

### [NEWS BRIEFS \(www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/11-2007\)](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/11-2007)

**AROUND THE WORLD: WEA Joins with TOPIC.** The World Evangelical Alliance announced it will work closely with TOPIC (Trainers of Pastors International Coalition) as global partners in their common commitment to pastoral ministry. According to Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, head of WEA, “The local church is God’s instrument of transformation in a community. Obviously, pastors are the key in helping churches fulfill this vision. Training is needed but not often times available.” (World Evangelical Alliance)

**AUSTRALIA: Highest Court of Anglican Church Clears Way for Women Bishops.** A decision by the highest court of the Anglican Church of Australia has cleared the way for women to become bishops. The decision has been met with mixed reaction. (Ecumenical News International)

**CHINA: Survey Shows Fewer Protestant Christians than Previously Thought.** According to a recent survey done by China Partner, there are likely fewer Protestant Christians in China than previously thought—thirty-nine million compared to the often used “100-130 million.” China Partner sent teams to all but one of the thirty-one provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China. Over a 13-month period, the teams interviewed 5,430 people ranging in age from 16-92 from a wide variety of occupations. (Assist News Service)

**DENMARK: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark Enters Second Life.** The Copenhagen diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark has taken the denomination into cyberspace through the web-based virtual world called “SecondLife.” On this site, the online church can be found on the island of “Danmark.” Its priest, an “avatar” (online 3D representation) called Pellegrina, is a priest in real life as well. (Ecumenical News International)

**GAZA STRIP: Prominent Christian Murdered.** Rami Khader Ayyad, director of the Gaza Strip’s only all-Christian bookstore, was found stabbed to death 7 October 2007 in what appears to have been an act of Muslim aggression. For months, Ayyad had been receiving death threats from local Muslims who accused him of spreading the gospel. Ayyad ran the Teacher’s Bookshop, a ministry of the Palestinian Bible Society and the Gaza Baptist Church. (Assist News Service)

**IRAQ: WCC Warns of Christian Exodus in Iraq.** The World Council of Churches has warned of an exodus by the small Christian community of Iraq and said the country’s leaders and foreign governments need to install the rule of law and restore a multi-cultural balance in society. “The flight of Christians from Iraq is a sign of the failure of policies that were purported to bring stability and peace to Iraq and even the region,” said the WCC. (Ecumenical News International)

**LATIN AMERICA: LAM Appoints Interim President.** Veteran missionary Jack Voelkel has been appointed interim president of Latin America Mission. He replaces David Befus. Voelkel served with LAM from 1965 to 2000 before moving to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship to help with the Urbana Student Mission Conventions. Voelkel will be working to continue various projects of LAM throughout Latin America and representing the mission before churches and agencies in North America. (Assist News Service)

**NORTH AMERICA: IFMA Changes Its Name to CrossGlobal Link.** The Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association of North America has changed its name to CrossGlobal Link. “This is more than just a cosmetic change to the association,” said Dr. Marvin Newell, CrossGlobal Link executive director. “This is a change in function and direction for the association, intended to keep it in pace with the changing world of missions.” (IFMA news release)

**NORTH AMERICA: EFMA Changes Its Name to The Mission Exchange.** The Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies has changed its name to The Mission Exchange. “Our new identity is the outgrowth of prayerful thought and strategic reflection,” said Steve Moore, president and CEO of The Mission Exchange. “But the phrase ‘formerly EFMA’ does not suggest that we are turning our back on our heritage but that we are turning a new page.” (The Mission Exchange)

**NORTH KOREA: Historical Samaritan’s Purse Aid.** Samaritan’s Purse recently flew USD\$8 million worth of medicine and other emergency supplies to North Korea, which has endured the worst flooding in decades. Hundreds of people have died and nearly a million people are suffering after the floods destroyed or damaged some 240,000 homes. The airlift carried nearly eighty tons of supplies, including antibiotics, vaccines, other medicines, water filtration equipment, blankets, tools and one thousand rolls of heavy-duty plastic—enough to build emergency shelters for seven thousand families. (Samaritan’s Purse)

**NORTH KOREA: Great Persecution and Great Perseverance for Christians.** Estimates say that one in five Christians in North Korea is in a prison camp, and that as many as four hundred Christians are executed in a year. Despite, these statistics, God is growing his Church in this land. In 1989 there were an estimated eleven thousand Christians in the country. By 2004 this number had risen to as many as 100,000. By 2006 the estimate was somewhere between 200,000 and 400,000 Christians. (Barnabas Fund)

**PERU: IBS-STL Ships Scripture Materials and Blankets to Earthquake Survivors.** IBS-STL (International Bible Society-Send The Light) has shipped thousands of printed scripture materials and blankets to earthquake survivors in Peru. Hundreds died, thousands were injured and hundreds of thousands of people can no longer live in their destroyed or damaged homes after the August quake. The cargo container from IBS-STL included 40,668 Spanish scriptures and 14,500 blankets. (International Bible Society)

**SIERRA LEONE: Wesleyan Ernest Bai Koroma Elected President.** Ernest Bai Koroma, a third generation member of The Wesleyan Church, was elected president of Sierra Leone on 17 September 2007. A former insurance executive and minority leader in parliament, he has been called the "hope of the future" by many in his country. However, according to one source, Koroma “faces a mammoth challenge in improving life for the five million citizens of Sierra Leone where jobs are scarce and many social services almost as hard to come by—and where the shadow of a decade long civil war still looms large.” (Assist News Service)

**SOUTH AFRICA: Sexual Purity Promoted at True Love Waits Summit.** True Love Waits International officially launched its initiative to expand its abstinence-until-marriage message throughout Africa during an August summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, attended by representatives from eight African countries. The common thread that brought the group together was a shared desire to see a movement of God among the youth of their countries through young people committing themselves to God’s plan for every area of their lives including their sex lives. (Baptist Press)

**UNITED KINGDOM: Clergy Should Remove Clerical Collars When Off-Duty.** A British Christian group has warned Catholic and Anglican clergy to remove their clerical collars when off-duty so that they will not be singled-out for attack. National Churchwatch has said that criminals often target clergymen because they believe they will have money. In 2001, a study by the University of London found that seventy percent of clergy had experienced some form of violence against them over the two-year period between 1997 and 1999. (Christian Today)

**UNITED STATES: S. Kent Parks Named International Director for MUP.** Mission to Unreached Peoples will establish another office in Dallas, Texas, USA, under the direction of S. Kent Parks, a veteran of twenty years of Baptist mission service in Southeast Asia. Parks will also work in cooperation with MUP’s US office in Seattle and a Canadian office. The 25-year-old MUP agency focuses on spiritual and physical ministries to unreached peoples around the world. (Mission to Unreached Peoples)

**UNITED STATES: John Boyd Named President and CEO of MAF.** Mission Aviation Fellowship has named John Boyd as its new president and CEO, succeeding Kevin Swanson. Boyd, a native of Scotland who grew up Zambia,

Zimbabwe and South Africa, has served with MAF for fifteen years. His varied experience with the ministry includes the roles of pilot, CEO of MAF South Africa and vice president for ministry advancement. (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

**UNITED STATES: Aglow International Opens Chapters in Iraq and Azerbaijan.** Aglow International, an organization of Christian women with more than four thousand local groups in nearly 170 countries, just opened chapters in Iraq and Azerbaijan. Aglow is one of the largest international women's groups, consisting of more than 1,100 local groups in the US alone. An estimated twenty-one thousand Aglow leaders minister in their communities and countries to an estimated seventeen million people each year. (Aglow International)

**ZIMBABWE: Country in Rapid Decline, in Need of Help.** Christian aid agency Tearfund reports that Zimbabwe is in an increasingly desperate situation, with little food due to drought and poor harvests, and the collapse of civil infrastructure meaning basic services are no longer available to the majority of Zimbabweans. The crisis has engulfed the cities, where food distributions were rarely needed in the past. HIV and AIDS related illnesses have compounded the suffering, leaving many unable to work in fear and isolation. (Ekklesia)

### PUBLISHER'S MEMO

**HIV/AIDS: Engaging the Church in the Pandemic** by *Lon Allison, co-publisher, LWP*. As God's Church, we can pray, give, go, touch, heal and speak of the One who promised a future world without AIDS. We can commend the living Christ to those beyond healing in this world. That is what the Spirit calls us to do, Allison says.  
[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/858/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/858/11-2007)

### THEMED ARTICLES: HIV/AIDS AND HOLISTIC EVANGELISM

**HIV/AIDS and Holistic Evangelism: The Challenge for the Church** by *Pamela Gebauer, coordinator of Christian Direction, Inc.'s Urbanus*. Death rates from AIDS and contraction of HIV continue to increase in nearly every area of the world each year. Christians can minister to people with HIV/AIDS by visiting them, praying for them, sharing Jesus and providing both practical help and material help. Churches can help by creating food or clothing banks, training pastoral teams for home care and creating micro-enterprises, among other things.  
[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/847/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/847/11-2007)

**Responding to HIV/AIDS "As You Go"** by *Evvy Campbell, Lausanne senior associate for holistic mission*. Campbell asks, "How can a critical mass of Christians be stimulated to respond in a significant, biblically holistic way to HIV/AIDS?" This may not include undertaking HIV/AIDS ministry as a life calling; instead, it may include: volunteering with an AIDS-focused organization, using your strengths to educate the public and alleviate the suffering, staying informed and open to challenges and sharing the gospel in your own setting. This article concludes with an extensive list of HIV/AIDS resources. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/848/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/848/11-2007)

**Turning the Tide on the HIV/AIDS Pandemic among University Students** by *Mike Mutungi, CEO of I Choose Life—Africa*. Young people between fifteen and twenty-four account for more than half of the over five million new HIV infections worldwide each year. For this reason, I Choose Life—Africa is dedicated to educating university students throughout Africa regarding HIV/AIDS and making healthy lifestyle decisions. The HIV/AIDS training incorporates interactive teaching methods on topics such as: sexual responsibility, living with and managing HIV, culture and sexuality and consistent and correct use of condoms. After the training, these peer educators teach their peers. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/855/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/855/11-2007)

**The Prophetic Role of the Church in Egypt Toward HIV/AIDS** by *Andrea Z. Stephanous, vice president of the Protestant Community of Egypt*. The Church's role, according to Stephanous, is to talk openly with people to rebuild wrong thoughts about HIV/AIDS and sex. HIV/AIDS affects health services, education systems, economic growth, emotional well-being and family and community stability. We must draw a Christian worldview that unites evangelism, discipleship, social action and pursuit of justice. The Church must advocate for the rights of people carrying HIV/AIDS to have a job, be a church member, serve God, etc. The Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church of Egypt, in conjunction with the Council of the Services and Development, Synod of the Nile of Egypt is seeking to

bring restoration and dignity to those affected by HIV/AIDS.  
[www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/849/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/849/11-2007)

### PERSPECTIVES

**A Look at the Persecuted Church on the IDOP** by *Dr. Carl Moeller, president and CEO of Open Doors USA.* Muslim Background Believers and their families in West Bengal, India, are being pressured to relinquish their Christian faith. A Christian convert couple living in Cairo was targeted after aggressive Islamists noticed the husband did not attend mosque prayers. Millions of Christians are being persecuted for their faith at this very moment. We, as the global Church, must stand together Sunday, 11 November 2007 for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/852/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/852/11-2007)

**Persevering Prayer** by *John Godson, international director of Pilgrim Mission International.* Jesus wants us to be persistent in our prayers, Godson writes, urging us to look to four scripture passages as our guide: Genesis 32:24-28, Mark 10:46-52, Matthew 15:22-28 and Luke 11:5-8. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/850/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/850/11-2007)

### URBAN COMMUNITIES

**An Overview of War-ravaged Angola.** From 1961 until a cease-fire agreement in 2002, the two main factions in Angola, the MPLA and the UNITA, were engaged in a war that devastated the country. The millions of Angolans forced from their homes were sent to live in camps. These people lack some of the most basic necessities of life, including education for their children. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/853/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/853/11-2007)

**The Musseques of Luanda, Angola** by *José da Silva, a missionary and educator in Luanda.* Since the peace accord was signed in April 2002, thousands of Angolan refugees in neighboring countries are returning home. One of the biggest challenges in major cities is the shantytowns, or *musseques*. Insalubrity, promiscuity, poor health care, unemployment and injustice are daily concerns. Sadly, for most churches in these shantytowns, providing "good training" or a "good biblical approach" means either (1) perpetuating a classic way to be the Church with heavy liturgies or (2) having a charismatic celebration with an emphasis in prosperity. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/854/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/854/11-2007)

### RESEARCH

**Perfect Strangers: Christians Living Among Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims** by *Natalie Crowson, research assistant at the Center for the Study of Global Christianity.* Fact 1: Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims have relatively little contact with Christians. Fact 2: The nonreligious are more in touch with Christians than other religionists, except in Asia. Fact 3: Globally, over eighty percent of all non-Christians do not personally know a Christian. Crowson says that each of these findings indicates that it is time for Christians to reach out to those around them. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/856/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/856/11-2007)

### LAUSANNE REPORTS

**Eighth Annual Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism Conference** by *Tuvya Zaretsky, president of the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism.* Over 160 participants from eighteen countries, representing sixteen agencies and congregations involved in Jewish evangelism, met in August 2007 for the annual LCJE conference. The theme, "Telling the Story—Jewish Evangelism," allowed conference-goers to discuss topics such as: evangelism to Jewish people in various contexts, Diaspora, intermarriage and postmodernism. [www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/11-2007](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/11-2007)

**December LWP Issue Topic: Worship and Evangelism**

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