

December 2010 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to: www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1346/12-2010)

AROUND THE WORLD: Billy Graham Radio Program Celebrates Sixty Years of Service

One of Christian radio's most beloved and longest-running programs hit the airwaves across the United States sixty years ago this month. "The Hour of Decision" with evangelist Billy Graham has since grown into one of the most widely distributed radio broadcasts in the world. The program airs in five languages (English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Farsi) in fifty-five countries on six continents. (Assist News Service)

BRITAIN: Anglican Head Concerned for Failed Zimbabwe Asylum Seekers

Human rights activists have praised the Archbishop of Canterbury for showing concern about the safety problems Zimbabwean asylum seekers face if they are forced to return and live under the regime of President Robert Mugabe. Reports published in Britain state that up to ten thousand Zimbabweans in Britain could be forced to return to the land of their birth. (Ecumenical News International)

CHILE: Rescued Miner Gives Testimony at Luis Palau Festival

The thirty-three Chilean men who were trapped thousands of feet underground when the San Jose mine collapsed are still making headlines, but this time for a different reason. One of the now-rescued miners recently joined an evangelistic campaign. During the 69-day period that the men were stranded, Jose Henriquez was known as "the pastor." He continuously asked for Luis Palau audio biblical messages to be sent down, and he frequently spoke with the other victims about his Lord. By the time the men were rescued, twenty-two had professed faith in Christ. (Mission Network News)

ERITREA: Christians Arrested in Latest "Cleansing"

The governor of the Southern Zone of Eritrea has ordered a crackdown on Christians living in his province. As a result, Eritrean security officials rounded up Christians from the cities of Mendefera, Dekemharre, and Dibarwa. Police also confiscated TVs, video players, and other electronic equipment that belonged to the Christians. Most of the detainees belong to the Full Gospel Church, an evangelical church that was among those banned by Eritrean officials in 2002. Despite information that three thousand believers are being held illegally, the government continues to support its statement issued in May 2003 that "no groups or persons are persecuted in Eritrea for their beliefs or religion." (Mission Network News)

HAITI: Worst-case Scenario Realized in Haiti's Cholera Fight

Officials say the worst-case scenario on Haiti's cholera scope has occurred. The disease has shown itself in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, in which three million people live. The epidemic has killed nearly six hundred people and sickened thousands (officially reported as of November 2010). However Scott Hendrix, vice-president for relief and development at Global Aid Network says, "I think that number is much higher, because many towns aren't able to report the cholera outbreaks and the deaths from cholera. We've heard that there have been over seven thousand people who have been infected." (Mission Network News)

IRAQ: Church Hostage Drama Ends in Death

At least fifty-eight people—including worshippers, security forces, and hostage takers—were recently killed after a hostage siege in Assyrian Catholic Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad. During the evening Mass, several gunmen entered the building. Two of the pastors, Father Saad Abdal Tha'ir and Father Waseem Tabeeh, were beaten and killed when they tried to reason with the terrorists. Carl Moeller, president/CEO of Open Doors USA, says, "This is a horrific and despicable act targeting innocent Christian worshippers. There still is a war going on in Iraq—a war by Muslim extremists to drive Christians out of the country." (Assist News Service)

MONACO: TWR Celebrates Fifty Years of Broadcasting from Monaco

Fifty years ago, TWR aired its first program from a 100,000-watt shortwave transmitter in Monte Carlo, Monaco. The transmitter was housed in a building ordered built by Adolf Hitler during World War II to broadcast Nazi propaganda. Never used for its original purpose, TWR now utilizes the facility to transmit the gospel to millions of listeners daily throughout Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Programs air in sixteen languages, including Arabic, English, French, Hungarian, Kabyle, Romanian, and Tamazight. (TWR)

SUDAN: Many Turn to Christ after Hearing Bible Stories

Sudan has seen much trouble over the past few decades with civil wars between the north and the south. More recently, the conflict in Darfur gained worldwide attention for the huge extent of human suffering. Many spoke of it as genocide. Despite this, more than five million people have turned to Christ in the past ten years. Global Recording Network (GRN) teams have worked recording Bible stories in 129 languages and dialects. With close to three hundred languages spoken by the Sudanese people, there is still much work to be done. To this end, GRN is partnering with another mission to work towards Bible stories in all 300 languages. A long-range plan is to recruit national Christian to be trained as recordists and research assistants. (Global Recordings Network)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Pressing on towards 2020 in Humility, Reflection, and Hope *by Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP*. Lausanne's executive chair looks to 2020 and discusses six hopes for the Church, including greater authenticity, empowering younger leaders, moving towards greater reconciliation, and reclaiming the universities for Christ. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1347/12-2010

THEMED ARTICLES: OUR HOPES FOR THE CHURCH IN 2020

Letter to Harold: Extraordinary Things Have Happened! by Samuel Chiang, executive director of the International Orality Network. In a letter dated 2020, the author briefly discusses eight exciting things that happened in the 2010-2020 decade. These include reaching the last unengaged, Unreached People Groups, the development of the Business as Mission movement, increase in church-planting movements, and the role of media in evangelism. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1353/12-2010

My Hope for 2020: A United, Humble, Bible-focused Church by C. Rosalee Velloso Ewell, executive director of the World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission. The author discusses her hopes for the Latin American Church ten years from now, including the need for prayer, confession, and a bold witness. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1352/12-2010

Challenges and Opportunities for the U.S. Church over the Next Ten Years by Paul Cedar, chairman of the U.S. Lausanne Committee/Mission America Coalition. The American Church faces many challenges today, including personality worship and an obsession with wanting to be like the culture. However, God has also given the Church many opportunities, including the economic downturn, persecution, secularization, and collaboration. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1341/12-2010

My Hope for 2020: The Church Intersecting with All Spheres of Society by Grace Samson, director of Partner Relations for the Call2All, Cape Town office. The author discusses her hopes for the African Church ten years from now, including a return to the basic of what "church" is and to the intentional intersection of the Christian faith with all spheres of society. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1349/12-2010

Our Hope for the Church in 2020 Regarding Business as Mission *by Mats Tunehag, a senior associate on Business as Mission for both the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization and the World Evangelical Alliance.* The author shares that by 2020 he hopes very few people will talk about Business as Mission. "The term is like scaffolding: it is needed for a season as we build the real thing—businesses that glorify God and bring about holistic transformation of people and societies," he writes. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1350/12-2010

Hopes and Prayers concerning Human Trafficking: Problems to Solve, People to Serve by Jennifer Roemhildt Tunehag, an independent mission consultant, catalyzing ministry among victims of trafficking around the world. The author shares her prayers for the Church to minister to those who are vulnerable to abuse and trafficking. Among other things, those who are vulnerable need a Church that teaches that both men and women are made in the image of God, a Church that rejects materialism and consumerism, and strong families.

www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1343/12-2010

The Church in 2020: Will We Recognize It? by Allan G. Hedberg, a clinical psychologist. The author discusses why he believes the Church in America in 2020 will be polysynergetic, community-oriented, evangelical, missional, and inclusive. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1342/12-2010

PERSPECTIVES

Preaching the Whole Gospel of Jesus, His Father, and the Holy Spirit *by Damon W. K. So, research tutor in theology at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies*. The author discusses the meaning of the "whole gospel" in relation to the Trinity and what happens when we leave out one or more members of the Trinity. He goes on to talk about what a truly holistic picture of Jesus looks like today. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1344/12-2010

Viral Biblical Education: A Case Study by Debbie Farrar, a fund development strategist for faith-based ministries. Five breakthrough innovations developed by secular, multinational corporations have stunning potential for the exponential growth of Christian leadership development. The author shares how Internet Biblical Seminary (IBS) used these innovations and launched a platform for making affordable online biblical education possible for the maximum number of Christian leaders globally. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1345/12-2010

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Leadership Profile: Rev. Jarvis C. Ward, Evangelist, Pastor, Facilitator, Networker, USA. Jarvis Ward, national facilitator of City & Community Ministries for the Mission America Coalition (MAC), the U.S. arm of Lausanne, talks about his hopes for the future as it relates to partnering in evangelism in cities around the U.S. and the world. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadership_profiles.php/1351/12-2010

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Third Lausanne Congress Closes with Ringing Call to Action. The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization drew four thousand participants from nearly two hundred nations. Organizers extended its reach into over 650 GlobaLink sites in 91 countries. Here is a brief recap of the event. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/1348/12-2010

January/February 2011: The Power of Partnerships

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