



June/July 2010 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to:
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1288/06-2010)

ALGERIA: Christians Stand Firm, Meet in Vandalized Church

Even on an ordinary Sunday, it takes courage for Pastor Mustapha's church to meet together. Recently, the church came under direct attack from a mob of local extremists. The gang entered the premises of their Tafat Church in Tizi Ouzou, sixty-two miles east of Algiers, and began destroying the building and its contents. The extremists were interrupted by the police, but later returned, burning everything they could lay their hands on. And yet the Christians are standing firm, even meeting together in their vandalized building. (Open Doors USA)

AROUND THE WORLD: Project Hannah Addresses Plight of Women

On 26 April 2010, TWR announced the release of a newly revitalized, user-friendly website spotlighting ministry efforts to women around the world. Project Hannah offers compassion, encouragement, and hope to suffering women worldwide through prayer, awareness, and radio programming. Project Hannah's popular "Women of Hope" broadcast is aired in fifty-six languages globally." (TWR)

BANGLADESH: Buddhist Extremists Drive Christians Out of Village

Compass Direct News (CDN) reported that four Christian families in southeastern Bangladesh left their village on 2 May 2010 under mounting pressure by Buddhist extremists to give up their faith in Christ. A group of Buddhists, brandishing sticks and bamboo clubs in Jamindhonpara village, began patrolling streets on 30 April to keep the eleven members of the Lotiban Baptist Church from gathering for their weekly prayer meetings. Christians in Jamindhonpara have since fled, taking shelter in another village. (Assist News Service)

CHINA: World Vision Responds to Devastating Earthquake

It's been reported that more than two thousand people have died as a result of a 7.1 magnitude earthquake on 14 April 2010 that rocked Qinghai Province, a remote, mountainous area of western China. Tens of thousands have been left homeless. World Vision aid workers have distributed one thousand boxes of noodles, hygiene kits, and child-friendly kits in Jiegu, where more than eighty percent of the buildings have been damaged or destroyed. (World Vision)

CONGO: Amidst Strife, Gospel Reaches more People

The United Nations plans to begin withdrawal of their peacekeepers from the Democratic Republic of Congo in two months time. There are concerns for the civilians in the Congo's east because of increasing rebel violence. However, Sam Vinton with Grace Ministries International says, "The troubles that have taken place in the Congo, and just the general situation in the country, have made people very open to the gospel." Their 2-year-old evangelism program, "Reaching Congo Students," has seen phenomenal response. The team has taken OneHope's DVD, "The God-Man," into hundreds of rural villages along with evangelism training. So far, over fourteen thousand people have made a profession of faith in Christ. (Mission Network News)

GREECE: Churches Prepare to Provide Relief in Battered Economy

With difficult times ahead for the people of Greece, churches' ecumenical officers met in May 2010 at a gathering organized by the World Council of Churches. The Greek economy is forecast to shrink four percent this year and 2.6 percent in 2011. Unemployment has risen to 11.3 percent, a six-year high. "As a church, we need to bring hope to the people," said Rev. Fr. Gabriel Papanicolaou, an official attending the meeting. "But we also are preparing to supply food, clothes, and other relief items, as well as to care for the needs of the people who lose their jobs and assist them with pastoral and psychological attention." (World Council of Churches)

INDIA: 13-Year-Old Girl Rescued from Brothel

Acting on information given by Indian Rescue Mission (IRM), on 27 April 2010, police in the city of Pune raided a

brothel in the city's Red Light area and rescued a 13-year-old girl, who had been sold, trafficked, and forced into prostitution. James Varghese, founder and president of IRM, said that that an investigation team was initially planning to rescue a 15-year-old girl from a brothel, but during an investigation the previous night, an IRM team member discovered the 13-year-old girl. The girl has now been placed in a government protective home in Pune and the brothel keeper has been arrested in connection with this case. (Indian Rescue Mission)

INDONESIA: Extremists Infiltrate Pluralistic Nation, Upset Religious Harmony

Life is becoming difficult and dangerous for Christians in Indonesia because of outside extremists, the head of a group of churches in the Muslim-majority nation has warned. "For centuries, Muslims and Christians have been living in harmony and have been coexisting peacefully, but agents [from outside] of extremism and uniformity based on Islamic *Shariah* law are threatening the peace and harmony of our country," said the Rev. Gomar Gultom, general secretary of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia. He said that since 2008 Christians have experienced the adverse impact of the influence of "outsiders with Arabic roots and orientation" who have "infiltrated national and local political parties of moderate Muslims" in Indonesia. (Ecumenical News International)

UNITED STATES: Rapid Response Team Deploys following Natural Disaster

In May 2010, after flood waters from the Cumberland River spilled into Nashville, Tennessee, during a record rainstorm that dumped 13.5 inches of rain in two days, the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team (RRT) began making plans to deploy. Several people were killed in the storm, and thousands of homes were damaged. The RRT deployed in coordination with Samaritan's Purse. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Nashville, and especially with those who have lost loved ones in this tragic storm," said Jack Munday, director of the RRT. "At times like this, the survivors of the storm need hope and love, and need to know that they are not forgotten." (Assist News Service)

UZBEKISTAN: Churches Raided, Christians Detained and Questioned

According to Forum 18, on 10 April 2010, eight police officers raided a Protestant church's youth conference held in the village of Baraj in Bostanlyk District of Tashkent Region. Police confiscated the conference program, as well as computer files of seven hymns. Forty-three attendees, including the conference leader and his wife, were taken to Bostanlyk District police station. Two days later, police, tax inspectors, and local officials raided Eternal Life Protestant Church in Tashkent's Yakkasarai District. At the time of the raid, church members were feeding homeless people. Authorities complained that church members were conducting activity "not according to their (registered) charter." After questioning those present, the police detained the pastor's assistant and several other church members. All were freed after questioning. (Assist News Service)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Goal: Creatively Integrate Evolving Technologies by Doug Birdsall, executive chair of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. The challenge in evangelism now lies in how we can best utilize the different mediums effectively, especially in bridging the gap between those who have access to improved technologies and those who do not. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1289/06-2010

THEMED ARTICLES: TECHNOLOGY: IS IT CHANGING MISSIONS?

How Technology Is Changing, or Should Change, the Way the Gospel Is Shared by Dion Forster, chaplain to the Global Day of Prayer and the Power Group of companies in Cape Town, South Africa. Social media and networking are challenging us to transform the way in which we engage the world with the love of Jesus. It is important to remember that geography is playing less of a formative role in the identity of emerging generations. Thus, simply knowing the location of the population is not enough for truly effective evangelism and missions. We need to "listen" to the emerging language Internet social platforms are generating. Just as earlier shifts in the gospel required a change in language, so this new shift will require the emergence of a new language through which the gospel is communicated. Forster includes lessons we are learning from social networking tools and platforms. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1297/06-2010

The Inseparable Bond of Technology & Mission by Nick Nicholaou, president of MBS, a consulting firm specializing in church and ministry computer networks, operational policies, and CPA services. The trends of text messaging and Twitter point in the direction of things to come—namely, mobile computing. What does this mean for

the Church and how it fulfills its mission? Nicholaou offers three answers.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1298/06-2010

Ten Ways the Internet Is Changing Evangelism and Missions by John Edmiston, chairman and CEO of the Asian Internet Bible Institute. Within five years, at least half the globe should be online; within fifteen years, Internet reach should be almost universal. The changes are not only quantitative, they are also qualitative. The very nature and dynamic of Christian ministry are being fundamentally altered due to the new possibilities for relationship, connectivity, and information delivery that the Internet has brought about. The very heart of how we minister is being changed forever in at least ten significant areas. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1296/06-2010

The 21st Century Roman Road: How Technology Is Changing Missions by Troy Carl, national director of Faith Comes By Hearing. The author gives an overview of the 21st-century “Roman road” of using Internet/mobile technology to reach people otherwise unreachable. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1295/06-2010

The Challenge of Keeping Up with Technology for Ministry by Robby Richardson, executive director of the Internet Evangelism Network and a local pastor in Michigan (USA). With the dramatic changes in how younger generations use technology, the Church needs “pioneer missionaries” who understand the culture and can use current media and technology to effectively communicate the gospel.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1294/06-2010

PERSPECTIVES

Glocal Evangelism: Jesus Christ, Magdalena, and Damascus in Greater Toronto Area by Sadiri Joy Tira, senior associate for diasporas for Lausanne and international coordinator of the Filipino International Network. The author shares how three evangelistic films—The Jesus film, Magdalena, and Damascus—are being used in evangelism and how this type of outreach can reach segments of society where the traditional church cannot go.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1291/06-2010

Beyond Basic Evangelism: Pentecostals and a Broadened Lausanne Evangelistic Agenda, Part One by Grant McClung, president of Missions Resource Group. Not only is a broadened evangelistic agenda faithful to the witness of scripture, but it is in harmony with The Lausanne Covenant and The Manila Manifesto. Biblical evangelism, in fact, includes eight characteristics, the first four which are listed in Part One. Evangelism is experiential, exegetical, expressive, and includes confrontation. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1292/06-2010

Beyond Basic Evangelism: Pentecostals and a Broadened Lausanne Evangelistic Agenda, Part Two by Grant McClung, president of Missions Resource Group. In Part Two, McClung details characteristic five through eight of biblical evangelism. It is eschatologically urgent, ecologically active, egalitarian in recruitment and leadership, and ecumenically interdependent. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1293/06-2010

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Leadership Profile: Marli Spieker. Marli Spieker, a Brazilian, is global ministry director and founder of Project Hannah. Here she discusses her passions, motivations, and hopes for women around the world.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadership_profiles.php/1290/06-2010

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Ephesians Expositors Meet in Cairo by Lindsay Olesberg, Lausanne Cape Town 2010 Plenary 1 coordinator. This past February the Lausanne Cape Town 2010 expositors team spent fifteen hours in Cairo working through Ephesians as it relates to the global evangelical Church. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1299/06-2010

August 2010 Theme: Living Acts 9:16 in Today's World

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