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Daily News Brief



LAUSANNE Younger Leaders Gathering

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Regional Connections

by Laurie Fortunak

The air was permeated with excitement as participants from the Oceania region, including Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and others, gathered to discuss a future network committed to the spirit of the Lausanne Movement.

"This regional network would be an encouragement to me," said Telesia Taufa, who does ministry for children with Child Evangelism Fellowship in Tonga.



"When I came here all the way from Tonga I didn't know anyone. But then I got here and I found that there were people who

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State of the Gospel

by Judd Birdsall

"Tonight is like a big prayer meeting," said Mark Hornshaw, emcee for Tuesday night's "State of the Gospel" plenary session. The evening featured a presentation on the status of Christian faith around the world followed by an extended time of prayer for the expansion of the church worldwide.

Before the presentation, Hornshaw introduced three Chinese church leaders who received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the audience. The three shared about their churches and about their vision for

reaching China and the world with the gospel.

Jason Mandryck, co-author of Operation World, provided the evening's presentation on the state of the gospel. "My opinion is that the gospel is just fine," said Mandryck to a chorus of affirmation. The gospel does not change, he declared. "The state of the gospel is in God's hands."

Mandryck indicated that while Christianity has just barely kept pace with world population growth over the last century,

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Priorities in World Evangelization

by Paul Eshleman

The Lausanne Strategy Working Groups has identified fourteen strategic priorities that should be at the top of the Church's agenda if we are to see disciples made in all nations. Two of the priorities will be printed in each edition of the YLG Daily News Brief. Priorities 7 and 8 are listed below. For a fuller introduction to the list of priorities, please see the 28 September Daily News Brief.

7. To allocate a much larger portion of our resources to the least-reached areas of the world. As churches, mission organizations and individuals, we continue to give most of our money and send most of our new missionaries to the places that are already being reached.

8. To use media, technology and other creative means to more effectively spread the gospel among the masses. Over 100 million people go to My Space and YouTube on the Internet everyday. Eight billion dollars in video games are purchased every year. ☹

Paul Eshleman is the chair of the Lausanne Strategy Working Group



LOPs: Occasional Papers of Continual Importance

by Judd Birdsall

Lausanne Occasional Papers (LOPs) are consensus statements produced by global consultations organized under the auspices of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. To date, sixty-one LOPs have been published .

The success of the 1974 Lausanne Congress in producing the Lausanne Covenant demonstrated the value of an international, interdenominational, interactive forum for Christian leaders. The Congress offered an intense, in-person exchange of diverse ideas that in turn produced the landmark document.

Former Lausanne Chairman Leighton Ford describes Lausanne’s method of theological consensus building as one in which “Christian brothers and sisters come together, face to face...to confront together global issues...and to do this under the authority of Scripture and within an accepted theological framework, the Lausanne Covenant.” All of the LOPs are the fruit of this distinct approach.

The First LOP

The first LOP-generating consultation took place in 1978 on the campus of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, USA. Ten discussants and twenty-five consultants met to debate the so-called Homogenous Unit Principle, the missiological contention that embracing Christianity should not require converts to cross linguistic, class or cultural barriers.

The debate was intense yet respectful. The introduction to the Pasadena LOP states, “The ‘spirit of Lausanne’ has characterized our conversation, in that we have been able to discuss controversial issues face-to-face with openness, honesty and love.” The paper goes on to affirm, “In many situations a homogeneous unit church can be a legitimate and authentic church. Yet we are also agreed

that it can never be complete in itself.”

1980 LOPs

Since Ralph Winter’s paradigm-shifting address at Lausanne ’74, “people group” thinking has been a hallmark of the Lausanne Movement. The 1980 Consultation on World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand brought together eight hundred participants to examine Christian witness to an array of people groups, including Muslims, Marxists, Hindus, Jews, as well as nominal Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox Christians. Seventeen “mini-consultations” at Pattaya issued LOPs on evangelizing these groups.

The Consultation was widely acclaimed as a milestone in Christian thinking about evangelizing the world’s most significant, and often most resistant, peoples. For example, Susan Perlman of Jews for Jesus, called Pattaya “a turning point for Jewish mission cooperation.”

The interaction and LOP drafting process at Pattaya’s “Reaching Jewish People” mini-consultation inspired the formation of the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism (LCJE), which convenes major international conferences every three to four years, publishes a quarterly bulletin and manages an online Jewish missions history library. The LCJE now has chapters in Europe, Israel, South Africa, Australia, Japan, Latin America and North America. Agencies and congregations involved with LCJE share resources and join together in evangelistic outreaches.

Social Responsibility

Because Pattaya focused primarily on evangelism, the Lausanne Theology Working Group, in partnership with WEA’s Theological Commission, held a Consultation on the Relationship Between Evangelism and Social Responsibility (CRESR) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA in 1982. The Consultation pro-

YLG Profile: Marcell Steuernagel



I am Marcell Silva Steuernagel, a 25-year-old Brazilian. I am married to a beautiful lady and live in Curitiba, south Brazil.

I am a musician, having studied orchestra conducting and composition at a local university. I’ve just started a masters program with an emphasis on musical theory and composition. On the side I do outreach with a rock band. Our ministry is specifically designed for evangelization outside of the church environment, in places where most Christians have a hard time getting to; these include slums, public schools, downtown areas and other areas. I work with worship, giving classes at the local Lutheran seminary, conducting ministering workshops in different parts of the country and preaching at conferences. I believe my calling involves mission and the arts, that is, I try to figure out ways to serve God through the gifts he has given me with the arts. I am a part-time minister of arts at a local Lutheran church and still work as a musician outside church boundaries (to keep in contact with the rest of the world, you could say).

I am a part of the Younger Leaders Gathering (YLG-06) Program Planning Team. I got involved with the YLG in a very unconventional way. Samuel, a friend of mine, was invited to be part of the Planning Team. Since Samuel doesn't speak English very well, he asked if I could come along to translate. Upon arriving at our first meeting I was invited to participate as a member of the committee.

It was great to become involved with

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'87 Profile: Rod Denton

In 1987 Lausanne convened a Conference of Young Leaders in Singapore. The Daily News Brief will feature four profiles of ministry leaders who attended that conference.

Personal Background:

I have lived most of my life in Australia except for a two-year period where I traveled with my wife, Sue, and two daughters, Sarah and Kathryn, to America to study at the School of Intercultural Studies at Fuller Seminary in California. Following life in the business world I transitioned into full-time ministry in 1980 and have been involved in two "turnaround" pastoral situations, first in youth ministry and then as a senior pastor.

My wife is a part-time dental hygienist and my two daughters are in University, studying social work and nursing, respectively.

What were you doing at the time of the 1987 conference?

I came to the 1987 Young World Leader's Conference while serving as a youth pastor in a large Baptist Church in Melbourne. I had a heart for equipping and training youth leaders and had developed a week-long School of Youth Leadership where a generation of youth pastors from across Australia came to be equipped for ministry.

Why did you attend the 1987 conference?

I was privileged to attend the 1987 conference in Singapore and came for three reasons: First, of the passion I had to develop as a spiritual leader. I have a conviction that leaders only qualify to lead to the degree that they stay on the cutting edge of personal growth. Churches don't usually rise above the level of their leaders. Second, I was keen to develop a relational network with other like-minded leaders both from Australia and overseas. Third, I wanted to observe key world leaders up close. I can remember the encouragement I received from observing leaders like Leighton Ford, Ajith Fernando, and Winkey Pratney.

How did the 1987 conference impact you?

The 1987 conference impacted me in some vital ways. Perhaps the most significant was the way I personally experienced how God uses gatherings like this to sovereignly impact a person's destiny. In 1987 I had the privilege of making contact with a leader from America called Doug Birdsall. Two years later we connected again at Fuller Seminary. It was here that we became aware of our common heart to equip and raise up leaders. I returned home to Australia in 1991 and didn't hear from Doug for another eight years. In 1999 Doug called me and told me of Asian Access, a ministry committed to leadership development of emerging kingdom leaders in various Asian countries. I accepted Doug's invitation to serve with him in this exciting new venture. It probably would not have happened had we not had the divine appointment in Singapore in 1987.

What are you doing currently?


Currently I am in my fourteenth year as senior pastor of a Baptist Church in Adelaide, South Australia. I have a ministry team of eight pastors who, with the exception of one, have grown up in the church where they have developed as spiritual leaders. The church has now released me to spend up to fifty percent of my time in outside ministry, involved in equipping and mentoring spiritual leaders in Australia and overseas. The purpose statement of my church is "to be a New Testament missional church that is a light to the nation and the nations." As I have mentioned, I serve on the faculty of Asian Access in the areas of leadership development and spiritual warfare and currently am involved in eight different countries.

What are the keys to being a "successful" Christian leader?

Some of the keys I have found to being a "successful" Christian leaders are:

- Leadership is influence, not a position, title or qualification. The great Christian leader J. Oswald Sanders once said to me, "The test of any leader is to look behind and see if anyone is following you."
- If you are faithful in the small tasks that are entrusted to you, God will release you into greater opportunities. Ultimately spiritual leaders are equipped and raised up by God.
- Great men and women don't go looking for leadership. Leadership finds them and because of their great commitment and passion, they are able to answer leadership's calling.
- Leaders can only influence others to the point that they have advanced in their own lives; when leaders stop growing, they stop leading.
- The greatest quality that attracts the presence of God is humility.

Any parting thoughts you would like to share?

Some of the great challenges of life that I have had to face have taught me to seize the moment and live for today. I have learned to live a focused life. Every morning I tell myself, "Yesterday is gone, tomorrow may never come, all I have is today. I will tell my wife and children I love them today and I will find out what is the most important thing I can do with my time today. I will endeavor to serve in the area of my strengths where I can make my greatest impact, rather than in the area of my weaknesses. I will try not to let the many good things get in the way of the best things. I will find out what the Father is doing, and partner with him in his great purposes." 





YLG Profile: Marcell Steuernagel

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the YLG-06. Lausanne is a landmark movement in the history of modern global missions. It is the kind of organization you hear about in seminary circles, among pastors and missionaries. Lausanne clearly influenced a previous generation.

I consider it a privilege to be involved with a new generation of leaders who gather around the ideas of the Lausanne Covenant. It is significant because it links history – the history of the Christian faithful who respond to the Great Commission – with the questions we will continue to face in the future. How do we clothe the gospel that never changes in its essence and message in a way that is relevant and appealing to the young people of our time? I am reminded of Paul, in his letter to the Romans: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14). During the planning sessions we have wrestled with how to better empower young leaders to preach the gospel in a new way, while still telling “the old, old story” of Jesus Christ. This is the challenge that sparks the need for the YLG-06. We want to talk about these issues and pray together over them.

The YLG-06 will be great. We are going to be able to sit together, have lunch and share the challenges and strategies for helping to bring the young people we know and live with to Christ. It will be great to spend time with all of you. I'm just a little sad that six days is simply not enough time to get to meet over five hundred people. I look forward to at least looking every one of you in the eyes and saying “welcome.” Welcome to the meeting of a new generation that will grow together in the likeness of the Lord Jesus. Amen. ☹

LOPs: Occasional Papers of Continual Importance

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vided an environment in which evangelicals holding opposing viewpoints could talk with one another and reach consensus. The Grand Rapids LOP rejects both the conflation and separation of good works and the Good News. It resoundingly affirms that social responsibility is a consequence of, bridge to and partner with evangelism.

Reflecting on CRESR, John Stott wrote, “That week convinced me yet again of the great value of representative international consultations... It is only when we meet face to face, and struggle to hear and understand each other, that our typecast images of one another (developed in separation) are modified, and we grow into mutual respect and shared conviction.”

Lausanne's practice of issuing consensus documents lay largely dormant for twenty years (documents from Lausanne II in 1989 were, with exception of the Manila Manifesto, not collectively drafted or affirmed), only to be dramatically resurrected when a conference was once again held in Pattaya.

2004 LOPs

The 2004 Forum for World Evangelization doubled the existing number of LOPs. In the months preceding the Forum, UK-based Christian Research surveyed evangelical leaders around the world to identify the most significant issues in missions. Through the process, thirty-one issues were identified and included everything from prayer and partnerships to persecution and post-modernism.

The Forum brought together 1,500 carefully-selected leaders and thinkers from around the world to consider in “issue groups” of thirty to seventy members these contemporary challenges. Following the Forum, each group drafted a paper to help the global Church understand and effectively ad-

dress its particular issue.

A three-volume set of the 2004 LOPs, entitled *A New Vision, a New Heart, a Renewed Call*, was published by the William Carey Library. Ajith Fernando, National Director of Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka, enthusiastically endorsed the compendium as a work that helps the Church to be “informed of what is happening in the world and equipped to proclaim Christ relevantly and effectively to the present generation.”

The international fraternity and cross-pollination made possible at Lausanne forums have given the global Church a series of timely, substantive papers on issues related to world evangelization.

A New Vision is available for purchase at www.missionbooks.org, and nearly all LOPs may be accessed via Lausanne's website, www.lausanne.org. They are also available on the CD being distributed at the YLG-06. ☹

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Regional Connections

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had been praying for me. I can see the Lord in these people. I need that kind of encouragement when I go home.”


The Oceania group was one of eleven groups which met during the regional connect time. The others included South Asia, Latin America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Middle East/North Africa, North Asia, East Asia, Francophone Africa, Anglophone Africa and North America. The time was designed to connect the younger leaders with each other and with mentors in their regions of the world.

“We want to renew in us all a passion to share the gospel,” said Robyn Claydon, Vice Chair of the Administrative Committee for Lausanne. “Lausanne is a group of people who love the Lord and want to take the gospel to others.”

Daniel Willis, International Deputy Director for the Oceania region for Lausanne, led the Oceania discussion time. An introduction of the Lausanne Occasional Papers set the stage for the discussion on Lausanne, which included a call to start thinking about important issues for the 2010 Lausanne III World Congress on Evangelization. “Lausanne is made up of individuals, churches and missions who are working in partnership to take the whole gospel to the whole world,” Willis said.

One of these individuals is Nicolas Saosogo, a social ministry leader in the Solomon Islands.

“Most of the country are Christians,” according to Saosogo, who uses sports to reach out to those not in church. “But for those who aren’t, we fight for them. There are many who are backsliding Christians. I need more wisdom from God in how to lead people to Christ. I need this regional network to be part of the Solomon Islands. It would be an encouragement to me.”

Willis was quick to encourage the group to begin discussing how they envision this regional network. However, he was cautious on one point: “The networks only work if you make them. You must be in touch with others and network with others.” 

State of the Gospel

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evangelicalism is far and away the fastest growing major religious movement in the world today. Evangelicalism is growing at twice the pace of Islam and three times as fast as the overall world population.


Evangelicalism is experiencing much of its most significant growth in the global South. Countries such as Brazil, China, Bangladesh and Nigeria have exploding Christian populations. According to Mandryck, the Mongolian church is now the most efficient missions force, sending one missionary for every 222 Christians.

“For the first time in my life,” said Tim Im of South Korea, “I heard that Mongolia is the most efficient mission sending country. For me being Korean I was very embarrassed; I thought we were the most efficient.” A businessman heavily involved in Korean missions, Im said the session expanded his horizons and convinced him that “God is bringing younger leaders together for things we can’t even imagine.”

Mandryck explained that many of the burgeoning churches in the global South are now eagerly sending out their own missionaries, often as tentmakers. Christians from China to Nigeria increasingly have their sights on spreading the gospel all the way “back to Jerusalem,” effectively closing the gaps of the 10/40 Window. “If I was an unbeliever in Jerusalem right now,” Mandryck said, “I would be very nervous.”

Nnaji Chukwuemeka Bidwell of Nigeria found the evening presentation deeply moving. “When they showed the information on the reached and unreached it really touched me and showed me that we have much more work to do.” Nnaji serves on the Nigerian Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

The presentation ended with a plea to “lift up the nations into the care of our Lord Jesus.” Moved and informed by what they had heard, session attendees prayed together in small groups for the cause of world evangelization.

Reflecting on the fourth plenary session, Papua New Guinean evangelist Tom Lepatu said, “I believe the older generation has slipped away from the idea of mission, but now I believe God is using a younger generation to renew the church’s commitment to mission.” 

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