>

**Cite Du Peuple—Cap-Haitien, Haiti** by Glenn Smith, *Christian Direction*. More than eighty percent of urban dwellers in Haiti live in absolute poverty. The causes are: extensive unemployment and underemployment; inadequate and unaffordable housing; and inadequate municipal infrastructure. Automobile emissions, open waste and persistent use of charcoal continue to make ecological concerns a large preoccupation of non-governmental agencies involved in transformative community development in cities. Along with these come missiological issues such as: the role of cities, the concept of space, the nature of evil and the role of the conscience. No authentic mission encounter with cultures of poverty will transform cities unless these biblical realities are translated into fresh actions. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/817/09-2007>

**Theology of Place and the “Bethel” in Cite Du Peuple** by Glenn Smith, *Christian Direction*. If God by his Spirit transforms people, is he not interested in the places we live as well? A biblical look at the presence of God and “Bethel” historically and today. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/818/09-2007>

### RESEARCH

**“A Northstar for Evangelization Strategy”** by Paul Eshleman, *Campus Crusade for Christ*. There are four critical needs today in world evangelization: understanding the state of world evangelization; clear direction for those in pastoral and leadership positions; a solid biblical foundation based on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment; and a framework for reaching the world for Christ. According to Eshleman, this includes us using: new hearts to love God and to love our neighbor; new hands to work together; new eyes to see the world through a similar lens; and new minds to have God’s wisdom in setting the priority for world evangelization strategy. <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/806/09-2007>

### NEXT MONTH

**October Issue Topic:** Reconciliation and Evangelism

#### **Articles From:**

- **Doug Birdsall**, executive chair of the Lausanne Movement
- **Chris Rice**, co-director of the Center for Reconciliation, Duke Divinity School (North Carolina, USA)
- **Sam Barket**, executive director of the Institute for Collaborative Engagement
- **Lisa Loden**, Global Network of Reconciliation in Israel.
- **Celestin Musekura**, president and founder of African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries, Inc (ALARM, Inc)
- **John Edmiston**, chair and CEO of cybermissions.org
- **Kent Parks**, facilitator for Lausanne’s Least Reached Peoples Special Interest Group
- **Justin Long**, senior editor for Momentum magazine
- And More

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