



In This Issue:

Connecting and Challenging (page 1)

Priorities in World Evangelization (page 1)

Lausanne Covenant (page 2)

YLG Profile: Grace Samson (page 2)

'87 Profile: Greg Fritz (page 3)

Daily News Brief



LAUSANNE Younger Leaders Gathering

MONDAY — 25 September 2006

ISSUE 2

Connecting and Challenging

by Judd Birdsall

As he anticipated attending the Younger Leaders Gathering, Francis Doddamani of Bangalore, India spent a good deal of time reading about Lausanne on the Internet. But the words on his computer screen could not communicate the full reality of the movement he encountered at the Gathering's first plenary session. "Today I saw the flesh of Lausanne," said Doddamani, "the word became flesh for me."

The opening session was designed to connect participants with the history and spirit of Lausanne. In his welcoming remarks Lausanne Executive Chairman Doug Birdsall placed Lausanne within the context of redemptive history. God has long been in the business of raising up leaders—Abraham, Jesus' twelve disciples and now a new generation of leaders to proclaim his message.

Birdsall also sought to explain the phrase "the spirit of Lausanne," a term first used by Rev. Billy Graham at the World Congress on Evangelization in 1974 to describe the ethos of the movement. Birdsall read a letter from Rev. Graham addressed to the younger leaders here in Malaysia and said that Graham understood Lausanne's spirit to be one of love, humility, service, commitment and partnership.



"When they talked about '74 I imagined Billy Graham and John Stott sitting in the room with us," said Bobby Ryu, a missionary with Asian Access in Japan. Ryu studied the Lausanne Movement in seminary, but says with the first plenary session "my theoretical understanding has been filled in with people, with worship."

Patrick Ch'ng, president of the National Evangelical Fellowship Committee of Malaysia, highlighted the crucial role youth have played in spawning the major evangelical

cont. on pg. 3

Priorities in World Evangelization

by Paul Eshleman

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 the priorities will be printed in each edition of the YLG Daily News Brief. Priorities 3 and 4 are listed below. For a fuller introduction to the list of priorities, please see the 24 September Daily News Brief.

3. **To mobilize significant, strategic, focused prayer for the unfinished task of the Great Commission, and ask the Lord to send more workers into his harvest field.** When we search for the strategies of Jesus in how to go about proclaiming His message to the whole world, we get these words from Matthew 9:38 "Pray the Lord of the Harvest..."

4. **To work together more intentionally and inclusively through alliances, networks and partnerships—sharing contacts, information and resources.** We do this to demonstrate the unity with one another spoken of in John 17:23 that give evidence of the deity of Christ and show His love for the world. ☺

Paul Eshleman is the chair of the Lausanne Strategy Working Group



The Lausanne Covenant

by Judd Birdsall

The Lausanne Covenant, issued at the 1974 International Congress on World Evangelization, is a unifying statement for global evangelicals and, according to one Asian theologian, perhaps “the most significant ecumenical confession on evangelism the church has ever produced.”

From its inception, the Covenant was designed to be a consensus document that would crystallize the Lausanne Congress’ papers and reflect the convictions of its participants. Thus, the document we read today was the product of a meticulous

process involving multiple revisions.

The Process

Months before the 1974 Congress, Leighton Ford, program committee chairman, excerpted key passages and ideas from the major congress

papers and sent them to Scottish writer and editor J.D. Douglas who wove them together in an initial draft.

The Douglas draft was then circulated to Christian leaders around the world and submitted to a drafting committee which included Hudson Armerding, Samuel Escobar, Leighton Ford and John Stott (as chairman).

This committee circulated its further revision among all Lausanne participants at the conclusion of the first week of the Congress. Hundreds of comments poured in. The drafting committee worked tirelessly—literally working without sleep several nights in a row—

incorporating a wide variety of suggestions to ensure that participants felt a sense of ownership in the process and would embrace the finished product.

After winning approval from the full Planning Committee, the final version was presented to the entire Congress. In a moving ceremony on the last day of the gathering, the Covenant was signed by co-chairmen Billy Graham and Jack Dain—a Baptist evangelist and an Anglican bishop.

Following the lead of Graham and Dain, some 2,300 participants from



Bishop Jack Dain and Rev. Billy Graham sign the Lausanne Covenant

over 150 nations and 130 denominations affirmed the document. Stott’s drafting committee had accomplished something truly monumental—crafting a statement that succinctly and accurately articulated the convictions and concerns of evangelicals everywhere. Former Lausanne Committee chairman Tom Houston considers the Covenant’s widespread acceptance to be “a significant work of the Holy Spirit in our time” and “one of the miracles of contemporary church history.”

The Covenant was immediately translated into scores of languages, allowing

cont. on pg. 4

YLG Profile: Grace Samson



From the moment news about the Younger Leaders Gathering reached me, I have not ceased to be astonished!

What an awesome opportunity to unite for one purpose—the Father’s business.

I’m based at the southern tip of Africa, Cape Town. I love what I do. I serve Media Village, a ministry of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), as the School of Video Production Leader and the Public Relations Officer. I also anchor live broadcast events periodically. Recently I was appointed to be one of the National Leaders of YWAM South Africa.

I am blessed to be part of the YLG-06 Program Planning team. I helped produce the Conference manual, a video for the opening evening, and I am a co-emcee for the gathering.

I have high expectations for YLG-06! I desire to see a powerful network of passionate people released that will relentlessly spread the love of Christ to the far-flung parts of the world. I hope to be stirred with zeal that I will double the level of my commitment to God.

I believe that this is our time. Many great leaders have paved the way for us to serve and this is our time to take our place. We should stand on the shoulders of those that have been before us and make a mark for God.

If a sport such as soccer can unite the world, the love of Christ can do so much more! Let’s bring the nations to God! ☺



'87 Profile: Greg Fritz

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 was born in rural Pennsylvania, USA. I enjoyed spending time in the forests and creeks that

surrounded my home. I started working for local farmers when I was a teenager. I dedicated my life to Jesus at a "crusade" event that was held in a nearby town when I was in junior high school and soon thereafter began going on short-term missions trips. After I saw the disparity between my life and the lives of many of the world's spiritually and materially poor, I felt the Lord would have me strategically invest my life on their behalf.

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

At that time I was the president of Caleb Project, a mobilization ministry that seeks to

help churches and individual Christians take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Why did you attend the 1987 conference?

To listen to and learn from younger Christian leaders from around the world.

How did the 1987 conference impact you?

It opened my eyes to the complexity of issues that we, the body of Christ, face. Also, it encouraged me that God is at work all over the world and it is possible to join together with people from very different backgrounds in a common purpose.

What are you doing currently?

A few weeks ago, Caleb Project merged with a sister organization ACMC. Currently I serve as the chief executive officer of the new organization that we have not yet named. Our headquarters are in Littleton, Colorado, USA.


Have you stayed involved in Lausanne over the past 20 years?

I have attended a few conferences.

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

Most importantly, protect your personal walk with Jesus. At the Singapore event we were shocked when it was announced that one of our mentors and heroes in the faith confessed a moral failure and stepped down from his leadership role. Christian leaders must be people of faith and integrity. These characteristics are available to those who maintain current communication with God. Second, continue to learn. None of us knows enough to succeed in the future. We need to continue to personally grow in our understanding of God and his world.

What role do you believe Lausanne can play?

Gather Christian leaders from around the world and provide forums for communication. 

Connecting and Challenging
(cont from pg. 1)

revival and mission movements of the past three centuries. "Our prayer is that you will go home and spread the vision," said Ch'ng.

The main speaker for the first plenary session was Michael Oh. As president of Christ Bible Seminary in Nagoya, Japan, Oh is also a member of the YLG Program Planning Committee. He issued a stirring call for younger leaders to "stand in the gap for our generation."

"His faith and confidence is infectious," said Paul Niednagel after Oh's address. A missionary with Musicstone in Taipei, Taiwan, Niednagel said he was inspired by "the vitality of Oh's message."

Oh unveiled the four goals for the Gathering—Inform, Inspire, Develop and Connect—and discussed how each of them will be pursued throughout the week. Information on what God is doing around the world will be the primary focus of the "State of Gospel" plenary session on Wednesday.

Organizers have designed the plenary ses-



sions to provide content for inspiration. The workshops are the place for leadership development. Connecting will take place throughout the week, especially in small groups where participants interact with their peers and with older mentors.


Oh encouraged participants to "seize the opportunity" to take a "110-nation tour of the lives and testimonies of younger leaders."

Doddamani is eager to seize the opportu-

nity. It is easy to get lost in the crowd at large international conferences, said Doddamani, "but that can't happen in the small groups." He mentioned his eagerness to establish good, lasting friendships with members of his small group.

For Niednagel, Sunday's session answered the question he believes many participants have been asking: "We all know what Lausanne is, but we still want to know 'What is it?' I realize now that Lausanne really is the people and the connections." Even on the first day of the Gathering Niednagel said he has had the privilege of connecting or reconnecting with a number of ministry leaders from around the world.

It's the hope and prayer of organizers that all the leaders at the YLG-06 will come away with new and renewed friendships that provide personal and ministry encouragement and motivation for the task of global evangelization.

"Already after the first evening," said Niednagel, "I'm convinced this is pretty cool." 



The Lausanne Covenant

(cont. from pg. 2)

it to travel widely, to be locally owned, and to inspire fresh conversations and partnerships. Untold numbers of evangelical institutions and organizations adopted the Covenant as their official statement of faith.

The Content

The genius of the Covenant, it can be argued, is how it embodies the classic Protestant dictum, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.”

The Covenant presses strongly for a “deeper unity in truth, worship, holiness and mission” (VII). In an era when many theological liberals were seen as compromising the essentials of Christian faith and favoring dialog over proclamation, the Lausanne Covenant boldly affirms the cardinal truths of biblical orthodoxy and the necessity of worldwide mission.

In contrast to those theological conservatives who eschewed cooperation with anyone who even slightly disagreed with them, the Covenant states, “Our oneness strengthens our witness, just as our disunity undermines our gospel of reconciliation” (VII). To encourage greater cooperation among Christians, the document concludes, “we enter into a solemn covenant with God and with each other, to pray, to plan and to work together for the evangelization of the whole world”

Conclusion


The Lausanne Covenant is also distinct among confessional statements in the liberty it allows for those who subscribe to it. Even as it affirms one Savior and one gospel, the document welcomes a “wide diversity of evangelistic methods” (III). Likewise it celebrates a freedom for cultural expressions of

Christian faith—churches should be “deeply rooted in Christ and closely related to their culture” (X).

Liberty is also allowed given on matters of theological contention among biblicist evangelicals. For example, the Covenant avoids the hot-button term “inerrancy,” choosing instead to claim the Bible is “without error in all that it affirms” (II). The phrase “eternal separation from God” is used rather than an explicit statement on the nature of hell (III).

Throughout the Covenant, the reader encounters a tremendous sense of charity. Christ’s command to “love thy neighbor” is understood to compel a zeal for reaching the un-evangelized and a special concern for the marginalized and the oppressed. The document rejects the bifurcation of evangelism and social engagement by asserting that both are “part of our Christian duty. For both are necessary expressions of our doctrines of God and man, our love for our neighbor, and our obedience to Jesus Christ” (V).

The Impact

The 1974 Lausanne Congress brought to the task of world mission a fresh spirit that has been described at “cooperation under the Covenant.” According to former *Christianity Today* magazine editor Kenneth Kantzer, “the Lausanne Covenant has taken its place...as a guide for partnership in evangelism. The unifying question has quickly become: ‘Do you subscribe to the Lausanne Covenant?’” 

References

John Stott. *The Lausanne Covenant: An Exposition and Commentary by John Stott* (LOP No. 3), Wheaton, IL: LCWE, 1975. p. 3.

Tom Houston, “The Story of the Lausanne Covenant: A Case Study in Cooperation.” Found on the internet at <http://www.lausanne.org/Brix?pageID=14287>.

Kenneth Kantzer, “Revitalizing World Evangelism: The Lausanne Congress Ten Years Later.” *Christianity Today*, June 15, 1984, p. 11.

YLG Daily News Brief Staff

Editor

Naomi Frizzell

Contributing Writers

Judd Birdsall

Laurie Fortunak

Special Assistant, HRM

Tammy Wise

Layout & Photography

Andrew Brumme

Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization

P.O. Box 2404

South Hamilton, MA 01982 USA

www.lausanne.org

www.ylg06blog.org

info@lausanne.org

