



ANNUAL REPORT 2009



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ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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*Cover photos: LWF President Mark S.
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teaching hands” © Wil Jones*

PROFILE OF THE LWF

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition, founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden. In 2009, the LWF included 140 member churches in 79 countries, representing over 70 million of the world's 72 million Lutherans.

The 140 member churches are grouped in seven regions:

- **Africa:** 31 churches with 18.5 million members
- **Asia:** 47 churches with 8.7 million members
- **Central Eastern Europe:** 15 churches with around 1.4 million members
- **Central Western Europe:** 22 churches with nearly 15.6 million members
- **Nordic Countries:** 6 churches with some 20 million members
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 16 churches with nearly 838,000 members

- **North America:** 3 churches with nearly 4.8 million members

LWF CONSTITUTION – ARTICLE III: NATURE AND FUNCTIONS

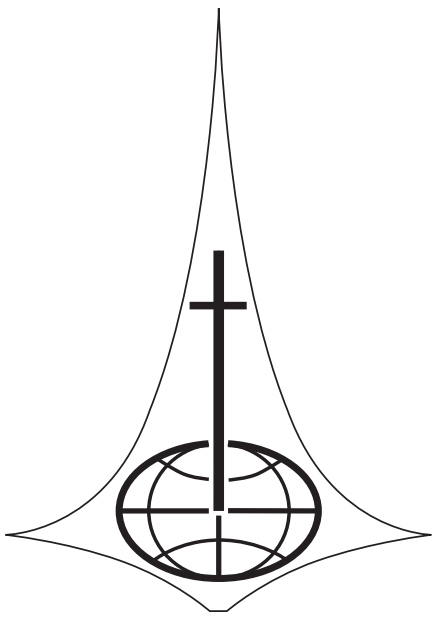
The Lutheran World Federation is a communion of churches which confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship.

The Lutheran World Federation confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.

The Lutheran World Federation:

- *further the united witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthens the member churches in carrying out the missionary command and in their efforts toward Christian unity worldwide;*

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



- *further worldwide among the member churches diaconic action, alleviation of human need, promotion of peace and human rights social and economic justice, care for God's creation and sharing of resources;*
- *further through cooperative study the self-understanding and the communion of member churches and helps them to act jointly in common tasks.*

The LWF Secretariat is located in the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, Switzerland. This location makes possible cooperation with other Christian World Communions, the World Council of Churches (WCC), the United Nations and international secular organizations.



Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko
© LWF/H. Putsman Penet

The Lutheran communion is in a period of transition, learning how to understand ourselves as a communion of churches and determined to stay together.

One of the transitions we are making is toward a new self-understanding, and a new look at the structures that enable us to live together with our shared values. Those values include respect for one another, the willingness to share power, and the willingness to be accountable to one another.

In the LWF we are a mosaic of churches from different contexts. Every synod within the Church of Jesus Christ stands as itself, but it is a church in communion with others. Our attitudes are changing, our self-perception is changing so that we think of “us” rather than “us and them.”

Part of our transition is that churches in the South are gaining confidence and mem-

bers are becoming full partners with other Lutherans on the world scene.

The LWF Renewal Process is helping us make the transition to even greater unity, for we seek unity within the Lutheran communion for the sake of unity with our sister churches in other Christian World Communions.

The LWF expresses its unity in decisions that are not binding on member churches, but have the force of “moral persuasion.” Our unity is expressed in church-to-church conversations. We have helped member churches deal with internal conflicts; this is not seen as interference, but as another way of being accountable to each other. And while church relationships are often expressed with festival worship, the life we share in common thrives outside worship expressed through diakonia—translating our faith into acts of love.

Within the LWF, we are learning how to handle these new things that are coming.

Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko
General Secretary

ION IN TRANSITION



WORLD SERVICE

ACCOUNTABILITY – A CORE ELEMENT FOR A COMMUNION IN TRANSITION

The Department for World Service (DWS), also referred to as World Service, reaches out to people in need on behalf of the Lutheran communion. To provide relief and development services with empathy and efficiency, the department is *locally rooted and globally connected* and cooperates with many other churches and related agencies in delivering its services.

There is a new “platform” for global cooperation of churches and ecumenical organizations. ACT (Action by Churches Together) International and ACT Development have united to create ACT Alliance, one of the world’s largest global humanitarian and development networks. In 2009 the Council approved LWF’s membership in ACT Alliance.

Transparency and accountability are core values of World Service. The department has developed refined systems of reporting and control to ensure that funding partners can see how resources are allocated. Accountability and transparency are also needed toward the people served. There must be balance between the accountability to those served and the expectations of partners and donors. World Service has developed a comprehensive *Accountability Framework*. The framework puts people in the center, is transparent, participatory and accountable to the people with whom

the department works. It is also accountable to those who entrust the LWF with funds.

A study on *Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance* was also an effort to ensure transparency and accountability, undertaken with Transparency International. A “good practices” handbook was published as a result of this study which involved several well known humanitarian organizations. World Service also became a member of the Human Accountability Partnership (HAP), and conducted studies in Nepal, Kenya, and at the LWF Geneva headquarters to enhance accountability to affected populations, in line with HAP principles.

World Service conducted a peer review with the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR), and joined with Oxfam and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assess accountability toward the people with whom they work. The LWF department is continually learning and improving its ability and systems for transparency and accountability.

World Service believes that transparency and accountability are the core of effective development and humanitarian aid and prerequisites to strengthening local contacts and global connections with churches, ecumenical and secular partners.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Expenditure 2009: USD 85.6 million

Geneva staff: 18

International field staff: 47

Local field staff: 2,428

(excluding associate programs)

Number of country programs: 31

(including associate programs)

*Distribution of food by the Lutheran Church of Costa Rica to the victims of floods and landslides in March 2009.
© ILCO-ACT International*



After six months of training in India arranged through the LWF Mauritania program, women solar engineers set up a solar power system in three small villages in southwestern Mauritania. © LWF/DWS Mauritania

ANGOLA

BUILDING A NATIONAL STAFF

World Service has a long history of training and mentoring national staff in its programs around the world. Of the nearly 5,000 staff now serving in World Service programs, only 50 are international staff.

The LWF humanitarian arm intervenes in disasters where local capacities are destroyed or overwhelmed. Although the initial

response to a disaster involves mobilizing international resources, including technical and management staff, World Service immediately begins to train local staff to replace the international workers. This kind of human resource development is a fundamental element of World Service's global strategic objective to make local people and structures competent and self-reliant in addressing their own humanitarian and development challenges.

In 2006, LWF World Service placed the entire management of the Angola Country Program in the hands of local staff. Angola is marked by the extreme contrast between the oil wealth obvious in the nation's capital and the dire poverty of the rural poor. This is a potential source of conflict. The government of Angola is trying to spread some of the oil wealth to the rural provinces, but progress is slow. LWF Angola efforts to accelerate the development process involve enabling poor communities to achieve a higher quality of life by increasing income from agriculture, and by advocating for better health services and clean water.

Until recently, LWF policy had been that an LWF representative for a World Service country program must not be a citizen of that country. The LWF now recognizes that this role can be filled by properly trained national staff. In 2009 an Angolan became the second national staff person to be appointed as an LWF Representative. He joins the LWF Ethiopia Representative in breaking the last "glass ceiling" for national staff in World Service programs, and provides further evidence of the department's commitment to local staff development.

In Chinganga, Angola, a farmer surveys his cabbage plot. LWF Angola encourages poor rural communities to increase their income from agriculture as a means of promoting rural development. © LWF/DWS Angola





Women in Saclepea district, Nimba county, Liberia, drawing a "community map" as part of a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) exercise facilitated by LWF. The goal was to analyze their current situation and challenges as well as causes in order to create awareness and bring ideas of how to improve the community's livelihoods and opportunities. © LWF/DWS Liberia

LIBERIA

BUILDING THE LWF COMMUNION THROUGH DIACONAL SERVICE

The LWF began work in Liberia in 1990 at the invitation of the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL), and in response to the needs of Liberians displaced by the civil war that lasted almost 15 years. Throughout this period, DWS Liberia stood alongside the Lutheran

church there, providing humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of people in a difficult and dangerous environment.

When the fighting ended, DWS Liberia, again together with LCL, founded an independent Liberian non-governmental organization (NGO), the Lutheran Development Service (LDS), to rehabilitate and support communities affected by the war. The intention was that the LDS would replace World Service Liberia after LWF's eventual withdrawal from the West African country.

LDS has now been operating successfully and independently for over five years. After significant consultation and evaluation in cooperation with the LCL and assisted by the LWF Department for Mission and Development, DWS, LCL and LDS have determined that the time is right to hand over the DWS Liberia program to LDS. It is hoped that this process will take place in 2010. World Service will assist by providing advisers through 2011 to ensure a smooth transition.

This model of localizing DWS programs to member church-owned NGOs has been successful in several countries. There are now eight such LWF "Associate Programs" in Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Peru, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. These are sustainable local organizations carrying out the LWF global vision and mission. The programs underline DWS' commitment to enhance the global communion by engaging in humanitarian and development work in national contexts. The member church-owned associate programs also make valuable contributions to the ACT national forums which serve as the ecumenical network for relief and development.

Part of the opening ceremony for the new school and community evacuation shelter constructed in TheaKon village was a simulated disaster evacuation exercise. © LWF/DWS Myanmar



MYANMAR

A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR”

The LWF has been exploring the opening of a World Service program in Myanmar since 2003. An agreement with the government to help with cyclone rehabilitation has been approved.

In October 2009, the first primary school and community evacuation shelter, con-

structed by the LWF in partnership with the government and the people of TheaKon village, was inaugurated. That ceremony was attended by the LWF regional representative, Mr David Mueller, the project coordinator and Church of Sweden representatives and by the entire TheaKon village and neighbors from nearby villages.

The group traveled by boat for an hour up the canal to the village where the local drum and dance troupe welcomed them. They were escorted to the Buddhist pagoda (temple) where they were honored with a traditional breakfast. Mueller sat next to the

government official from the host ministry and expressed his appreciation to the monks for permitting the LWF to use their facilities. He also pointed out that he admired the monks for allowing the children to use the pagoda as a temporary school while the new one was being built.

Mueller told him that in that sense Buddhists and Christians were quite similar. The LWF is a church-based organization with a mandate to help all in need no matter what their religion, race, gender or political affiliation. The official smiled and said it was the duty of the monks to help

the people of the community and that it was also the way of the Myanmar people.

The official and Mueller cut the ribbon on the new school and then the speeches began. After Mueller’s speech the official beside him leaned over and with a smile of recognition blurted out, “I know you! You are Jesus. Love your neighbor!” Mueller had been trying all day to explain to the officials what the LWF did and why. This man had captured it all in that one short phrase. The LWF does indeed provide a witness around the world.

EMERGENCY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Collapsed governments in many countries as well as climate change have altered the perception of disasters. A disaster is not only a sudden and exceptional event, but can be a repeated or chronic crisis. Changing weather patterns result in more frequent flooding, cyclones and droughts, making these hazards more intense, less predictable and often longer lasting. World Service expects the types, dimensions and complexities of humanitarian crises to change dramatically in the next years.

The department currently provides humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and development support in more than 30 countries. In 2009 DWS responded to 17 emergencies including drought, conflict, floods and landslides.

The challenge is to prepare and respond. Climate change affects an increasing number of people. Humanitarian crises can no longer be seen as a phenomenon of the global South, but as evidenced by the 2004 Hurricane Katrina in the United States, worldwide. It is the poor who live in disaster-prone areas with the least resources to cope who suffer the most.

In the future, humanitarian organizations will face crises that are “synchronous”—reflecting the collapse of significant portions of economic and political systems. Crises in the future will be increasingly simultaneous, with several major catastrophes happening at the same time. They will also be sequential, or “cascading”—one crisis triggering a series of others. More disasters will occur in huge cities, yet humanitarian organizations have minimal response experience in urban settings.

World Service has been involved in disaster preparedness and disaster risk management for many years. The guidelines and strategies for these situations are currently being reviewed in order to put more emphasis

on the critical issues and be ready to meet the future challenges.

Watering plant saplings in Ganjam in the state of Orissa, India, is part of a Lutheran World Service India (LWSI) disaster preparedness project in this district. ©LWF/LWSI



With LWF Colombia help, a group of internally displaced women in Soacha are using ecologically friendly farming techniques to put more diverse and nutritious food on the family table, improve family health and bring in a little income from the sale of their produce. © LWF/DWS Colombia



COLOMBIA

SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Colombia has been ravaged by an armed conflict for more than 40 years. The conflict has generated grave violations of human rights. Colombia has the second highest number of internally displaced persons in the world and more than 60 percent of the population lives in poverty. In 2006, World Service initiated a program for sustainable development, peace and human rights to address this social, political and humanitarian crisis. The program has a rights-based approach with an intervention strategy to accompany, strengthen and financially support the local society. The LWF has become a significant humanitarian actor in the country, building the capacity to construct alternative sustainable systems to provide food.

The program cooperates closely with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, a member of the LWF. In a strategic planning process in 2009, the LWF helped the church redefine its role and presence in the country. DMD and the local LWF representative assisted with plans providing cooperative theological reflections and practical analysis of the diaconal ministry of the church.

Assistance by World Service in emergencies caused by armed conflict or natural disaster is carried out with a focus on humanitarian

aid, building social networks and preparing to prevent future disasters. These initiatives are supported and financed by the European Commission's Aid Department, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and by Europe Aid. In order to access these funds, participation of the Church of Sweden has been vital, both in co-financing and in assisting the program in technical, institutional and relational matters.

Working with a variety of organizations is the way forward. The ACT Alliance has been important in coordinating emergency projects with some of its members such as Christian Aid, Diakonie Kathastrophenhilfe, Lutheran World Relief and Project Counseling Service. The ACT Forum has been vital in making the humanitarian crisis visible. Support from Church of Sweden, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the LWF German National Committee has been important in financing the basic program and also for expanding awareness of the humanitarian crisis.

Access to information about Colombia via international media is often quite limited. Advocacy for more balanced, continuous and in-depth reporting will make it possible for organizations, member churches and their congregations to become better informed, to use this knowledge and information to initiate public discussions and advocacy in their respective countries. Providing a communicator from the Church of Sweden to the Colombia program has tremendously enhanced the work of international advocacy.

INDONESIA

EXCELLING AT DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. People living in this vast archipelago of 17,500 islands that spans more than 4,000 km from east to west face multiple risks, including volcanic activity, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, floods and landslides caused by cyclones.

The LWF, including its 12 member churches in Indonesia, the ELCA, DMD and DWS joined with Australian Lutheran World Service and Lutheran World Relief to support the establishment of a Center for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies based at Indonesia's Nommensen University. The university is well suited to host the center as it has a long history, has access to local communities through strong networks of LWF member churches, and maintains established and long-term relationships with national, provincial and district authorities.

The center is expected to excel in disaster risk management and train specialists. DWS will provide technical support to develop disaster management procedures with the hope that the center will become a World Service associate program. The program has been developed in close consultation with the churches and reflects their concerns following the tsunamis in 2004, 2005 and the recurring earthquakes. The churches and



Children have fun at an impromptu school run by ACT International set up to ensure schooling continued in the aftermath of a September 2009 earthquake in West Java, Indonesia. © Yakkum Emergency Unit

the LWF National Committee are both represented on the governing board and have jointly approved the center's strategic plan.

The plan empowers communities to manage the impact of disasters, strengthens

communities in their development programs, works toward sustainable socio-economic livelihoods, and strengthens the church's diaconal work.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Capacity development is a crucial challenge in the Lutheran communion. Capacity development helps people in LWF member churches improve management and leadership skills, develop fair employment practices with regard to gender and other concerns, plan strategically, seek ways to be financially secure, and establish social service programs.

It occurs in World Service programs around the world, in all programs of the Departments for Mission and Development (DMD) and Theology and Studies (DTS) to prepare church leaders who are well-grounded theologically and able to reflect on what it means to be Lutheran churches in today's world.

These concerns for learning, training and education have been LWF priorities for over 60 years.

Investing in the abilities of people and their institutions has many benefits. It triggers a positive development that produces more and better trained staff, more skilled and better performing initiatives and new institutions.

While financial resources decrease, the LWF strengthens its focus on capacity development. The concept must be rooted in local plans. The local church must assess its own needs before anyone can prepare appropriate plans. To be "in communion" implies mutual learning and developing capacity. This requires time and com-



Capacity development training for local leaders in Cankuzo, Burundi. LWF provides training to community mediators, elders and administrators in order to strengthen legal institutions and make justice accessible to all. © LWF/DWS Burundi

mitment, but not necessarily large financial resources. When such things are shared, all parties increase their understanding and learn from each other.

DMD has a Comprehensive Capacity Development program which moves learning from an "event" to a "process." The local church takes leadership, based on a specific need or opportunity. LWF facilitates the process and assists in identifying resource persons. This

can lead to strategic planning, and to learning about preventing conflict management that focuses on organizational development. While the direct outcome is focused on the specific, long-term need of the church, the LWF staff and church partners also gain understanding and improve their mutual relationships. To be successful, these processes need the time and involvement of all involved from start-up to conclusion.

GLOBAL FUNDING

STRATEGIC INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

World Service is committed to its Global Strategy objective aimed at ensuring a “funding base that is secure, diversified and growing.”

DWS has employed a resource mobilization officer in Geneva and cooperated with Church of Sweden (CoS) and DanChurchAid (DCA) to hire a global funding officer. Funded by CoS and based in DCA's global funding unit, this capacity will support DWS country programs and build CoS capacity to access funding from the European Union (Europe Aid) and its Commission on Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

The experience, knowledge and resources available in DCA's global funding unit are also available to country programs. The collaboration which began in July 2008 with the recruitment of the global funding officer was evaluated this year, and an extension to July 2011 was approved.

The highlight in 2009 was the approval of a three-year proposal for USD 1.4 million to support internally displaced persons assisted by the DWS Colombia program. Although initiatives from Mozambique and Guatemala were submitted and approved, the full applications were not endorsed. Despite this, successful training workshops were conducted in Guatemala, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mozambique and Colombia. Plans to submit further proposals

from Mauritania and Uganda are being prepared for 2010. Strategic engagement with ECHO in Kenya is already taking place in order to prepare an application in 2010 for Somali refugee work.

World Service program officers in Geneva and Sweden have benefitted from training workshops on how to access Europeaid and ECHO-funded activities.

While increased funding through more successful EU applications will be a major goal for 2010, an equally important goal in 2010 and 2011 will be to demonstrate the benefits of this cooperation intended to limit competition between agencies, promote greater collaboration and serve as a model for future collaboration.



In 2009, most of the refugees arriving at the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya were from Somalia. As camp manager, the LWF is currently seeking funding support from ECHO in order to continue its Somali refugee work. © LWF/DWS Kenya-Djibouti



THEOLOGY AND STUDIES

ENGAGING IN THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE ON TODAY'S CHALLENGES

THEOLOGY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH (TLC)

This program began in 2005, and after six seminars held in different regions, concluded with a global consultation in Augsburg, Germany, in 2009. The central purpose was to encourage theological work engaging the actual challenges people face in church and society. This approach is based on Martin Luther's own theology, which related to the concrete struggles for the sake of the gospel in the context of 16th century church and society.

While the program confirmed that there were significant theological differences among Lutherans globally, it also made apparent that further, ongoing trans-contextual theological formation is needed in the Lutheran communion. The various languages, cultures, histories and living conditions of Lutherans are not peripheral to theology, but have a profound and formative influence on it. Lutheran theology is inevitably contextual and dynamic, rather than abstract and static.

The 2009 consultation, "Theology in the Life of the Church: Transformative Perspectives and Practices Today," hosted by the Protestant theological faculty in Augsburg, drew over 120 theologians from around the world, nearly half of whom were from the global South. It was a historic event and the most diverse gathering of theologians the LWF has ever convened. There were hurdles and challenges, but also the exciting, transformative insights that emerge from interacting with one another. A number of the papers presented there have now been published in the final two volumes of the TLC series: *Theological Practices That Matter* (vol. 5), and *Transformative Theological Perspectives* (vol. 6).

While contextual theological work continues to be important, dialogical trans-contextual approaches that are open to being transformed by those from very different life experiences and social realities are crucial for the further development of Lutheran theology globally. To undergird that, more attention must be given to enhancing the quality of theological education throughout the communion.

FACTS & FIGURES

Expenditure 2009: USD 1.2 million

Geneva staff: 5

Participants in an LWF consultation in Puri, Orissa, eastern India in April 2009 witnessed first-hand the dramatic effects of climate change—the rising waters of the Bay of Bengal—on this coastal community. The encounter brought theological and diaconal themes together. ©LWF/K. Bloomquist

CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM— FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

In June 2009, twenty-three Christian and Muslim scholars attended a consultation in cooperation with the Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies and the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies at the University Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The participants discussed ways of understanding freedom and responsibility in theology, faith identity and mutual relationships for the sake of the common good in society.

In Islam, freedom is perceived as a God-given gift. The Qur'an, the principal source of Islamic law, underlines the right to life, equality, solidarity and justice. The Bible speaks about both freedom from sin, the law, the past and its binding force, as well as

Dr Siti Syamsiyatun, associate director of the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies, addresses Christian and Muslim scholars at the June 2009 interfaith consultation in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. © ICRS/Ellis Zuliaty



the freedom to come to God, to love and to assume responsibility.

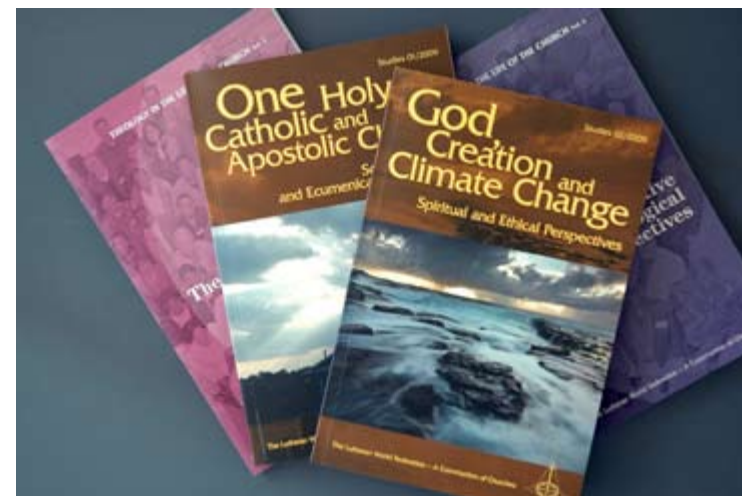
The communiqué from the consultation urged people of different faiths to collaborate, not only in academic circles, but also in religious communities and society at large. Accepting the other's freedom does not imply that different perspectives remain isolated from each other. Through interreligious dialogue, freedom and responsibility can be realized. The consultation itself was an example of this.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In April, 24 participants from India, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Australia, Indonesia and the USA met in the coastal community of Puri, India to witness firsthand and better understand dramatic examples of climate change in the area and reflect on how climate change relates to what is occurring in other parts of the world. The event was organized as part of the overall LWF strategy related to climate change.

Participants saw the rising waters of the Bay of Bengal, and saw vast expanses of seawater and shrinking sand bars covering large areas where a few years ago, hundreds of houses stood next to land for growing crops. Fifteen years ago, people had to walk many kilometers to reach the sea, but now it is only half a kilometer away and coming closer every day.

This encounter brought together the theological and diaconal themes of the LWF. Participants heard villagers, who observe Hindu and tribal religious rituals, assert that for them "Lutheran" means being empowered to change their conditions, through



Four books published in the LWF Studies series in 2009. © LWF/H. Putsman Penet

BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2009

- *Transformative Theological Perspectives, Theology in the Life of the Church series, vol. 6;*
- *Theological Practices that Matter, Theology in the Life of the Church series, vol. 5;*
- *God, Creation and Climate Change, Spiritual and Ethical Perspectives, LWF Studies 02/2009;*
- *One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, Some Lutheran and Ecumenical Perspectives, LWF Studies 01/2009;*
- *God, Creation and Climate Change. A Resource for Reflection and Discussion*

the long-term, supportive work of the LWF operational programs in this area.

Insights from this encounter were combined with theological reflections and ethical guidelines by several authors in the LWF Studies book, *God, Creation and Climate Change: Spiritual and Ethical Perspectives*. This is a complement to the important climate change adaptation and mitigation work of the LWF, and a contribution to wider discussions and actions in civil society.

HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE

An October consultation focused on the biblical and Lutheran theological bases for holding governments accountable to those things that further the good of all in society. Participants discussed the difficult challenges involved in public policy advocacy work, especially in African and Asian contexts. In some places, those who once were the liberators have now become the oppressors. These new political realities require different ways

of working, with different kinds of partners and approaches. As part of their public witness, churches need to be able to discern when to say “yes” and when to say “no” to governments.

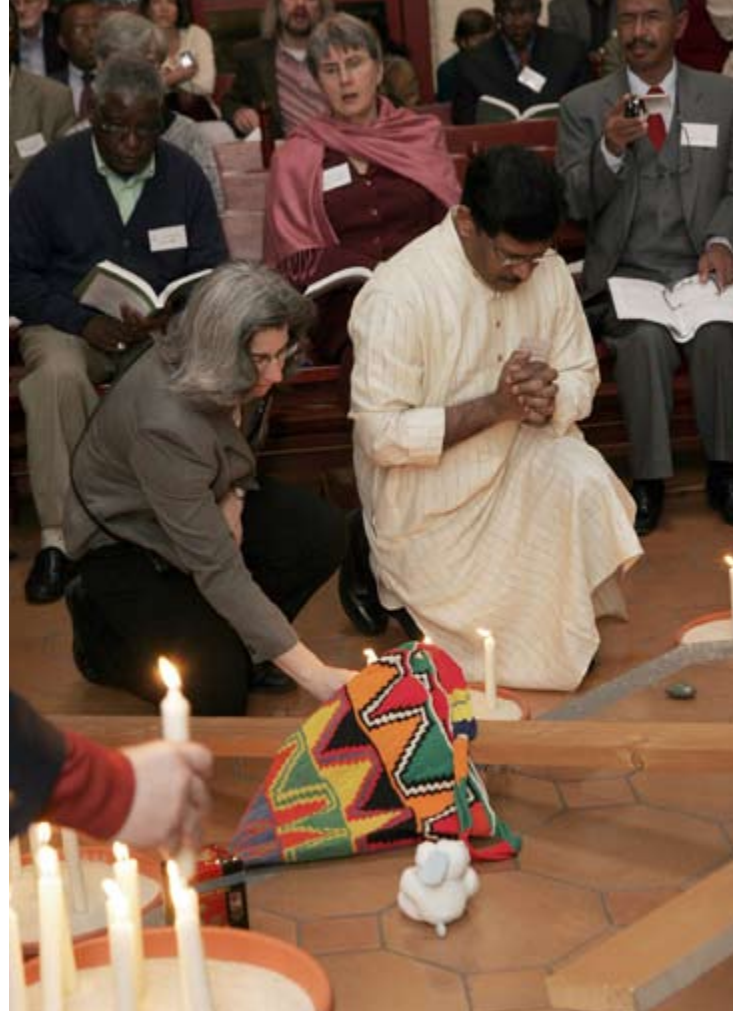
THINKING IT OVER

This year, four issues of the “Thinking it Over” pamphlet series were published, bringing important theological perspectives to bear on challenges facing churches of the Lutheran communion. The pamphlets are to be a basis for local discussion. They are distributed by email to all who are interested, with the understanding that they do not represent official positions of the LWF. Titles include:

- *An Epiphany of a New Era?*
- *Interfaith Perspectives for Economic Life*
- *Sola Scriptura as a Liberating Principle: Reflections from the Global South*
- *A Call for Exegesis and Critical Thinking in Africa*



Rev. Selma Chen from Taiwan (right) and Yenenesh Geleta Woljete from Ethiopia participated in the 19-21 October 2009 Theology and Studies consultation on how to hold governments accountable. © LWF/T. Rakoto



Participants in the LWF/DTS consultation on “Theology in the Life of Lutheran Churches – Transformative Perspectives and Practices” light candles during a morning prayer around the cross. © LWF/D.-M. Grötzsch

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

LWF ASSEMBLY

20-27 JULY

STUTTGART, GERMANY

The Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation will be held in Stuttgart, Germany, in July 2010 with the theme: *Give Us Today Our Daily Bread*. There will be 418 delegates representing 70 million Lutherans from the 140 LWF member churches in 79 countries. Delegates and visitors will participate in worship, prayer, Bible study, and will discuss matters related to the physical and spiritual hunger in the world. The LWF report *From Winnipeg to Stuttgart 2003-2010* produced in 2009 summarizes the work of the LWF since the last assembly, held in Winnipeg, Canada. The report is in the four official languages of the LWF and was sent to delegates and member churches. An Assembly Web site was developed in all four languages.

A Women's Pre-Assembly and the Asia Pre-Assembly meetings were held in 2009. Five

other pre-assemblies have been held prior to the Stuttgart Assembly. Reports from the Pre-Assemblies will serve as inspiration and information for the diverse items on the agenda. Public hearings will deal with climate change, food security, illegitimate debt and HIV and AIDS.

The International Worship Planning Group, comprising representatives from the LWF regions, and the Local Worship Planning Group of the host church met during the year to coordinate worship planning, decisions on texts, Bible studies' leaders and papers for discussion.

Daily themes are anchored in biblical texts for the day and in Bible study based on those texts. Each day's theme will explore one aspect of the Lord's Prayer. The Bible studies and other study materials, in English, German, French and Spanish, for the Assembly were published and made available



to the member churches. *Assembly Updates* were included in *Lutheran World Information* editions and were also produced in the four official LWF languages.

Village Groups will offer assembly participants the opportunity to meet in small groups for discussion of key topics. Thirty sets of discussion starter questions were sent to delegates and church offices to be used in preparation and as resources for local study and action.



The Eleventh Assembly Web site WWW.LWF-ASSEMBLY.ORG provides information, news, study materials and other resources in the lead-up to the 20-27 July event in Stuttgart, Germany.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand musicians play for participants during the LWF Asia Pre-Assembly Conference (APAC) and Asia Church Leadership Consultation (ACLCL) in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2009. © LWF/ S. Lim



Each brochure in the Assembly Study Material includes a feature story related to the Assembly theme and information about some of the region's staple foods. © LWF/H. Putsman Penet



Rev. Sigrun Óskarsdóttir lights candles at the opening worship of the LWF Women's Pre-Assembly in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland. © LWF/ T. Rakoto

The Assembly is the chief decision-making body of the communion and offers Lutherans the opportunity to hear one another and learn from each other while making decisions for the future of the LWF. The Assembly offers opportunities for the communion to come to better understand shared human experience in the context of regional diversity within the global community. Being aware of the varieties of experiences and needs around the world

ensures that participants are challenged to acknowledge their own limitations, and become more sensitive and compassionate to the needs of others.

Pre-Assembly visits to Wittenberg and other sites are planned and will offer opportunities for learning and building relationships.



MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

FOSTERING COMMUNION THROUGH COORDINATION AND ACCOMPANIMENT

The LWF Department for Mission and Development fosters communion in mission by coordinating and assisting the LWF member churches in their ministries. As financial resources decrease, support shifts to joint learning processes. All members of the body benefit from the service work done together, theological discussions and from sharing the challenges faced together.

This poster illustrates some key elements of rural development for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic. © LWF/J. Schep

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

AFRICA

In Africa, questions focused on the Eleventh Assembly theme “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread.” A regional consultation in Kenya explored the connection between poverty, climate change and food insecurity. Sharing stories and experiences enabled participants to understand the face of poverty in Africa, and underscored the need to work cooperatively.

Visits to various communities increased awareness of the consequences of climate change, especially the way climate change exacerbates poverty and hunger. Participants met families confronted by drought, who had no food and women who walk for miles to find water. These experiences became turning points in the participants’ understanding, making them more eager to be agents of change and to collaborate in their response to these challenges.

Amid this human devastation, participants also saw hope and resilience in the faces of



Fleeing permanent drought in Cameroon's extreme north, these internally displaced people settled a little further south and were accepted by the local population. Their biggest treasure is this well. © LWF/J. Schep

those they visited. Follow-up includes adaptation mechanisms at local levels, engaging policy makers for change, working for gender equality and developing codes of conduct as a basis for additional advocacy.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

Expenditure 2009: USD 12.7 million

Geneva staff: 19

Regional staff: 4



(top) Members of an indigenous community in the Arauca region of Colombia during a workshop on identity and culture that was part of the LWF's Latin American member churches' wider reflection on their identity and role in the region. © LWF/DMD Colombia

(right) Rev. Dr Annette Leis-Peters, a German researcher at Uppsala University studying the impact of religion on society, listens intently to other participants attending an LWF European region consultation on "Twenty Years After the System Change: Church and State in Societies in Transformation" in Budapest, Hungary in June 2009. © Zsuzsanna Bolla/www.lutheran.hu

LATIN AMERICA

During 2009 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia was involved in an intensive process to develop mission plans for 2010-2019. Stimulated by the regional process of LWF member churches on "sustainability of the church," the aim was to get

a clear focus for the witness of the church and its congregations, and more deliberate action to strengthen the organization. With significant participation of congregations in Colombia, the process triggered intense theological reflection on the identity and the role of the church in the country. The church identified five principles to guide its work in the coming years. If the plan is adopted by their assembly in 2010, the church will make changes that relate to priorities and themes, and structures, including decentralization, and concentration of diaconal witness.

This process represents an important synergy improvement in the LWF Secretariat, bringing together various desks within DMD, and with the DWS program in

Colombia which provided strong assistance and valuable input during the entire process.

EUROPE

The churches of Western Europe look forward to the 2010 Assembly in Stuttgart, hoping it will witness to the global communion and the interdependence of Christians in witness and service. With estimates that unemployment in Europe will reach 25 percent in 2010, the Assembly theme is most relevant. Lutheran spirituality can help overcome paralyzing pessimism and Martin Luther's economic ethics can contribute to global economic ethics. Interfaith dialogue



practices are also important as Islam and other faiths grow in European cities.

Challenges in Eastern European churches include working through the recent past, the uncertain position in post-communist contexts, the economic crisis, Roma integration, and political extremists. Central European churches see their role in the communion as bridge builders between East and West and beyond. As churches address issues related to differences of opinion on human sexuality, they offer resources to work on understanding scriptures and to reconciling the diversity of opinion in the one communion.

ASIA

In Asia, participants in a consultation on interfaith "diapraxis" in Bangladesh affirmed the importance of religious freedom in assuring peaceful coexistence among religions, both locally and nationally. They affirmed the concept of interfaith diapraxis, where people of diverse faiths come together on a day-to-day basis to resolve issues of common concern and pave the way for transformation. They saw diapraxis as a vehicle for interfaith relationships. Participants included representatives from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim religious communities in Asia. Diapraxis stresses common values across religious lines in order to promote collaboration in the local community.

Buddhist participants support diapraxis through "deep-listening." Hindus believe that

Continued on p. 22

RENEWING THE LWF

In 2005, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko asked the Council to consider putting “a new LWF” in place by 2010. Following this request, the LWF governing body established a Renewal Committee to study, deliberate, consult, and survey member churches and develop recommendations for action at the July 2010 Assembly.

Renewal in the LWF includes examining both structure and ecclesial foundations. The vision for the future is not just a question of what the organization does, but a question of why, and of the LWF’s own identity.

In 2009 the committee met twice, first to focus on drafting a report and questionnaire for response by the member churches. This was the second round of consultations with the churches. Additional consultations included talks with:

- General Secretaries of the World Council of Churches, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Conference of European of Churches
- LWF Staff
- LWF Cabinet



Renewal Committee chairperson Bishop Raymond L. Schultz of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (right) presenting the renewal report to the October 2009 meeting of the LWF Council. © LWF/H. Putsman Penet

- Directors of Action by Churches Together (ACT), ACT Development and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

At the second meeting, the committee reviewed responses from the member churches and drafted a report for the October meeting of the LWF Council. The Council offered several amendments to the committee’s recommendations. The report was then referred

to the LWF Standing Committee on Constitution. Some recommendations will require Assembly approval and others will be referred to the Council. The Standing Committee drafted amendments for both the Constitution and bylaws as well as proposals for policy documents. Draft proposals and amendments were referred to the Executive Committee for review and preparation of the final report for the Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany.



struggle with the financial crisis. Many people are losing their homes, savings and jobs. Difficult decisions are made while faithfully responding to community needs, local and global disasters. The churches are changing amid a hunger that goes beyond food. They ask: What are we becoming? How is

(left) Participants take a quick look at Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) publications during a break at the LWF consultation on interfaith diapraxis held in Bangladesh. © RDRS

(bottom) Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada National Bishop Susan C. Johnson (center) flanked by other church leaders at the North American Pre-Assembly consultation held in Kitchener, Canada in January 2010. © LWF North America

building communities of solidarity and mutual interest across faith boundaries in Asian countries is impossible without this type of interfaith activity. Muslim representatives affirmed that a Muslim must treat all humankind as one single nation. Christians stated that they could be agents of transformation for a world where God's love, peace and justice prevail and that religious leaders must use the power of religion to speak truth to power and promote justice in their societies and the world.

NORTH AMERICA

In one of the resources accompanying the LWF cookbook *Food for Life: Recipes and Stories on the Right to Food* (North American edition), writers contributed stories, reflections and tools to address the issue of food security at local, regional and global levels. In a region where wealth abounds, these experiences represent stories of privilege and vulnerability, despair and hope, disconnection and relationship, doubt and faith. Churches



this embodied in our sharing at Christ's table?

In this time of vulnerability and insecurity, the desire to receive gifts from the global Lutheran family gives churches courage to live out the gift of hope from a generous God. A participant in the LWF course for seminarians expressed this hope: "I remember my two weeks at the LWF with great appreciation, as it pushed me out of a seat of comfort.

God calls me and everyone else to leave our preconceived ideas of how church should be and invites us to gather in the church that God conceives."

GLOBAL DESKS

AIDS DESK – CHURCH LEADERS ARE TESTED FOR HIV

The year 2009 was transitional as the theme "For the sake of life" began. A strategy is in place to guide the LWF HIV and AIDS campaign for the

next two years. The communion calls on all its members to act compassionately, quickly, practically and aggressively to prevent further spread of HIV and mitigate the impact of AIDS by encouraging voluntary testing and treatment.

Church leaders are encouraged to lead by example and encourage everyone

to respond. Nearly all church leaders of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) have been voluntarily tested for HIV. "I tested because it must be clear that all members of the church must consider themselves HIV positive until they are tested, said one bishop from the region. LUCSA called on its members to clarify their own status, receive life-saving treatment and intensify HIV prevention.

WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Building a theological understanding of gender mainstreaming requires diverse approaches. The focus centered on developing tools and providing spaces for reflection and sharing, and analyzing problems related to gender from the perspective of



(right) The European participants of the LWF Global Training for young leaders meeting in Moscow, Russia, in June 2009. © LWF

(bottom) In the spring of 2009, ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod Bishop Wayne Miller (left) and LWF President and ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson (center) encourage voluntary HIV and AIDS testing by taking the tests themselves. © ELCA News Service/John Brooks



faith. Regional meetings contextualized practices of gender equality and aimed for full participation of women in decision-making in the church.

The communion received the document *“It will not be so among you! A Faith Reflection on Gender and Power.”* It reflects on the LWF’s commitments on gender inequality and explores how to assist the communion to be a sign of an inclusive communion. Mainstreaming gender is a learning process and is not an end in itself, but a step in the journey toward gender justice in the communion.

YOUTH DESK DIAKONIA IN ACTION – GLOBAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS

The Lutheran communion is always moving toward the next generation. The LWF Global Training for Young Leaders is shaping this transition. In 2009, forty-four participants from around the world began their

first projects. A young woman from Asia wrote: “I learned how to be responsible. Being the project leader was difficult and I learned how to be firm despite the challenges and criticisms I encountered.”

The program also models diakonia in action for the home communities of the young participants, and has reached more than 800 people in Asia and Africa. Participants ranged from young people who were trained in computer skills over a ten-day period,

to members of marginalized communities learning about HIV through street theater.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Education and training are vital to LWF’s work with churches in developing new skills and resources for mission and diakonia. The International Scholarship Program was developed to meet this purpose. A new initiative is the Leadership Capacity Development Program.

A survey of scholarships from 1975 to 1999 indicated that 82 percent of the persons trained return to serve their churches and communities. An external evaluation is underway to assess the impact of the program and discern better strategies for meeting challenges such as inadequate gender and generational balance, difficulties in retaining trained personnel and assessing the relevance and impact of development scholarships. A global consultation is planned to consider the findings and identify priorities for the next decade.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

DMD works with both programs and projects. In 2009, fifty-five percent of DMD’s resources supported 200 projects. Projects have distinct outcomes and impact, and the affirmation of these outcomes is the central challenge. The LWF Project Committee affirmed the interrelationship between project and program work and identified an ecumenical “learning” space as an added value. Reducing boundaries and developing synergy between projects and programs has been a positive development during the year.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is an issue of justice, human rights, ethics and morals. In December, the LWF participated with other members of the ecumenical family and civil society in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The message “Do not be afraid! Act now!” was expressed by senior church leaders attending the conference. Church leaders reiterated the conviction that there is an undeniable historical responsibility on the part of the industrialized countries for the climate change crisis. Those who have contributed to it the least are likely to suffer the most.

To advance the LWF conversation on the subject, an encounter in Puri, India, and a consultation in Kenya were convened. These events enabled participants to exchange experiences and views on climate change, its impact and the implications for communities and churches.

The LWF Council adopted a resolution on climate change that included calls for the member churches and the LWF to act.



(WCC), the LWF has sought to empower Dalits in church and society, give theological and ethical responses to the issue and press for an end to the centuries-old system of caste discrimination.

A Global Ecumenical Conference on Justice for Dalits promoted international ecumenical solidarity in this work, and indicated deepening cooperation between the WCC and the LWF on this issue.

(left) Dhaka's street sweepers are mainly Dalits. They live in slums like this one set up by their employer, the Public Works Department, with no safe drinking water, no electricity, no special health facilities and no schools in the vicinity. © Jakob Carlsen

(bottom) The 2009 LWF Council took part in a global day of action on 24 October. The level of 350 parts per million is what scientists have identified as the safe upper limit of CO₂ in the world's atmosphere. © LWF/D.-M. Grötzsch

DALITS

An estimated 250 million Dalits in South Asia suffer stigmatization and exclusion due to caste discrimination. The LWF, in conjunction with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, has long been active in the struggle for justice for the Dalits. Together with the National Council of Churches in India and the World Council of Churches



“...AND FORGIVE US”

As Lutherans focus on the theme “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread,” the Assembly will also consider an action concerning the next petition in the Lord’s Prayer. That is the petition: “forgive us our sins...” The Assembly will pray not only for individual sins but for wrongs which can be said to belong to the whole Lutheran communion.

In October 2009 the LWF Council unanimously recommended that the Assembly ask forgiveness “of God and of our Mennonite brothers and sisters” for “the harm that our forebears in the sixteenth century committed to Anabaptists, for forgetting or ignoring this persecution in the intervening centuries, and for all inappropriate, misleading and hurtful portraits of Anabaptists and Mennonites made by Lutheran authors, in both popular and scholarly forms, to the present day.”

This act of repentance expresses trust in the grace of God. In repenting, the LWF also takes a self-critical look at a painful aspect of Lutheran heritage. Lutheran persecution of Anabaptists involved violence, even death, which Anabaptists did not return. While these memories remain as vivid, community-defining acts of faithfulness for many Mennonites, Lutherans have tended



Mennonite World Conference (MWC) president and bishop of the Brethren in Christ Church in Zimbabwe Rev. Danisa Nallocu and LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr. Ismael Noko embrace after Noko expressed Lutheran regret for persecution of Anabaptists at the MWC World Assembly, Asunción, Paraguay in July 2009. © Lowell Brown

to obscure this part of their past. The action promises that from now on, the LWF will take care to interpret Lutheran teaching in light of this sorrowful shared history with the Mennonites.

As the gospel promises, repentance opens a new future and not only for the forgiven. At their global Assembly in Paraguay in July 2010, Mennonites

received news of this proposed action with joy, for it also opens the prospect of release from confinement by the past. Mennonite representatives will be present in Stuttgart, so that as Lutherans ask forgiveness from Mennonite sisters and brothers, they will already have the assurance that the request will be granted and that the road to reconciliation open will remain open.

ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS

OBSERVING ANNIVERSARIES THAT LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE

After the celebration in Augsburg of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration, Lutheran and Roman Catholic church leaders joined children from the Protestant primary school of Wittenberg in a Luther Garden tree-planting ceremony. © GNC/LWF/Udo Hahn



In deciding how to remember the past, we express our hopes for the future. For the Office for Ecumenical Affairs, these matters of “right remembering” were especially prominent in 2009.

WITH ROMAN CATHOLICS: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

Celebrations on every continent marked the tenth anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, a statement of Lutheran-Roman Catholic agreement on a key issue of the Protestant Reformation. Both in method and conclusions, this agreement was a landmark accomplishment, and even ten years later, it is too soon to explore and take in fully—in ecumenical terms, to “receive”—a message that turns away from the condemnations issued half a millennium ago. This history cannot be changed, said LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko at the principal celebration

in Augsburg, Germany, site of the original signing. “But ten years ago we said that these memories of separation and hostility would not be the memories of our children.” Walter Cardinal Kasper, head of the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, also an original signatory of the declaration, concurred: “We cannot be thankful enough for ... many, many other steps that have been possible since.”

A promising new Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity met in Breklum, Germany in July. Its first project will be a brief “Text on the Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017,” which will recommend to the churches common ecumenical commemorations.

WITH MENNONITES: ASKING FORGIVENESS, WORKING FOR RECONCILIATION

In October the LWF Council unanimously adopted a statement asking forgiveness “of God and of our Mennonite sisters and broth-

ers” for the legacies of Lutheran wrongs against Mennonites since the Reformation. This action relied upon the careful historical and theological work of the Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission, described in its report, *Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ*. The proposal coming to the 2010 Assembly in Stuttgart will be, like the Joint Declaration, a defining moment which declares that the sometimes bitter heritage of the Reformation will now be remembered in ways that foster reconciliation.

Other dialogues continued their work during the year. The Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission met in Iceland in July. The Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission began drafting its final report; and the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission met in Sweden in June. Participation continued in the Global Christian Forum and with Christian World Communions.

INSTITUTE FOR ECUMENICAL RESEARCH

EXPERTISE IN ECUMENICAL DIALOGUES
AND WORKING GROUPS

The Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg (IERS), France, is managed by the Lutheran Foundation for Inter-Confessional Research, a foundation related to the LWF. The Institute works closely with the Office for Ecumenical Affairs in all international LWF dialogues, and also with the Department for Theology and Studies.

During 2009, IERS professors served as consultants in a number of Lutheran bilateral dialogues. They facilitated important developments with Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, the Reformed and the Mennonites.

In early 2010, the Institute concluded six years of conversations with Pentecostals with the aim of establishing a new bilateral dialogue between the LWF and Pentecostal churches. A handbook was developed to guide future conversations. The handbook reviews

Lutheran and Pentecostal histories, goals for future dialogue, and important discoveries and convergences on theological topics.

The institute's professors served in cross-confessional working groups on the papacy, the biblical foundations for the doctrine of justification, and a historical-theological analysis of Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses, the document that began the Protestant Reformation. They contributed to the theological work of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe and participated in celebrations of the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth.

In November, professors led the first of eight annual two-week study seminars in Wittenberg, Germany, on the theology of Martin Luther. Participants came from all over the LWF communion. The focus of the



*Participants of the 43rd IERS summer seminar from 1-8 July 2009 outside the Séminaire Protestant dining room.
© IERS/Bernadette van Litsenburg*

seminar was "Following Luther's Footsteps to the Reformation." This project aims to strengthen global Lutheran relationships through study of Luther's theology and reflection on how his insights affirm and critique the practice of the faith in churches today.

The annual International Ecumenical Summer Seminar continued to offer meeting space for those engaged in cutting-edge ecumenical research. "The Liturgy as Ecumenical Chance and Challenge" was the theme for the 2009 seminar, featuring speakers from Orthodox, Catholic, and Pentecostal backgrounds, among others. The 2010 Seminar will consider "Mission and Ecumenism in the Global Village: 100 Years after the Conference of Edinburgh."

The Institute will celebrate its 45th anniversary in 2010.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

RECLAIMING COMMUNICATION AS MINISTRY

Communication Services focuses on enhancing partnerships and sharing communication resources with member churches, partner organizations and ecumenical bodies. It seeks to build the image and identity of the LWF through news and information, publishing services, interpretation and translation, the LWF Web site and promotion of programs and projects aimed at improving how churches present their message.

COMMUNICATION – OUR DAILY BREAD

The LWF can claim a long history of active involvement in communication work. While communication remains a major concern of the communion, its role, task and place in relation to the churches' self-understanding and actions is shifting. An international consultation, "*Communication – Our Daily Bread – Communication as a Mission and Ministry of*

the Church," held in Germany in June 2009, provided a platform to exchange ideas about the expectations on the role and place of communication in the mission and ministry of the churches in the 21st century. All LWF regions participated in the event.

LWI AFRICA PROJECT

Communication Services has worked collaboratively with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), DMD, and the Africa Lutheran Communication and Information Network (ALCINET) in the development and production of the Africa region edition of *Lutheran World Information (LWI)*.

LWI is the main news vehicle of the LWF. This two-year pilot project with the ELCT, begun in June 2008, regionalizes the production of the *LWI* in Africa with stories of the region and includes popular regional languages such as Kiswahili and French. The

aim is to strengthen the self-understanding of the LWF as a communion of churches in the region and enhance communication between member churches there.

The inaugural production included 500 *LWI* copies. By May 2009 that number exceeded 1,000 copies distributed at congregational level and to church-related educational institutions.

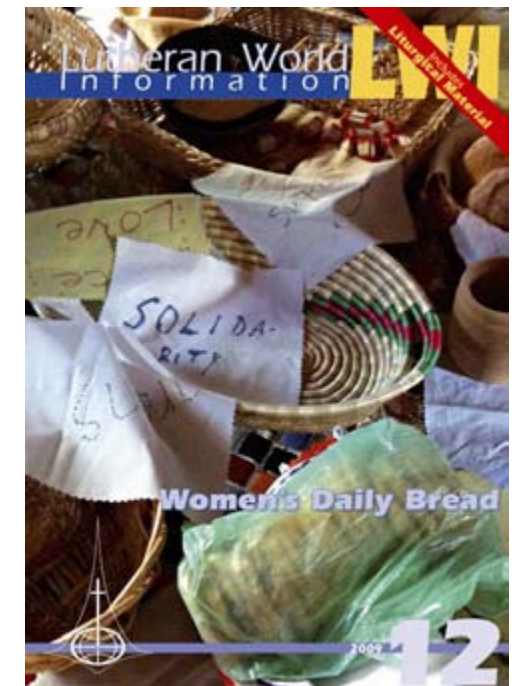
An evaluation is planned to determine what has been achieved by the project and how it could be replicated in other regions.

LWI SPECIAL EDITIONS

Building on the theme for the 2010 Assembly, "Give us Today Our Daily Bread," an *LWI* special edition was titled "*What is Enough – Perspectives on Food Security and Sovereignty*."

The stories portray the dignity and resourcefulness of people in communities struggling to feed themselves amid insecurity, disease, political and economic disenfranchisement.

Special editions of LWI in 2009.
© LWF/H. Putsmann Penet





Participants in a June 2009 LWF consultation on communication, held in Erlangen, Germany, exchanged ideas on the role and place of communication in the mission and ministry of the churches in the 21st century.
© LWF/D.-M. Grätzsch

The special edition also indicates the strong commitment in the LWF and the wider ecumenical family to work as partners with those who do not have enough daily bread. A second special edition of *LWI, Women's Daily Bread*, was published in December and focuses on some of the critical issues that impede equitable gender progress in the LWF and beyond.

NEW WEB SITE

A new LWF Web site is being launched in 2010. It will be more user-friendly and considerably increase the amount of information available online.

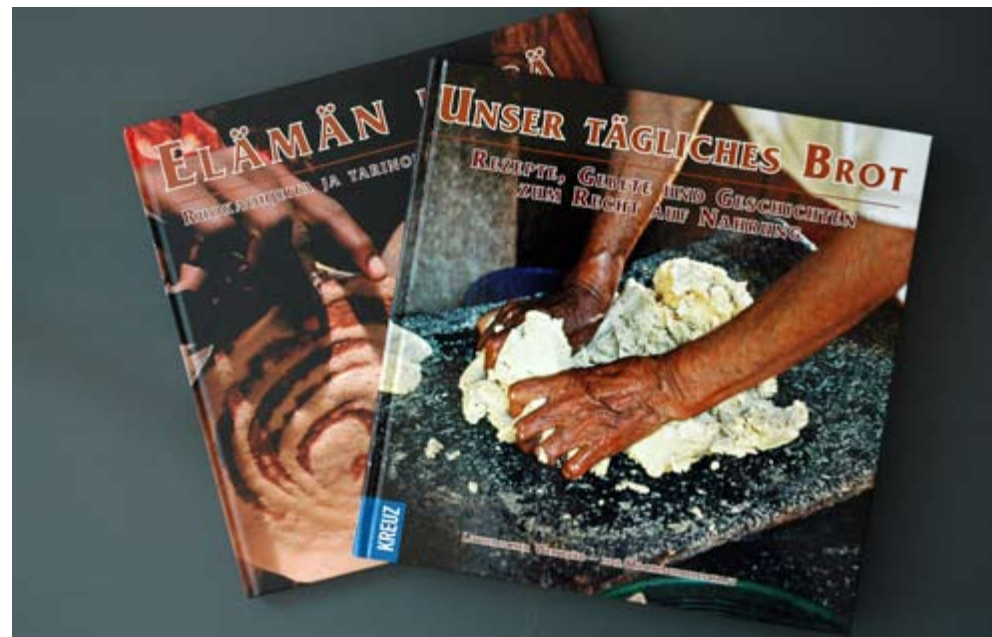
COMMUNIO GARDEN GRANT REQUEST

The Communio Garden is a new proposal intended to provide tools for the Lutheran communion to share content, link existing resources and strengthen its online presence. The project focuses on developing content from users and on the "social media." Its core principle is user engagement: developing local internet capacity, facilitating interaction among Lutherans and providing the foundation for a true Lutheran online community which would particularly engage younger members of the communion. The LWF has applied to a Danish foundation for funding for the project.

The Food for Life cookbook was published in Finnish and German in 2009. © LWF/H. Putsman Penet

FOOD FOR LIFE COOKBOOK

The cookbook, initially published in English in 2008, has now been printed in Finnish and German. The publication shares the daily struggle for food and life in some of the most vulnerable communities with which the LWF works and contains recipes from people in those communities.



PLANNING

ENSURING COORDINATION AND UNITY OF PURPOSE

The Planning Office makes certain that the LWF's unity of purpose is reflected in the work of the Secretariat. The office works closely with heads of departments and offices in the overall planning and coordination of LWF work.

The office is responsible for coordination of the LWF Eleventh Assembly to be held in Stuttgart, Germany in 2010. Strategic support and the general organization of the Assembly are lodged in this office. The Assembly was a key focus of the work in 2009.

"Upholding Human Dignity: Confronting Human Trafficking," was the theme of the October meeting of the LWF Council, attended by 165 participants at Chavannes-de-Bogis near Geneva, Switzerland. The Planning Office provides for logistics and



*Opening worship at the 22-27 October 2009
LWF Council Meeting in Chavannes-de-Bogis, Geneva.
© LWF/H. Putsman Penet*

planning for all council meetings as well as follow-up on actions taken by the council. Two Executive Committee meetings were also planned during the year.

Working with the general secretary, this office is charged with implementing the Renewal Report and has worked with a task force appointed by the cabinet. In addition, the office has oversight for the Geneva Staff Working Teams which reflects a new way of working together through priority areas. Staff working teams promote

cooperation in approaching broad issues relating to the priorities and programmatic goals of the LWF's strategic plan. The office also coordinates cross-cutting issues such as the LWF HIV and AIDS Campaign.

ARCHIVES

The archives document the history and activities of the LWF. Archival holdings

now comprise 892 linear meters of materials on site in Geneva.

During the year, the archives office researched 42 inquiries. These inquiries spanned a wide variety of questions including research on a Lutheran plane which served missionaries in China in the 1940s and requests for specific biographical material. In addition to inquiries, four visiting researchers used the archives during the year.

The office also maintains close collaboration with the World Council of Churches as researchers often visit the two institutions simultaneously.

HUMAN RESOURCES

ENSURING QUALITY BENEFITS AND SYSTEMS FOR STAFF

Human resource management and personnel services are essential support functions for the LWF Geneva Secretariat and World Service country programs. The Office for Personnel conducts ongoing reviews of compensation, benefits, contracts and training opportunities.

REVISION OF SALARY SYSTEM

The current salary system has existed for more than 20 years and needed updating. The personnel office was asked to take the lead in revising the system with a broad participation from others. A four-member staff task force met several times with a Swiss consultant. Individual questionnaires were distributed to staff and each staff position was analyzed. The task force has recommended a new salary system to the LWF Executive Committee.

HEALTH AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR DWS COUNTRY PROGRAM STAFF

The Office for Personnel has observed a slow deterioration in service and performance in the health and accident insurance plans for DWS country program staff. During 2009 the office looked for alternatives. It was hoped that good service at a reasonable cost could be found in order to protect staff members and their families who experience difficult health issues. After ana-

lyzing five offers, a new contract was signed in December.

STANDARDIZED WORKING CONDITIONS

The office has worked to standardize and improve working conditions for both Geneva and World Service country program staff. This has included clarification of the ten-year employment extension policy, child allowance support for Geneva staff and a

new allowance for spouses of World Service international country program staff. In addition, possibilities for work outside the office have been defined.

HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARD (HAP)

In collaboration with DWS, the Office for Personnel made efforts to respond to the required standards for humanitarian accountability and to introduce these criteria for all LWF staff. These criteria include complaint mechanisms and induction guidelines for new employees. A template for staff development and performance reviews has been adapted including the new requirements. It is anticipated that with these measures, DWS will obtain HAP certification in 2010.



*LWF field staff in Koukou, Chad.
© LWF/DWS Chad*

FINANCES

ENSURING STRONG FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE COMMUNION

The “Summary of Income and Expenditure 2009” provides the overall financial picture. “Coordination (Geneva)” refers to the Geneva Secretariat activities, which include governance, planning, coordination, program implementation, monitoring, evaluation and capacity building. “Coordination (Field)” relates to the non-project activities in World Service country programs.

The Geneva Coordination expenditure in Swiss francs was 5.7 percent below budget. The net result for the year, including exchange differences and program write-offs, was a deficit of USD 540,000. Substantial reserves, amounting to USD 21.9 million at the end of the year, continue to serve the organization well.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA audited the 2009 consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

INCOME

Membership fees and contributions from member churches, related agencies, governments and specialized UN agencies, as well as LWF reserves fund the activities admin-

istered by the secretariat. Income is also derived from local World Service programs, patient fees from the East Jerusalem-based Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH), and interest earned. The total income in 2009 was USD 103.4 million.

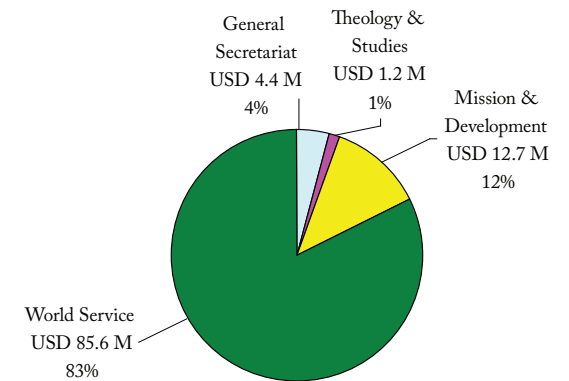
EXPENDITURE

During 2009 the secretariat spent USD 103.9 million for coordination, programs and projects, and write-offs. See the “LWF Expenditure 2009” chart for the breakdown by department.

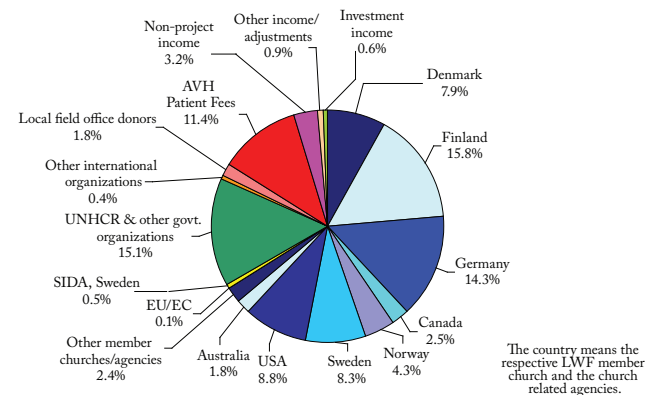
MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Efforts continued to enhance financial management by improving procurement policies and procedures in DWS country programs.

The secretariat paid CO₂ emissions compensation for all 2009 air travel amounting to USD 15,181. The funds will be used to provide energy-saving stoves for families in Eritrea. Using these stoves also contributes to better family health.



LWF Income 2009, Total USD 103.4 Million



SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2009

| Amounts in USD | Coordination | | Programs & Projects | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Geneva | Field | | |
| Income | 10,236,484 | 4,049,833 | 88,547,230 | 102,833,547 |
| Expenditure | (11,163,069) | (3,032,252) | (88,547,230) | (102,742,551) |
| Subtotal | (926,585) | 1,017,581 | 0 | 90,996 |
| Project Write-offs | (107,169) | 0 | 0 | (107,169) |
| Financial result | 579,255 | 0 | 0 | 579,255 |
| Operational result | (454,499) | 1,017,581 | 0 | 563,082 |
| Pension provision | (1,103,000) | 0 | 0 | (1,103,000) |
| Net result | (1,557,499) | 1,017,581 | 0 | (539,918) |
| Reserves 01.01.2009 | 12,917,741 | 9,548,298 | 0 | 22,466,039 |
| Reserve adjustments | 122,423 | (122,423) | 0 | 0 |
| Reserves 31.12.2009 | 11,482,665 | 10,443,456 | 0 | 21,926,121 |



Exchange of symbolic gifts during a worship service at the LWF Women's Pre-Assembly in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland. © LWF/T. Rakoto

LWF FOUNDATION – ENDOWMENT FUND

YOU CAN HELP GUARANTEE LWF'S WORK

The LWF Endowment Fund supplements financial support for the work of the Lutheran communion. The Fund was established in 1999 with a long-term target of CHF 50 million. It reached the goal of CHF 10 million in 2006 and has a current target of CHF 20 million by 2017.

During 2009 CHF 613,427 was added to the fund in Geneva and USD 152,527 was contributed in the USA. The balance at the end of the year, including retained earnings, was CHF 10.4 million in Geneva with an additional USD 1.3 million held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation in the USA.

A board appointed by the Board of Trustees governs the LWF Foundation. The board reports to the LWF Council. The Foundation receives gifts and legacies from

individuals, and contributions from member churches and related agencies.

Consider YOUR gift today to support LWF's ongoing work.

Web donations:

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LWF 2009 MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

NORTH AMERICA
4,784,089

EUROPE
37,164,411

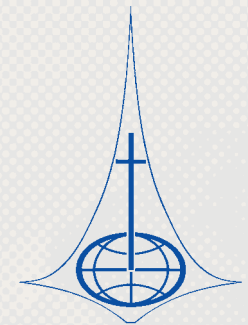
ASIA
8,746,434

**LATIN AMERICA
& THE CARIBBEAN**
837,692

AFRICA
18,520,690

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70 MILLION DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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