

March 2011 Executive Summary

NEWS BRIEFS, condensed version (for the complete news briefs, go to: www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbrief.php/1377/03-2011)

AROUND THE WORLD: Wycliffe International Becomes Wycliffe Global Alliance

Wycliffe International has a new name: Wycliffe Global Alliance. This new "doing business as" name, effective 1 February 2011, reflects organizational changes already underway and according to leaders, helps position Wycliffe for ongoing adaptability. An accompanying tagline/cutline, *partners in Bible translation*, serves as a reminder of Wycliffe's unchanging focus on the minority language communities of the world who still need God's word in their heart languages. Wycliffe Global Alliance is an alliance of 105+ organizations. (Wycliffe Global Alliance)

AUSTRALIA: Cyclone Yasi Complicates Flood Recovery in Australia

Cyclone Yasi slammed into the flood-ravaged northern state of Queensland as a category 5 storm. It is one more serious complication in the flood recovery efforts. Australia's government is calling the scale of flooding in Queensland and New South Wales (NSW) the greatest natural disaster to ever occur in that nation. Cleanup has begun, but seventy-five percent of Queensland and parts of northern NSW have been declared a disaster zone, covering a land mass larger than Germany and France combined. (Mission Network News)

AUSTRALIA: Australian Anglicans Engage Atheists Online

Outspoken atheists have captured attention worldwide; now Australian Anglicans have launched a website encouraging Christians to enter the debate. The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's new website offers a set of resources answering the hard questions about why people can believe in God. The website collects articles and book reviews, and has an online discussion forum where a panel of theologians will respond to questions people post. (Ecumenical News International)

EGYPT: Jubilation over President Ouster

On 11 February 2011 Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down. This move was seen by analysts as clearing the way for the armed forces to restore order until the September 2011 elections. SAT-7, a Christian satellite television ministry to the Middle East and North Africa, not only captured the unfolding of the events, but noted a fascinating aspect that arose: the Christmas Eve sectarian violence gave way to Muslims and Christians praying together in Tahrir Square. (Mission Network News)

ERITREA: Renewed Crackdown on Christians

Two Christians are reported to have died in separate Eritrean prisons after being refused medical treatment amid a renewed crackdown by the authorities against unregistered churches. The deaths come as a new wave of raids saw more than one hundred evangelical believers detained. World Evangelical Alliance-Religious Liberty Commission (WEA-RLC) executive director Godfrey Yogarajah warned that as unrest spreads throughout North Africa and the Middle East, conditions for Eritrean Christians could worsen. Thousands of Christians are believed to be imprisoned without trial in Eritrea's notorious detention system. (Assist News Service)

NIGERIA: Bible Translator Still Missing

In mid-December 2010, the Tarok Old Testament translation project was drawn to an abrupt halt after

translator and project coordinator Stephen was kidnapped. In the meantime, the Tarok project continues to suffer as a result. Seventy percent of the Tarok people have accepted Christ as a result of the New Testament release and are still eagerly anticipating the Old Testament. (Mission Network News)

PAKISTAN: Protests to Amendment in Pakistan's Blasphemy Law

Some forty thousand people joined Pakistan's main opposition religious party, Jamiat-e-Islami, in a rally of Tehreek Namoos-e-Risalat [sanctity of the Holy Prophet] on Mall Road Lahore on 30 January 2011 against any amendments to the blasphemy law in Pakistan. Protesters demanded that the government reject "Western" influence and criticized Pope Benedict XVI for joining the West in what they claim is "propaganda against the Muslim state." The Pope had led international calls to show mercy toward Asia Bibi, the 45-year-old Christian woman and mother-of-five who denies insulting the Prophet Muhammad during an argument in a Punjab province village in June 2009. Bibi was convicted of blasphemy and has been sentenced to death by hanging. (Assist News Service)

SUDAN: Churches Closing in Northern Sudan after Referendum

Churches, parishes, and church schools in northern Sudan are closing due to a large movement of people to the south after the independence referendum. In the referendum, held mid-January 2011, voters in southern Sudan overwhelmingly approved independence for their region, the site of two long civil wars. The area is expected to become independent in July 2011. Although many of the Christians are said to have returned to south voluntarily, some observers said they had departed because they could not be assured of their safety. Church leaders are concerned that if the Muslim government in the north adopts strict Sharia law, as it has promised, then the Church will suffer. (Ecumenical News International)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

In the Deep Midwinter Comes the Presence and Promise of God by Lon Allison, co-publisher of LWP. The truth of the resurrection explodes out of the Gospels, refusing to sit on dusty shelves as mere doctrine. The resurrection means that sin's power is broken, God's justice is fulfilled, and the penalty for evil is assumed by the goodness and love of God. And it means two other important things: (1) God is alive and present with us; and (2) the promise of his imminent return is sure. These hopes carry us. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/1382/03-2011

THEMED ARTICLES: THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

The Power of Christ's Resurrection by Joy Mindo-Wamutitu, a mission practitioner based in Nairobi. How can we speak of forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope in the context of death and suffering? To be relevant in a hurting world, we must embark on the pilgrimage that Christ invites us to make. The author suggests four ministries of service: (1) the ministry of presence: contextual ministry; (2) the ministry of lament: personal connection; (3) the ministry of prayer and petition: intercession; and (4) the ministry of advocacy: voice for the voiceless. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1374/03-2011

Christ's Suffering and Sacrifice: A Basis for the Ministry of Forgiveness and Reconciliation by Rev. Dr. Celestin Musekura, president and founder of African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries, Inc. The Christian community in Rwanda and Congo is struggling to understand her call to the command of forgiveness in a context where hatred and revenge seem to make more sense than compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation. But forgiveness and reconciliation that inspire hope in divided and fragmented communities is empowered by the suffering and sacrifice of Christ. The appreciation of what God has done, and the cost he has paid for our forgiveness and reconciliation compels us to imitate him, the author states. Musekura concludes with his own personal journey of reconciliation. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1375/03-2011

The Worse of Two Worlds: For the Sake of Those Who Have Never Heard by Ferdinand Nweke, a medical doctor in Nigeria and coordinator of Eternity Ministries. Instead of quibbling over the immutable truth of God's word, we must do whatever it takes to carry the saving message of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard, so that those in poverty will not have the worst of two worlds. The author shares specifically why God's heart is for the poor and ours should be as well. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1376/03-2011

PERSPECTIVES

Mission Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo by Leonard Kiswangi, Congo DRC team leader for African Enterprise. When we hear what has happened through the Mission Africa initiatives which took place before Cape Town 2010, we know the Lord is on the move. Kiswangi shares how the power of matchmaking and teamwork led to tens of thousands of people being touched by the power of the gospel in DRC. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1373/03-2011

YMCA Tribute Breakfast: The "Big C" Y *by Leighton Ford, president of Leighton Ford Ministries.* Leighton Ford, honorary life chairman of Lausanne, recently gave a talk at a YMCA tribute breakfast in Charlotte, North Carolina (USA), on keeping the "C" (Christian) in who we are. He shared four larger "visions": The *higher* vision to follow Christ and call others to follow him; the *longer* vision to mentor young leaders for the future; the *wider* vision to live and show unity in Christ in a broken world; and the *deeper* vision to "take the hand of Christ," knowing we can do all things through Christ who strengthen us. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1381/03-2011

Cooperation of Evangelical Leaders for the Sake of World Evangelism Continues by Anatoliy Glukhovskyy, Eurasia international deputy director for Lausanne. More than 150 participants attended the recent Lausanne Eurasian Consultation Meeting to discuss Cape Town 2010 and how to apply what they learned in their local context. Speakers shared what the Eurasian region is able to contribute to Lausanne: (1) giving an example of evangelical world unity; (2) providing the Church with intellectual and analytical resources; and (3) providing an active evangelism among youth. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/1372/03-2011

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Leadership Profile: George Korah, Designer, Publisher, Managing Director, India. Korah, founding director of Primalogue Publishing Media, a publishing company in India, shares his life journey and his hopes for the future. Korah was the design and layout manager at Cape Town 2010 and was responsible for the layout of the daily *Cape Town Today* newspaper and the final commemorative *Cape Town 2010*. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadership_profiles.php/1378/03-2011

INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING

Satisfying the Global Hunger for the Written Word *by John Maust, president of Media Associates International*. Beginning this month, we start a new, year-long department which will address the best in international publishing. You will gain a fast-paced look at trends and opportunities from top leaders in Christian publishing in the various world regions as well as reviews of significant new books published in the Majority World. This month, we introduce you to publishing and how books are being used by the Church worldwide. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/international_publishing.php/1371/03-2011

April 2011: Cape Town Commitment

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