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Daily News Brief



LAUSANNE Younger Leaders Gathering

FRIDAY— 29 September 2006

ISSUE 6

The Cross

by Judd Birdsall

“God allowed us to experience his presence in prison,” said Heather Mercer, reflecting on her 15-week incarceration in the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan in 2001. Mercer spoke at Thursday morning’s plenary session about the ordeal she faced after showing a copy of the JESUS Film to an Afghan.

“In the midst of persecution,” Mercer said, “God will be with you.” Mercer is now in northern Iraq serving at a Kurdish university. Officials at that university recently asked her to help get thirty English teachers for the school.

Simon Seow of Singapore was stirred by Mercer’s heart for Muslims. “I have Muslim neighbors in Singapore, but what am I doing about it?” he asked. Seow serves with Campus Crusade for Christ in Singapore and is part of the YLG-06 worship team. “I don’t have to go to Afghanistan to reach Muslims,” Seow acknowledged. “God is telling me to do some-



thing about it.”

Following Mercer, Rebecca Pippert, Founder of Salt Shaker Ministries, brought a message of the power of the cross. “Does Jesus Christ really make a difference?” Pippert asked her audience. She expressed her concern that too many Christians do not understand the depth of

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Priorities in World Evangelization

by Paul Esleman

The Lausanne Strategy Working Group 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 these priorities have been printed in each edition of the YLG Daily News Brief. Priorities 11 and 12 are listed below. Tomorrow’s Daily News Brief will detail the last two priorities.

11. To assist in the work of Scripture translation and distribution, recognizing its necessity as a foundation for all evangelism and church growth. There are hundreds of people groups who do not have one verse of scripture. This translation task doesn’t belong to Wycliffe Bible translators alone. It is the responsibility of the whole Church. It has been two thousand years since Jesus told us to take the gospel everywhere. How long will we wait until we are obedient to go

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Paul Esleman is the chair of the Lausanne Strategy Working Group



Robyn Claydon: Women and World Evangelization

YLG Profile: Andy Goodacre

by Laurie Fortunak

Growing up with a mother and a father who loved the Lord and who shared their faith consistently and passionately, Robyn Claydon knew from an early age that she too wanted to share her faith with others. As the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE) Senior Associate for Women in World Evangelization for sixteen years and as Vice Chair of LCWE, Claydon has been given many opportunities to share her faith and encourage others in theirs.

“A verse that keeps coming to mind is Psalm 66: ‘Come and let me tell you what the Lord has done for me,’” she said. “The telling of our stories is powerful! We need to tell others about how God has met us. We all need to do that.”

The child of a preacher father and a speaker mother, Claydon says the “two of



them modeled for me the importance of sharing the Word of God.” After many failed attempts to start a volunteer student Christian meeting in high school, she helped facilitate Christian camps during her university days which allowed her to share Jesus with others. Shortly after her time at university she met her future husband, David.

“We both had a passion to serve the Lord in any way we could,” Claydon added. And that they did. After years of working as a school teacher and as vice principal at a

school, in 1985 Claydon was asked to be the Australia/Oceania program committee member for Lausanne II in Manila, Philippines. By that time her husband had already participated in Lausanne I and had played a role in crafting the Lausanne Covenant.

During the Lausanne II conference Claydon organized morning workshops for over one thousand women; this was the first time there was a specific focus on women and world evangelization.


“There was one cry I heard from the women in that conference: ‘We want to fully use the gifts God has given us, and yet in many ways, both the church and the culture hold us back,’” she shared. Since that time, Claydon has been advising women to “do what you can do very well and take the opportunities you are given.”

Shortly after Lausanne II Claydon was asked to set up a women’s network. Although this meant giving up her job at the school and her salary, “on my heart were the women I had met and on my mind were the women I had talked with.” In 1991 Claydon set out on her first of what would be many travels over the next sixteen years. During that first trip she visited various countries in Eastern Europe and finally Russia.

Claydon has visited thousands of women in sixty nations with a mission to “motivate, mentor, and mobilize women to use their gifts to the extension of God’s kingdom.” Today women in 110 nations are part of the Lausanne Women’s Network.

“Women have a passion for the gospel, but they also have a heart for people,” she said. “They will sit and give time to people.”

After sixteen years of heading up the Lausanne Women’s Network, Claydon has passed on leadership of the network to Elke Werner, a woman in the Younger Women’s Leader Network. Claydon will continue to serve as advisor to Werner. She will also continue to share her faith.

“There’s no way I’ll stop sharing the gospel!” she exclaimed. 

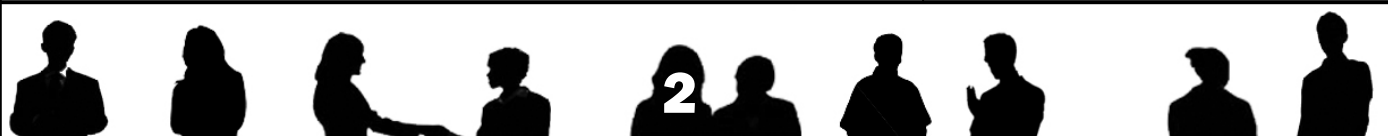


Hi, my name is Andy Goodacre. I’m twenty-seven and live with my wife Liz in Marburg, Germany, where we are on staff with Christus Treff, an ecumenical, network church. Originally from the UK, I am also currently studying as an ordinand (trainee vicar) within the Anglican Church. My main role with the preparations for the YLG has been to coordinate the workshops. We have a great set of hands-on, practical workshops, presented by practitioners from all round the world.

I am excited about the Younger Leaders Gathering for a couple of reasons. First, the Gathering provides an opportunity to connect with many people from different countries around the world who are passionate about living their faith where God has put them. Second, I believe the Younger Leaders Gathering is shaping us and challenging us to press on in our faith in our own situations. It is broadening our experience and understanding of what God is doing around the world and how many of our generation are equally motivated and determined to serve Jesus and share his love with others.

I feel privileged to be part of this Gathering, because I know how many older, experienced leaders have come to spend time with us, to encourage and get

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Lausanne Leaders

by Judd Birdsall

The Lausanne Committee is blessed to have capable leadership drawn from around the globe. The movement is led principally by an Executive Chairman and an International Director, assisted by eleven International Deputy Directors.

Executive Chairman

Doug Birdsall was installed as the Lausanne Chairman in 2004 at the Forum on World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand. Doug and his wife Jeanie have been missionaries with Asian Access since 1980, and Doug has been president of the mission since 1991. Birdsall is a graduate of Wheaton College, Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Harvard University, and is currently involved in doctoral research at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

Birdsall's involvement with Lausanne began in 1987 when he participated in the first Lausanne Younger Leaders conference in Singapore. Two years later, he served as the Assistant to the Director for Lausanne II in Manila. "Those early experiences with Lausanne," says Birdsall, "served to broaden my horizons and deepen my understanding of the challenges and opportunities before the Church. My deep commitment to the revitalization of the Lausanne Movement springs from my sense of indebtedness to Lausanne for connecting me to a global network of men and women who share a passion for the vision of 'the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world.'"

International Director

The Lausanne Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Lindsay Brown to the position of International Director. A native of Wales, Brown has

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Lausanne World Pulse: Sharing Ministry News Online

by Laurie Fortunak

LausanneWorldPulse

"It was a blessing for me to be able to share with the body of Christ what we are doing in the Nigerian Church," said Timothy Olonade, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Evangelical Missions Association (NEMA), which is heading Vision 50:15, a movement which seeks to send fifty thousand missionaries back to Jerusalem through North Africa and the Middle East in the next fifteen years.

Olonade has been one of over one hundred writers from nearly every region of the world who have written an article for Lausanne World Pulse (LWP, www.lausanneworldpulse.com), a free, monthly online publication which allows Christian leaders to have current global news and analysis on evangelism and missions.

One year ago the dream to have this type of publication was realized. God's Spirit had been moving in the hearts of three men--Doug Birdsall, Executive Chair of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE); Ted Yamamori, International Director for LCWE; and Lon Allison, Director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College (Wheaton, Illinois, USA)--to produce a publication which would equip and encourage Christian leaders around the world.

"God is doing great things through his workers," Allison said. "This allows people from every part of the world to read about these things and to put them into action in their own ministry."

LWP readers come from 142 nations

and are involved in ministries such as evangelism, holistic missions, church leadership, research, business and prayer. Each issue of LWP is focused on a specific theme; nearly half of the articles pertain to this theme. Each issue also includes a section for World News Briefs, unreached people groups, commentaries and perspectives and research on trends in evangelism and missions.

Christian leaders are encouraged to share what God is doing in their region of the world and in their ministry. Reports on collaborative evangelism strategies, ministry activities, holistic outreach and the challenges and opportunities before the Church in a specific region are of particular interest to LWP readers.

"The Younger Leaders Gathering offers LWP a wonderful opportunity to connect with leaders from every part of the world who can provide us with exciting stories, reports and commentaries on issues which are important to the Church on a local, national and regional level," emphasized Naomi Frizzell, Managing Editor of LWP and Director of Communications for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. "It is important that we hear from these leaders so that the worldwide body of Christ can be encouraged, informed and motivated to the greatest task of globalization."

For more information on Lausanne World Pulse, visit: www.lausanneworldpulse.com.

Submission guidelines can be found at: www.lausanneworldpulse.com/submit.

Submissions can be sent to: submissions@lausanneworldpulse.com.

Priorities in World Evangelization

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everywhere and to every person?

12. To ensure that all of our strategic plans of evangelism are biblically based and guided by the fourfold scope of Acts 1:8 and include "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth." Whether it is a local church or a worldwide or-

ganization, the strategy and command applies to every minister of the gospel. In fact, there would be no undetached people groups if every country reached its "Samaritans." However, the resources for evangelism and discipleship are not equally divided, so we need to help each other—just like a body. ☉



Lausanne Leaders

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served with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) for twenty-five years, fifteen of them as International General Secretary. His former position at IFES has been filled by Daniel Bourdagné, Lausanne International Deputy Director for Francophone Africa.

Brown began his journey in missions on board Operation Mobilization’s MV Logos ship in Africa. He says his voyage to eighteen countries “gave me exposure to the wider world and fired my passion for mission.” After returning from Africa, Brown served with the IFES-related student ministry in Wales and was also involved with the Welsh Lausanne Committee.

In 1981, Brown and his wife moved to Paris where they studied together at Vaux-sur-Seine Theological Seminary under the tutelage of Henri Blocher, then chairman of the French Lausanne Committee. Following his studies, Brown was appointed European Regional Secretary for IFES, coordinating student ministry across the continent. He became International General Secretary in 1991.

Brown’s tenure was a time of tremendous expansion for IFES. The organization extended its ministry from one hundred countries to 150. Their budget grew from \$1.3 million to \$5.9 million. In 1991, 275,000 students were linked with IFES; today the number is 400,000.

Lausanne has been enriched by its partnership with IFES since 1974. A number of key Lausanne leaders were shaped by its ministry: John Stott, Chua Wee Hian, Samuel Escobar, René Padilla and Gottfried Osei-Mensah, to name a few. The new Program Director for

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The Cross

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their own sin and thus do not appreciate the wonder of Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the cross.

Pippert said Christians often seem to “have all the answers but none of the problems.” We somehow think “it’s a sin to admit we’re sinners.” According to Pippert, Christians must recognize that they too are responsible for crucifying Christ—the most heinous crime imaginable.


The cross is thus the great equalizer. “We all have the problem and the same cure,” Pippert said; this, she said, is what gives Christians the ability to relate with all people. Pippert shared her story of how she ministered to a worldly, adulterous woman and introduced her to the Christian faith. This woman thought she was too morally impure to be loved. Pippert helped the woman understand Christ’s love, forgiveness and acceptance.

“Jesus was radically identified in love and radically different in holiness,” she said.

“I was really moved by the story of her friend and the unique way God shaped



the way she came to him,” Seow said. For him the story was one of “God relentlessly pursuing us even in spite of our sins.”

Daniel Sathiaraj of Hyderabad, India also appreciated Pippert’s illustrative and engaging stories. “Praise God for those examples,” he said. 

YLG Profile: Andy Goodacre


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to know us, to invest in us and to serve us—all at their own expense.

We have designed the programme to give ample time for connecting in groups with these older mentor-facilitators. This enables us to really hear each other and to learn from each other. I’m optimistic that many new long-term relationships are springing up out of these connections.

In addition, I have a real sense of entering into a movement with a great heritage. Thirty years ago the Lausanne Covenant sent waves round the world, and influenced a great many people and na-

tions for the kingdom. Since that time great things have also been happening in the Lausanne Movement. What about now? What can God do with a new generation of young women and men, committed to Christ and to living and sharing the gospel in their world? What can God do with us – in our world?

I’m certain we’ll all leave this Gathering changed – with broader horizons, wider experiences and new friends and partners in life, in work and in ministry. It is my prayer that God is using this Gathering to shape, encourage, inform, connect and transform many younger and emerging leaders. 



Lausanne Leaders

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Lausanne III, Ramez Atallah, was previously IFES's Regional Secretary in the Middle East. Brown's role as Lausanne International Director will further strengthen the relationship between the two movements.

Birdsall says Brown is "trusted and respected around the world as a servant leader and as a man of exceptional vision. Lindsay brings energy and passion along with a depth of understanding of the world scene like few people in the world today. We are delighted to have him as the new International Director for the Lausanne Movement."

International Deputy Directors

Drawn from eleven major geopolitical regions, the International Deputy Directors assist the Committee in coordinating Lausanne activities in their respective areas of the world. They nurture existing Lausanne relationships and seek out new partnerships with ministries, organizations and networks that embrace the Lausanne Covenant.

North Africa and Middle East:

In process.

Anglophone Africa:

John Azumah, holds a Ph.D. in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations. He is a research fellow at Akrofi-Christaller Centre in Ghana, and author of *Let Your Light Shine: Christian Witness in Muslim Context*.

Francophone Africa:

Kadebe Daniel Bourdanne was recently appointed as the new General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. Bourdanne is also regional director of Presses Bibliques Africaines.

East Asia:

Hyung Keun (Paul) Choi is Professor of Mission Studies at Seoul Theological University. Ordained as a pastor

in the Evangelical Holiness Church, he holds a Ph.D. from Asbury Seminary.

North Asia:

Agnes Liu is President of Jubilee Ministries. She holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and a D.Miss. from Fuller Theological Seminary.

South Asia:

Adrian de Visser is Founder of the Kithu Sevana ("Shadow of Christ") church movement in Sri Lanka, and Vice President for Partnership Development for Asian Access.

Latin America:

Norberto Saracco is President of International Faculty of Theological Education. He holds a Ph.D. from University of Birmingham, England. He is the author of *The Pentecostal/Catholic Dialogue: A Latin American Perspective*.

Eastern Europe:

Marek Wyrzykowski serves as Director of Campus Crusade for Christ in Poland.


Western Europe:

Elke Werner is a frequent speaker in conferences and churches all over Europe. She is the author of ten books in the fields of women, religion and counseling. Werner helps her husband Roland in leading Christ Treff Church in Marburg, Germany.

North America:

Earl Robinson was The Salvation Army's Secretary for Spiritual Life Development and International External Relations from 1997-2005. He also served as Chair of the Army's International Doctrine Council.

Australia/Oceania:

Daniel Willis is CEO of Bible Society NSW, National Secretary of Bible Society in Australia and Executive Officer for Bible Society Western Australia. 

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