

[NEWS BRIEFS \(www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/08-2008\)](http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/newsbriefs.php/08-2008)

AFRICA: God's Word Reaches Remote Peoples in Their Languages

Although the Bible is not illegal or banned in some African countries, language and literacy issues nevertheless can impede the sharing of God's word. Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH) is responding to this challenge through tools such as its Proclaimer, a self-powered audio player with the New Testament pre-loaded on an embedded microchip. FCBH also recently completed audio translations into six African languages, including Chitonga, Chiyao, Dogon Toroso, Lukakamega, Oluluyia, and Sehwi, languages spoken by more than 7.6 million people in five countries. (Faith Comes By Hearing)

AROUND THE WORLD: Wycliffe International and World Evangelical Alliance Join Forces

As a new global partner, Wycliffe International has joined forces with World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) to enhance the alliance's efforts to promote transformation rooted in the Bible. Wycliffe includes forty-nine autonomous organizations involved in Bible translation and literacy work. One quarter of the organizations lead Bible programs in their home countries. (World Evangelical Alliance)

AROUND THE WORLD: World Vision Documents Desperate Measures of the Hungry

In June 2008, World Vision reported on some of the desperate measures families are taking around the world in order to feed themselves. In countries such as Afghanistan, preteen girls are sometimes sold to buy food. And in the nation of Georgia, children are being left at orphanages by parents unable to feed them. Rising food and fuel costs continue to worsen the worldwide hunger problem. (World Vision)

AROUND THE WORLD: New Director to Lead Micah Challenge International

Rev. Joel Edwards, currently general secretary of the Evangelical Alliance UK, will lead Micah Challenge International (MCI) as its new international director beginning January 2009. MCI aims to deepen Christian involvement with marginalized communities and to urge leaders of rich and poor countries to cut in half extreme poverty by 2015 as part of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. (Micah Challenge International)

ASIA: Asian Access Names New President

Joseph Handley Jr. has been named the fourth president of Asian Access, succeeding S. Douglas Birdsall, who now serves as the executive chair of the Lausanne Movement. Handley has been an associate pastor at Rolling Hills Covenant Church in southern California for nearly a decade. Previous to that, he established the Office of World Mission at Azusa Pacific University, also in California. (Asian Access)

BELGIUM: Systematic Religious Discrimination Reported

The Institute of Religion and Public Policy has submitted a report to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights documenting religious freedom abuses in Belgium over the last decade. The Belgian government has been criticized by the UN and other organizations for its classification of hundreds of religious groups as "harmful sects." Currently, about six hundred religious groups in Belgium are labeled as such, including Protestant groups, Zen Buddhists, Hasidic Jews, and the YWCA. (Institute of Religion and Policy)

BENIN: Catholic Relief Services Program Targets Millions with Malaria

In an attempt to treat more than two million children with malaria, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has launched the largest home-based malaria care campaign in Benin's history. According to a media release, the program is possible through a \$24.5 million USD grant from Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. (Catholic Relief Services)

CHINA: Gospels Specially Printed for Olympic Games

In a decision announced by the chair of the national committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China, Bibles and gospel booklets printed in China will be available during the Beijing Olympics. With the help of UK-based Bible Society, fifty thousand gospel booklets are being printed especially for the Games and will carry the Olympic logo free of charge, as approved by the Beijing Olympic organizing committee. An additional ten thousand Bibles and thirty thousand New Testaments will also be available. (Bible Society UK)

ETHIOPIA: Life Sentences Given to Church Attackers

An Ethiopian court has sentenced three Muslim men to life imprisonment for the 2 March 2008 machete assault on two churches, which killed one person and injured seventeen. The sentences were handed down on 26 March; however, victims' families only learned of the sentences after their right to appeal had expired. Of an additional seventeen people initially arrested for the attack, six remain in prison while the others have been freed. (Crosswalk.com)

GERMANY: Feelings about Evangelism Changing

While many German Protestant clergy still have reservations about evangelism, a recent study shows that attitudes are changing in Germany. The Research Institute for Evangelism and Church Development at the University of Greifswald conducted the study on behalf of the evangelistic project ProChrist. Although many of the clergy cited spiritual care of the flock as their main concern, younger mainline theologians are becoming more open to evangelistic activity. However, German clergy felt largely helpless in spreading Christian faith. (ASSIST News)

IRAQ: Partners International Ministries Opens Third Christian School

With support from Iraqi authorities, Partners International Ministries (PIM) opened its third Christian school in Northern Iraq. The school is located on three acres of land donated by the Iraqi government, and an official of the Iraqi ministry of education attended the opening. A PIM official said the school is perceived as a place of reconciliation. PIM has been working in Northern Iraq for fifteen years. (Partners International Ministries)

UZBEKISTAN: Government Television Program Incites Religious Hatred

Uzbek state-run television has repeated the showing of a film promoting intolerance of religious minorities. This second showing of the film entitled "In the Clutches of Ignorance" was in Russian, whereas the first showing in May 2008 was in Uzbek. Timing of the broadcast, which was before live coverage of two Euro 2008 football matches, was designed to attract as many viewers as possible. Some saw the airing as a government effort to stir up Muslims against Christians. (Forum 18 News)

UNITED STATES: HCJB Global Appoints Acting President

HCJB Global has appointed James "Jim" Allen as its interim president, replacing Dave Johnson, HCJB president since 2001. Allen has been senior vice president since 1997. He hopes to help the organization transition smoothly during its search for a permanent president. Allen has ministered in more than sixty countries. He and his wife joined HCJB Global in 1984 primarily to pastor missionaries. (HCJB Global)

UNITED STATES: Expositor Named for IntersVarsity Conference Urbana 09

Ramez Atallah, general secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt and program chair of the Lausanne Cape Town 2010 Congress, will be Bible expositor at Urbana 09, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's twenty-second student missions conference. Born in Egypt, Atallah spent his adolescence in Canada and became involved with InterVarsity while attending McGill University. (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship)

YEMEN: Christians Arrested for Promoting Christianity

Authorities in Yemen have arrested seven Christians in the province of Hodiada for allegedly promoting Christianity and distributing Bibles. According to Washington, D.C.-based International Christian Concern (ICC), the seven were taken into custody on 18 June 2008 and then transferred to the capital city of Sana'a. ICC sources believe the prisoners may face torture by Yemeni security personnel. (International Christian Concern)

PUBLISHER'S MEMO

Church Planting and Evangelism in the Twenty-first Century by Doug Birdsall, co-publisher of LWP. From the ministry of Jesus Christ and the early Church, it was clear that the gospel message was intended not only for the transformation of individuals, but entire communities. The interconnected relationship between evangelism and church planting continues to be the hallmark of a healthy Christian community today. Expressions of the Christian faith and how we come together in community have also become increasingly more complex and varied; however, the message and the need for the message have not changed—only how we deliver it.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/leadershipmemo/989/08-2008

THEMED ARTICLES: CHURCH PLANTING AND EVANGELISM

Evangelism and Church Planting: Implementing the Ministry Multiplication Cycle by Peter Law, president of Crossover-Australia and vice president of Crossover-USA. Christian mission has become the responsibility of the Global Church, Law writes, and within that charter we have witnessed the rapid growth of church-planting movements among unreached people groups of the world. Using the strategy Jesus employed—of moving people from outside the kingdom to becoming believers, disciples, workers, and eventually world Christians—church-planting ministries have consistently employed their own versions of what Crossover Communications International calls the Ministry Multiplication Cycle. Drawing from Jesus’ pattern of making and mentoring disciples, church-planting ministries usually follow some or all of a 4-step approach in accomplishing the assignment: *evangelize* unbelievers, *establish* new Christians through programs of discipleship, *equip* future church planters by training them with the necessary skills, and *extend* leaders cross-culturally. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/992/08-2008

Time to Shine: The Chinese Church, Church Planting, and World Missions by Peter Sung (pseudonym), who works in and around China with Chinese intellectuals and business leaders. According to some, the spread of Christianity in China over the past few decades has been called the “greatest church growth since Pentecost.” Although accurate estimates are hard to come by, there are perhaps as many as 130 million Christians today. Although Christianity has traditionally spread in the countryside of China, an increasing number of urban intellectuals are filling their ideological voids with faith in Christ. Sung shares stories of what is going on in the urban centers of China, how persecution and hardship factor into the faith, and the missional outreach that is resulting.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/991/08-2008

The Luke Partnership: A First Step in Evangelism, Church Planting, and Discipleship by Bob Creson, president/CEO of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA; Jim Green, executive director of The Jesus Film Project; and Roy Peterson, president/CEO of The Seed Company. Making God’s message clear is the aim of The Luke Partnership—a joint project of The Seed Company, The Jesus Film Project, and SIL International. The Luke Partnership has an “initial goals package” for a community, which includes: the translation of Luke’s Gospel (usually published in both print and audio form), the JESUS film (based on the Gospel of Luke), and further Old and New Testament selections. The Luke Partnership is a strategy that enables a community to attempt translation work without setting up intimidating, long-term projections for a full-scale New Testament project. The aim is to produce materials that local churches and mission agencies can use immediately. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/993/08-2008

Missional House Churches in the United States by J. D. Payne, founder of www.northamericanmissions.org. After researching thirty-three house churches in the United States which are both experiencing conversion growth and are planting other churches, Payne offers five lessons the Church as a whole can learn from these outreach-driven churches. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/990/08-2008

PERSPECTIVES

Mission in the Global Village by Silas A. Pinto, director of the Brazilian ministry of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida, USA. The high-tech, real-time communication and the global economy have brought the global village into existence. According to the United Nations, about forty million people are constantly migrating around the world. Pinto asks, “What does this mean in God’s economy? How does this shape Christian mission? What should be the face of the Church in this intercultural context?” He offers insight into: a multiethnic international Savior, a multiethnic Church, a multiethnic mission, and a multiethnic heaven.
www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/982/08-2008

ProChrist in Poland Sees Thousands Make First-time Commitments for Christ by *Michael Klitzke, managing director of ProChrist*. In eight evenings, from 6-13 April 2008, about twenty thousand of the eighty thousand visitors to ProChrist in Poland accepted the invitation to come to faith. For the first time, ProChrist was broadcast via satellite beyond Germany to 103 locations. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/988/08-2008

Evangelization Efforts in Northeast Asia by *Justin Long, senior editor of Momentum magazine*. Northeast Asia is home to fifty-five people group clusters. Of these, just eighteen are larger than one million people in size. Long discusses evangelization efforts among these larger groups. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/987/08-2008

Mission Next: Relating to the Majority World Harvest Force by *Steve Moore, president/CEO of The Mission Exchange*. The North American Mission Leaders Conference, co-sponsored by The Mission Exchange and CrossGlobal Link, will be held 24-27 September 2008 in Denver, Colorado, USA. Speakers will include: K. Rajendran (India Mission Association), Timothy Olonade (Nigerian Evangelical Mission Association), George Lopez (Philippine Mission Association), and David Ruiz (WEA Mission Commission). www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/996/08-2008

Book Review: Global Pentecostalism: The New Face of Christian Social Engagement by *Grant McClung, an advisor to the Missions Commission of the Pentecostal World Fellowship*. In a very positive endorsement, McClung believes that Donald Miller and Ted Yamamori's new study of global Pentecostalism captures the growing influence of transformational Pentecostalism on the international social and political scene. The idea for the authors' research was born during their participation in a Southern World consultation when they asked one another, "Why not study growing churches in the Developing World that are involved in significant social ministry?" www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives.php/984/08-2008

URBAN COMMUNITIES

Scavengers No More: Looking at Homelessness in Metro Manila by *Corrie De Boer, chair of the Board of Mission Ministries Philippines*. De Boer, who works in Manila, shares how her worldviews of faith and culture changed after becoming directly involved with a homeless family. She discusses the challenges of: finding a job, healing completely from past hurts, finding housing, educating the family, and discipling the family. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/urban.php/994/08-2008

RESEARCH

The Ethnicity of English Churchgoers by *Peter Brierley, Senior Lausanne Associate for Church Research*. Brierley takes a look at ethnic churches in the United Kingdom, concluding that one in six individuals who goes to church in England is non-white. However, not all those who attend the ethnic churches are immigrants. The initial lack of enthusiasm of white people toward blacks in their churches has largely disappeared, so that while the talk may be about ethnic churches, ethnic churches actually account for less than half of all ethnic churchgoers. Of the half million ethnic churchgoers, sixty-eight percent are located in London. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/research.php/997/08-2008

LAUSANNE REPORTS

Lausanne Regional Gathering in Abuja, Nigeria: The African Church Prepares for 2010. Twenty-five people from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Zambia met in Abuja, Nigeria, for three days of intensive discussion and planning 21-25 April 2008. The aim of the gathering was to identify the most critical issues facing the African Church over the next five years, and to explore ways of making Cape Town 2010: The Third Lausanne Congress as effective across Africa as possible. www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/983/08-2008

September 2008 Theme: The Strategic Importance of Student Ministry

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