

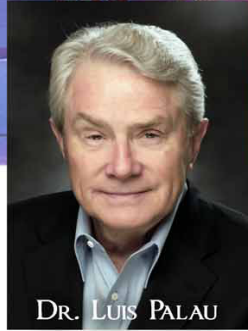
RETURN TO GOD!
WE WILL HAVE REAL HOPE!
PRAY FOR REVIVAL!
AMERICA NEEDS REAL CHANGE!

Real Hope Real Change

Revival Prayer Rally 2009

Speaker: Dr. Luis Palau
Testimony: Christopher Yuan


September 27 Sunday 3 - 5 PM (Prayer Rally with Chinese interpretation)
7 - 9 PM (Revival Meeting)



DR. LUIS PALAU

Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel
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COMMISSION NEWS

2009 Summer

The Internet A Strategic Platform for Mission in the 21st Century

Caster Cheung

God's Gift for Mission

As Christians we are all familiar with the Great Commission that our Lord Jesus told us to go and make disciples of all nations. A number of years ago I often wondered how this could be done. Definitely there were many dedicated and faithful servants who helped to spread the gospel through churches and mission organizations throughout the world. However, when one looks at the numbers, it seems to be a daunting task. The ratio of people to be harvested versus the number of workers is quite small. Out of the total population of the world which is around 6.8 Billion, only 2 Billion have heard the Good News. How are we Christians going to get a handle of the remaining 4.8 Billion souls who need the gospel?

Our Father is a God of omnipotence and He has a grand plan. Near the end of the 20th Century the

Internet and the Worldwide Web emerged. People of all ages embraced it in an astounding rate from all parts of the world. People then recognized this is the "gift" from Heaven to be used for the spreading of the Gospel. There is no better "Platform" to reach the mass public everywhere with the smallest among of resource. We should utilize this great resource as a key Strategic Platform for Mission.

Action

Since the emergence of the Internet, many Christian churches, mission organizations and Christian leaders have recognized the importance of this new found technological platform in their work. However, the actions associated with this technology have been minute and non-collaborative. Thus there is seldom measurable success. Most of the efforts were centered on the constructing of Web sites for individual organizations. Some of them do exhibit quality contents for singular purpose. It seems everyone is either waiting for someone to take the lead or hoping that something better is going to come along for them to follow.

Vision of Mission through Internet

In order to utilize the Internet effectively as a platform for mission, the church and Christian organization must unite and collaborate together to pursue an Agreeable joined common vision for the use of



the Internet. The vision statement should be long range and far reaching. The following factors should be considered:

- 1) Full collaboration of the many organizations including contributing and sharing of their contents.
- 2) Realistic plan with tentative schedule of implementation
- 3) The sharing of resource from different organizations
- 4) The technology aspect – ease of use to reach the mass public and a definitive standard for presentation of contents.

How to Act – Some Immediate Considerations

Collaboration of resource - There are two main aspects to this. The first one is the people aspect and the second is the collaboration and sharing of contents.

1) The people aspect: It could be most effective for various organizations to delegate technically oriented skilled resource to form an action committee. This committee will meet periodically and build plans according to the agreed upon Joined Internet Vision for Mission and set them in motion.

2) Contents collaboration and sharing: It will be most beneficial if some contents of each organization can be shared and merged together in some organized manner and transformed into a collection of quality contents for the end user.

3) The collaborated end result could take a form of a super website hosting the contents for the end users.

Technical Standard Considerations

1) In order to achieve the highest effectiveness, different classes of target users should be considered, e.g. missionaries and/or the general

public. Different classes of users may command different types of contents and different types of hardware for their respective usage purposes.

2) Digital content standardization: In order to reach the mass general public, the information contents formats must be standardized. These include the standardization of all digital formats such as text, image, audio and video for presentation and sharing.

3) Minimum hardware configuration and standardization: A minimum hardware profile should be published which will enable the general public to have the capabilities to access the majority of the useful contents.

4) Standard for common sharing: Each participating organization should adopt and conform to a common format for presentation in their respective website to enable other forms of content collaboration. .

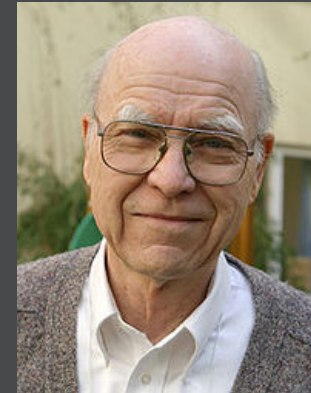
Other Considerations and Conclusion:

There are many other significant factors to consider such as classification of presentation material into Distance Biblical Teaching/Learning, Theological Discussion or selected topics which could arouse the interest of the general public. All these are interesting topics require significant content design skill and editing. The final conclusion can be summarized as the following:

Meeting the challenge of Mission through the Internet requires full cooperation of all organizations with their personnel's participation. With our Lord's help, together we shall fully utilize and energize this God given Platform to achieve His Great Commission.

**Please pray for the Internet Mission Forum
on August 29, 2009
at the Home of Christ Church
in Menlo Park, CA.**

Tribute to Dr. Ralph Winter



An Innovator, Renowned Mission Strategist
Ralph D. Winter (1924-2009)
Promoted into Glory

Recognized by TIME magazine in 2004 as one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals, Ralph Dr. Winter, a world-renowned scholar of Christian mission and the founder and creative activist in a wide range of mission initiatives, has died. He was 84.

Winter died Wednesday, May 20 at his home in Pasadena after a seven-year battle with multiple myeloma and after additional struggles with lymphoma since early February.

Many of the accomplishment of Ralph Winter's long career as a missionary, mission professor and "mission engineer" stemmed from his conviction that Christian organizations accomplish more when they cooperate in strategic ways. It was at the Lausanne International Congress on World Evangelization in 1974 that Winter burst upon the world stage with innovative analysis and advocacy that have redirected evangelical mission energies ever since.

– US Center for World Mission

I thank God for the life of Dr. Ralph Winter. His life in pioneer missions has inspired countless young people to devote their lives for global missions.

Ralph has always been my big brother in Christ in terms of both age and wisdom. He is a few months older than me and was my "coach" in global missions.

Time magazine honored him as one of the 25 most influential evangelicals. For me, he was the leading mission strategist in our world. His thinking is ahead of his time. I remembered in the early 1990's when I was in a meeting at the U.S. Center of World Mission and shared with the audience, "If you do not agree with Ralph today, you will agree with him 5 or 10 years later."

He was the one who awakened mission leaders of the world to the awareness of unreached people groups and frontier missions in his address to Lausanne '74. That changed our mission strategy from geographical concern to people group concept and has thus ushered in a new era on global missions.

I am grateful for Ralph's support to the AD2000 and Beyond Movement. He and his staff kindly helped to compile the Compendium of the first Global Congress on World Evangelization (GCOWE), which was held in January 1989 in Singapore. It was before brother Luis Bush joined the AD2000 and Beyond Movement. It was a great encouragement to me as the Movement was facing difficulties in the beginning. In fact, Ralph was the one who gave birth to the idea of "A Church for Every People Group by the Year 2000" and used this as the sub-title for the 1980 Edinburgh Mission Conference. Luis and I have merely added the words "The Gospel for Every Person" in front of his phrase. Frankly speaking, Ralph was the forerunner of the AD2000 and Beyond Movement.

We will miss Ralph and his prophetic insight. But, I am sure his writings and the U.S. Center for World Mission will continue to inspire churches and mission leaders around the world for years to come.

--Thomas Wang

Himalayan Global Summit 2009

Himalayan Global Summit 2009

New relations and shared visions were established in March 2009 when the Himalayan people journeyed from different parts of the globe to Pattaya, Thailand for the Himalayan Global Summit 2009. It was a gathering of 250 leaders from the Himalayan Nepali Church and the Nepali Diaspora church representing a total of 14 countries. It was held at the Baptist Conference Centre, Jomtien beach, Pattaya from March 19-21, 2009.

Himalayan in the Diaspora

The opening ceremony hosted a flag procession representing the many nations that is home to the diasporic Himalayan people. As the flag bearers made way inside the hall and lined in front of the stage, excited delegates all prayed in accordance to the theme of the conference, “from the Himalayas... to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Himalayan Global Summit 2009 was an attempt to go beyond the Himalayan borders in order to understand and engage in the present day growth of Nepali diaspora churches across the world. Today, hundreds of Nepali churches and fellowships have been started and established by Nepalis who have left their homes seeking better job opportunities in different parts of the world. It was reported that in Malaysia alone, there were about 60 churches of the diaspora. “But most of these churches are temporary establishments which may not exist when the current leaders return home. One of our objectives should be to reach out to the native people of their adoptive countries, train local leaders and give a permanency to the church,” said Dr. Adon Rongong, Chairman of the summit.



Himalayan People, Missionary People

At home, the Himalayan churches are also experiencing a growing mission vision and sending missionaries to other countries. “It was important to bring the Himalayan church into the mainstream missionary sending movement,” said Daya R. Pradhan, national coordinator for the summit. It was thus a chance to share the vision and also make known of the opportunities and resources between Himalayan churches within and beyond the region. In sharing what God is doing in different parts of the world and the kind of role that needs to be taken by the Himalayan church, we feel the bond in Christ and share a common vision to fulfill the Great Commission of world missions.

So a renewed vision was instilled, as the slogan, “Himalayan people, Missionary people” have also taken a transformed meaning since it came to use in 1998. During its initial use, it was understood as Himalayan people reaching out to Himalayan people in the Himalayas with focus on Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan. At the turn of the millennium, it was understood as Himalayan people reaching out to the Himalayan diaspora in urban India, East Asia, Gulf countries and other parts of the world. Now, it has a broader meaning as it indicates Himalayan people reaching out to the world despite the cultural and linguistic differences. With emphasis on cross cultural mission and the need to reach to the ends of the earth, the Himalayan people now have a broader mission field.

In an interesting note, Dr. Thomas Wang, the main speaker at the conference added a new rendition to the existing slogan, “Asian people, Missionary people.” It has thus challenged and encouraged the Himalayan people to identify themselves as part of a larger movement. “It is timely and stretching our tent,” said Solon Karthak, Nepal coordinator for the summit.

In many ways, Dr. Thomas Wang has been a key patron and a visionary to this movement. He has been a part of the Himalayan Congress of Evangelism (Himcoe) from its early days in 1994. His prayers and guidance thus far has been an

encouraging and an inspiring story for most Himalayan leaders. “He is the father of this movement,” said Daya Pradhan who feels that Dr. Wang has always come and given awakening calls to the Himalayan people.

Diaspora Mission

Another speaker at the Pattaya summit was Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira, an expert in diaspora missions affiliated with the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE) and Filipino International Network (FIN). Explaining the diaspora phenomenon in present day world, he gave examples from the Filipino movement and equally challenged the Himalayan diaspora. “There is a lot we can learn from FIN and it could even be a model/ a case study for us,” said Dr. Cindy Perry. Incidentally, FIN has also helped start Nepali Christian fellowships in the Philippines.

Pastor Robert Karthak and Dr. Mangal Man Maharjan from Kathmandu, Jigme Norbu from Bhutan, delegates from Myanmar, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Germany, and a host of other representations also shared the stage in the three-day conference. On the third day, six workshops were conducted on topics like cross cultural missions, diasporic ministry, women’s issues, children’s training, linking of returning new believers to Church and the ministry in Malaysia. An overall feedback on the workshops proved to be a positive one as Peter Bisset who led the workshop on cross cultural missions remarked, “In the workshop there was a good interest and genuine awareness of the need to understand another culture in order to witness effectively and not cause offense or misunderstandings.”

Indeed, the Himalayan Global Summit 2009 demonstrated an outstanding support and cooperation from both the Himalayan and the Diasporic churches in their first ever gathering outside the Himalayan region. There was a sense of historic achievement! “Never before in Christian history has the Himalayan and Diasporic Christian leaders gathered to pray, plan and enjoy the challenge of mission to take across the world,” said Solon Karthak.

True enough, the future is exciting for the Himalayan people. “It is a big dream but I can see Himalayan churches sending professional missionaries to unreached nations,” said Daya Pradhan. There is also a need of new young leaders emerging to help carry the movement as plans are being made to organize many regional programs and perhaps a few more global summits outside the Himalayan region.

In all continuity, it was discussed and decided by the delegates to host the next Himalayan Global Summit

2011 in Hong Kong.

On the final evening, representatives from various countries unanimously agreed to pursue the goal and objectives outlined in the Jomtien (Pattaya) Declaration. It was resolved to continue for greater revival and realization of previous resolutions, to bring awareness amongst believers about the diasporic community, to expose new believers in the diaspore to scriptural foundational teachings for their growth, maturity and fruitfulness. It was decided to enhance **Communication** among Himalayan and diasporic churches, create **Unity**, and develop **Rela-**



tionship to better **Equip** the churches. It is a prayer that this networking and linkage would be an asset in times of adversities and persecution.

“The climax of the conference was the candle lighting ceremony,” said Dr. Joy Tira referring to the time after communion during the concluding ceremony when each delegate held a candle and waited for the flame to be passed on from the stage. The room soon lit up as each delegate came forward and made their commitment to world missions by putting down their signatures on the world map laid out in the table before the stage.

It was truly a wonderful time of coming together of both Himalayan and Diasporic Himalayan representatives from different places and backgrounds with widened goals and common visions. The celebration would continue as the jubilant delegates sang and danced to the theme song of, “Himalayan people, Missionary people...”

*By Charisma K. Lepcha
(for Himalayan Global Summit 2009)*

World Mission News

Compiled by Samuel C. Y. Ling

Mexico: Due to the violence of drug cartel war on the US border, many US churches have canceled short-term mission trips there this year. Some still went with added precautions like not allowing anyone younger than 21, avoiding dangerous places and going out at night. Locals remain hopeful. One church has seen attendance up as violence increases and people more open to receive the gospel.

<Christianity Today, May/09>

Vietnam: Officials granted rare permission to unregistered house churches to hold a large, public Easter-related service last April 21 in Ho Chi Minh City. For the first time since 2007 more than 15,000 came to worship in a stadium openly. 1,200 made decision for Christ in a gathering normally considered unlawful. Permission did not come until 3 hours before the scheduled evening service just as an unseasonal rain stopped. The huge crowd sang with joy exhibiting a unity that belies the divisiveness and provincialism of the house churches.

<Christianity Today, June/09>

China: June 4 marked the 20th anniversary of Tiananmen Square massacre, when soldiers killed an estimated 2-3,000 peaceful demonstrators protesting for anti-corruption, democracy and human rights. This resulted in widespread despair and disillusionment and a revival of interest in the gospel among the students as well as intellectuals like writers, lawyers, etc. Today, every university has at least a Bible study group, sometimes hundreds of them. Also, there are now hundreds of businessmen fellowships in major corporations and in homes. Though officials frown upon this, they leave them alone because they need their honesty and integrity.

<China Aid Association, www.chinaaid.org, 6/2/09>

<Global Advance, www.globaladvance.org, 4/29/09>

USA: A recent survey of ~25,000 people in 12 megachurches found that they are younger (average age 40), single (nearly a third), committed to Christ (98%), have much spiritual growth (62%), less active (45% never volunteer at the church), and less giving (32% give little or none). Each week, an estimated 5 million attend about 1,300 Protestant megachurches with attendance of 2,000 or more.

<Dallas Morning News, 6/10/09>

Arabic Bible: The newly translated Easy-to-Read Bible was released recently in the Middle East and met with much enthusiasm. It replaces the older version that was translated in 1860 with outdated vocabulary and grammar very challenging to read. Arabs have a deep-seated respect for Jesus and more likely welcome it as a book about Jesus. After almost 10 years of work the publisher already got a demand for 50,000 copies.

<World Bible Translation Center, wbtcc.org, 6/5/09>

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BBM: Similar to church planting, business-based ministry goes into a restricted area and start an openly Christian business. When surrounding Muslim farmers ask Christians in the chicken farm how they raise such healthy chickens, it creates openings for sharing the gospel. BBMs provide jobs for the community, access to otherwise difficult fields, and opportunity for early business retirees to enter mission field. Other successful ventures have been software companies, steel and handicraft businesses.

<SIM International, www.sim.org, 6/1/09>

Mission: The economic downturn has hampered the sending out of missionaries. Last year an agency sent out 1,088 new missionaries to the field. This year they sent 101 so far and likely <100 more the rest of the year.

<International Mission Board, imb.org, 5/28/09>

Canada: A group of hockey fans decided to donate a goat to a needy family in the mission field every time their favorite professional club won in the playoff. They set a goal of 16 goats hoping the club would win the championship. But with the help of a website and coverage of a radio station, they have now reached 1008 goats (\$25,200 donations) even their club has already lost. They are considering making this an annual event.

<Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, www.crwrc.org, 6/3/09>

India: Around 20,000 farmers in central India commit suicide each month. Trouble starts when they must use genetically modified seeds by the officials at higher cost and more water. As crops fail due to lack of money for water, borrowing from moneylenders at 100-460% interest left them in hopelessly vicious cycle. An agency has stepped in to help educate the children and counsel the families. 90% of these families come to Christ.

<Serve India Ministries, www.serve-im.org, 5/28/09>

Peru: The August 2008 earthquake killed >600 people, mostly children in school at the time. In a village of 90 families, no markets were open after the quake, so people started a soup kitchen for those in need. Today, one third of the houses are still in ruin, but the soup kitchen continues with help from an agency. Seeing the love of God in motion of houses rebuilt and material provided, many have reassessed their lives and come to Christ.

<Food For the Hungry, www.fh.org, 6/2/09>

N Korea: As the government tests nuclear bomb and missiles, Christians are harshly persecuted with 40,000 to 60,000 of them among estimated 200,000 political prisoners. Yet, they have started a prayer campaign to evangelize the entire country.

<Open Doors USA, www.opendoorsusa.org, 5/27/09>

DRIFTING TOWARD SODOM

Thomas Wang

"All the men from every part of the city of Sodom ----both young and old ----surrounded the house. They called to Lot, Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." ----Gen. 19: 4, 5 NIV

God is a God of love and righteousness. He created us because He loved us. He also chastised us when we sin, because He is righteous.

Because of sin, our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, were driven out of Eden. (Gen. 3: 23, 24)

Because of the increase of sin, world population was wiped out by the Flood save Noah the righteous man and his family of eight. (Gen. 6: 5-13)

Because of sin and pride at Babel, God confused the language and caused the dispersion of mankind over the face of the earth. (Gen. 11: 1-9)

Because of sin and gross immorality, God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire from heaven. (Gen. 19: 24, 25)

Terrifying? Horrifying? Foreboding? Yes! The highway of human history is littered with remnants of war, disaster and devastation; all because of man's sin, arrogance and rebellion against his Maker the Almighty God. Today, the situation is no different.

The glorious days of the Reformation were gradually dimmed and mankind being led astray by the encroachment of Humanism, Modernism and Post-modernism. Evangelical faith and Christian ethics were on the defensive. Former mission-sending countries such as Western Europe and North America have now become leading voices for secularism and paganism. The world order is now in reverse.

Dr. David Reagan of Lamb and Lion Ministries, in his recent book *America The Beautiful?* reminds us of what life was like in America fifty years ago:

1. Abortionists were sent to prison.
2. Pregnancy out of marriage was thought of as scandalous.
3. Homosexuality was considered a perversion.
4. Pornography was despised as moral filth.
5. Marriage was sacred. Living together without being married was taboo. Divorce was a disgrace.

6. Homemaking was honored, and day care was provided by mothers in their homes.
7. Child abuse was unheard of.
8. Ladies did not smoke or curse.
9. Houses and autos were never locked.
10. A man's word was his honor.
11. Alcoholism was considered a sin, not a disease.
12. Popular music was devoid of demonic beats and words.
13. Eastern religion was still in the East.
14. Public school students prayed in their classes and read the Bible, and creation could still be taught as an alternative to evolution.
15. Kids were spanked by their parents and teachers for disobedience.
16. The Ten Commandments were still legal.
17. The government still promote Judeo-Christian values.
18. Debt, whether public or personal, was considered a disgrace.
19. Governmental authority was respected. Police were held in high esteem.
20. Humanism was considered a curse.

These were the America life 50 years ago. We are therefore more than distressed with the sinful, arrogant and unrepentant America life of today.

As a stunning rebuke to the unrepentant city of Capernaum, Jesus said, "But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you." (Matt 11: 24) The same warning could be given to today's America. Billy Graham has once said, "If God does not judge America, He may have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah!"

God spoke through His servant Ezekiel to a wayward Israel, "Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?" (Ez 33: 11)

God is making the same call today to America, to the West and to the world! "Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die?" The America life is drifting closer and closer to the Sodom life. America, O America, Return to God!

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