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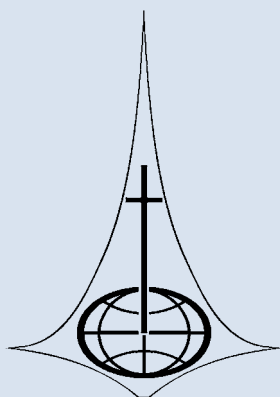
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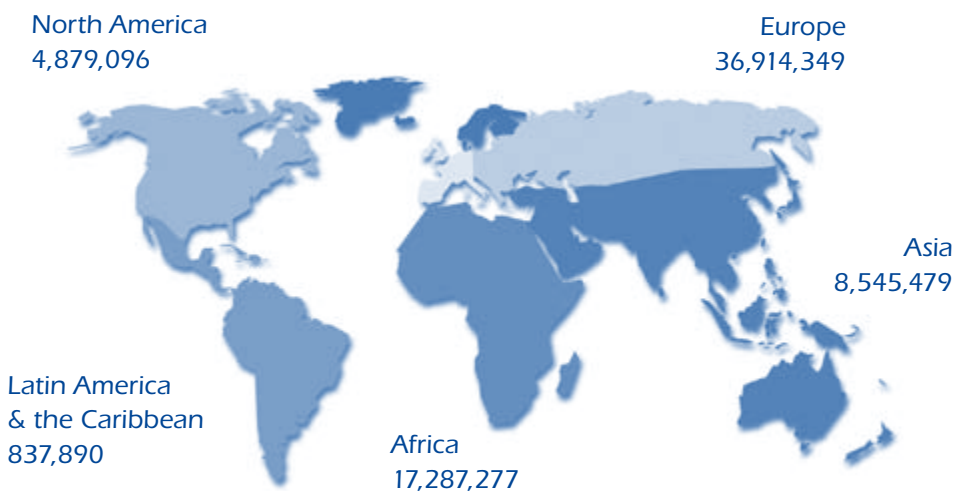
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## Membership in LWF Member Churches Reaches Just Under 68.5 Million



### LWF 2008 Membership Figures

#### Increase in Africa, Asia and Latin America Compensates for Decline in Europe and North America

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The combined membership in churches belonging to the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) last year rose by 141,792 to reach a global total just under 68.5 million (68,464,091). While Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean reported increases in membership, churches in Europe and North America once again experienced a slight decline.

According to the annual statistical survey for 2008 conducted by the LWF Office for Communication Services, the organization's 140 member churches, 10 recognized churches and congregations and one recognized council, spanning 79 countries, combined for an annual membership increase of approximately 0.21 percent. In 2007, the LWF churches worldwide had some 68.3 million members, up from 66.7 million in 2006.

The membership total of all Lutheran churches worldwide rose over the past year by 150,147 to approximately 72 million

(71,973,570), an increase of 0.21 percent. In 2007, all Lutheran churches worldwide counted some 71.8 million members, compared to approximately 70.2 million in 2006. The number of Lutherans who belong to non-LWF Lutheran churches rose by 8,355 or 0.24 percent to reach 3,509,479.

#### Africa: Steady Growth in Ethiopia

In Africa, LWF church membership over the past year rose by 158,047 or 0.9 percent to a total of 17,287,277. The membership of non-LWF Lutheran churches on the continent dropped by 1,854, or 3.3 percent, to total of 54,215.

*Continues on page 3*

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## Ethiopian Church Marks 50 Years of Service and Growth

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 110 years of missionary work in a series of events from 17 to 18 January in the capital Addis Ababa. Thousands of people participated, including representatives of other local churches and from the EECMY partner churches and organizations in Africa, Europe and North America.

The 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations, preceded by a special month of prayer and fasting, marked “a transition from the church’s past years of ministry to her future ministry in a new key to a new generation,” according to an EECMY statement. The commemoration, presided by EECMY President Rev. Iteffa Gobena, also served as an occasion to affirm dedication to a “renewed vision of service to Christ in unity and love.”

Namibian Bishop Dr Zephania Kameeta, the African region vice president for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), brought greetings from the LWF. At a dinner hosted by Ethiopian President Girma Wolde-Giorgis, the head of state presented honorary doctorate degrees to leaders who had provided exemplary service to the church and its ministry. The recipients included former EECMY president Emanuel Abraham, who led the church from 1963 to 1985. The president also recognized Ethiopian pastor Dr Tesgara Hirpo, Rev. Dr Loren Bliese from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Dr Neils

Reimer, Presbyterian Church USA, for their respective work in Bible translation, mission and language development.

At its establishment in January 1959, the EECMY had 20,000 members, a figure which has risen steadily to some 5 million by the beginning of 2009. The world’s second largest Lutheran church, it joined the LWF in 1963. It is organized into 21 synods throughout Ethiopia, comprising members from many ethnic and language groups in more than 6,000 congregations and over 2,700 preaching places.

### New EECMY Church President

At its Eighth General Assembly, held 20-25 January, the EECMY elected **Rev. Dr Wakseyoum Idosa** as the new church president for a four-year term. He succeeds Rev. Iteffa Gobena, who had led the Ethiopian church since 2001. Gobena, an LWF Council member, was not seeking re-election after two terms.

Until his election, Idosa, 47, had served the EECMY in different leadership positions for nearly 20 years—as a seminary teacher, president of the Central Synod, and as general secretary since 2006.

He holds a doctorate in ministerial leadership.

Idosa and his wife Aster Djaleta have two children.

*(From EECMY Information)*

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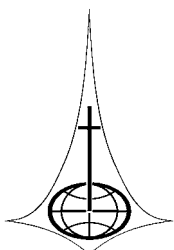
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## Membership in LWF Member Churches Reaches Just Under 68.5 Million

*Continued from p. 1*

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, LWF's largest African member church, registered an increase of 143,329 members or 2.9 percent, to reach 5,012,486. It remains the second largest Lutheran church in the world after the 6.8 million-member Church of Sweden.

The highest annual growth was recorded in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, whose membership figures rose by approximately 17.6 percent or 15,000 new members to count 100,000. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda had a 12 percent increase for its 4,276 new members, bringing the total to 40,000.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) with 21,034 new members saw its membership increase by 3.2 percent, bringing the total to 673,229. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon recorded an additional 4,995 members to 220,015, an increase of around 2.3 percent.

The Moravian Church in South Africa saw its membership decline by 30,000 members or 37.5 percent to 50,000, explained as a result of a recalculation of the membership figures. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana declined to 18,650, representing a loss of 2,460 members or 11.6 percent.

Africa's second largest Lutheran church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, did not report any changes in its membership of 4,632,480, nor did the Malagasy Lutheran Church, the third largest on the continent, with 3 million members. Membership in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria remained unchanged at 1,745,050.

### Asia: Over 300,000 New Lutherans

The total number of Lutherans in Asia rose by 270,061 over the past year to

reach 8,545,479, representing an increase of 3.26 percent. Non-LWF Lutheran churches in the region reported 182,921 new members, corresponding to an increase of 42,563 or approximately 30.3 percent.

The region's largest Lutheran church, the Protestant Christian Batak Church (Indonesia), reported 4 million members last year, an increase of 250,000 or 6.7 percent.

The sharpest membership increase in Asia in terms of absolute figures over the past year was reported by the Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church (India), with an additional 40,331 members to 50,168 or five-fold. This increase, according to church sources, is due to a restructuring which resulted in the incorporation of new congregations into the non-LWF member church.

The Chinese Lutheran Brethren Victory Church (Taiwan), also a non-LWF member church, more than doubled its membership with an additional 2,178 members (130.6 percent), to attain a total of 3,846.

Other churches reporting significant membership increases included the Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (1,116 new members, or 12.6 percent, to 10,000); the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (8,000 new members, or 16 percent, to 58,000); the Gutnius Lutheran Church - Papua New Guinea (9,455 new members, or 6.8 percent, to 149,455); the Taiwan Lutheran Church (2,044 new members, or 15.7 percent, to 15,088) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (195 new members, or 6.9 percent, to 3,007).

The Arcot Lutheran Church (India) registered a loss of 2,000 members (5.4 percent) to the current 35,000, while the Lutheran Church in the Philippines counted 9,000 fewer members (33.3 percent) for its current total of 18,000. The decline

in the Philippine's church dates back to the split which occurred in 1992, resulting in a recalculation of the membership figures.

### Europe: Membership Decline of over 200,000

The total membership of Lutheran churches in Europe fell again over the past year by 223,252 or 0.6 percent, to a current total of 36,954,216. LWF member churches registered a loss of 223,025 or 0.6 percent to the current total of 36,914,349.

Membership in the world's largest Lutheran church, the Church of Sweden, declined last year by 73,740, or 1.1 percent to 6,820,161.

The fifth largest LWF member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, saw its membership drop by 19,270 or 0.4 percent to 4,514,359.

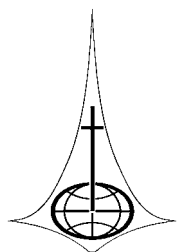
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the sixth largest LWF member church, reported a relatively small decline of 1,421 or 0.03 percent, to a new total of 4,494,589.

The Church of Norway likewise registered a modest loss of 2,570 members or 0.07 percent, to the current 3,868,943.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States grew by 6.7 percent or 5,000 members, for a total of 80,000.

LWF member churches in France recorded significantly sharp declines, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of France putting its membership at 10,400 members, a drop of 29,600 or 74 percent. The Malagasy Protestant Church in France lost 1,500 members or 15 percent, to 8,500.

The Lutheran Church in Ireland, an LWF recognized church, registered a sharp decline again. Due to a change in its membership calculation method, a drop of 514 was noted or 66.8 percent, to the current 256.



## Germany: Lutheran Churches Lose 84,000

Germany, the country with the largest number of Lutheran Christians in the world, had a total membership of 12,543,179 in 2008, reflecting a decrease of 84,567 or 0.67 percent. Lutheran churches in Germany had around 12.63 million members in 2007 compared to 12.73 million in 2006. Membership in LWF member churches in the country fell by 84,180 or 0.67 percent, to 12,506,067.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, the church with the largest membership, recorded 2,981,313 members, a decrease of 42,584, or 1.4 percent. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria reported 2,632,000 members, reflecting a 1.2 percent increase of 32,000. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg also saw a membership decrease, with its total figure falling by 17,169 or 0.8 percent to reach 2,286,893. Membership in the North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church decreased by 22,687 or 1.1 percent, to 2,076,628.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony recorded 810,558 members, reflecting a decrease of 12,929 or 1.6 percent. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia saw a membership increase of 9,399 or 2.1 percent, to 431,467. The membership of the Evangelical Church of Pomerania fell by 1,191 or 1.2 percent, to 100,385, while that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg by 6,792 or 3.3 percent, to 201,740.

Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick dropped in the course of last year by 5,299 or 1.3 percent, to 400,315, while the Church of Lippe (Lutheran Section) had a slight increase of 1,000 or 3.2 percent, to 32,000.

Membership figures remained unchanged for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (3,500), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (463,448) and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (60,800).

The Germany-based Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad had 25,020 members, up by 870 or 3.6 percent.

The Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church, a non-LWF member church, recorded a decrease of 387 or 1.1 percent, to 35,642. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany, likewise a non-LWF church, remained unchanged.

## Modest Gains in Latin America

The total membership in Lutheran churches in Latin America and the Caribbean increased by 19,076 or 1.7 percent, to a total of 1,123,270. Membership in LWF member churches in the region was 837,890, an increase of 15,816 or 1.9 percent. Lutheran churches not belonging to the LWF registered 3,260 new members, an increase of 1.2 percent, to 282,120.

While most Lutheran churches in Latin America and the Caribbean reported little change in their membership statistics, the region's largest Lutheran church, the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, registered a membership increase of 14,000 or two percent, to 717,000.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana had 13,000 members, an increase of 2,000 or 18.2 percent. Membership in the Evangelical Church of the River Plate (Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay) increased by 200 or 0.8 percent, to 25,200.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil, which does not belong to the LWF, reported 233,416 members last year, a rise of 3,201 or 1.4 percent.

## North America: Nearly 100,000 Fewer Lutherans

In 2008, total membership in North American Lutheran churches fell by 114,494, or 1.44 percent. Of a total 7,826,192 Lutherans, 4,879,096 be-

longed to LWF member churches. The North American LWF churches consequently recorded a decrease of 79,107 members or 1.6 percent.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the LWF's third largest member church, registered 4,709,954 members in 2008, a decrease of 64,249 or 1.4 percent.

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (USA and Canada), not an LWF member, reported 2,383,084 members, a loss of 34,913 or 1.4 percent.

The Lutheran Churches of the Reformation, also an LWF non-member, reported an increase of 500 or 33.3 percent, to the current total of 2,000.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada last year had 161,142 members, an annual decline of 13,358 or 7.7 percent. Membership in the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada) remained unchanged at 8,000.

*The LWF membership statistics are based on information received from the LWF member churches, recognized churches and congregations and council, as well as from other Lutheran churches, organizations, mission bodies and congregations. The figures recorded for the year ending 2007 were used for churches that did not indicate any changes by the end of January 2009.*

**For further information, please contact the LWF Office for Communication Services at:**

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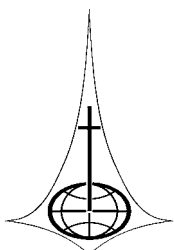
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A one-page summary of the 2008 LWF statistics is posted in a PDF file at: [www.lutheranworld.org/LWF\\_Documents/LWF-Statistics-01-2008.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-Statistics-01-2008.pdf)

Full details can be found at: [www.lutheranworld.org/LWF\\_Documents/LWF-Statistics-2008.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-Statistics-2008.pdf)

27 February 2009



# The Lutheran World Federation 2008 Membership Figures

## Summary

The following figures give the membership of the 140 LWF member churches (M), including two associate member churches (AM), 10 recognized churches and congregations and one recognized council (R), as well as other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations (C).

### General Summary 2008

140 LWF member churches, 10 recognized churches and congregations and one recognized council .....68,464,091  
Lutherans outside LWF constituency..... 3,509,479  
**Total ..... 71,973,570**

Continent	All Lutherans	LWF Membership	Other Churches
Africa	17,341,492	17,287,277	54,215
Asia	8,728,400	8,545,479	182,921
Europe	36,954,216	36,914,349	39,867
Latin America & the Caribbean	1,123,270	837,890	285,380
North America	7,826,192	4,879,096	2,947,096
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,973,570</b>	<b>68,464,091</b>	<b>3,509,479</b>

### Countries with more than half a million Lutherans

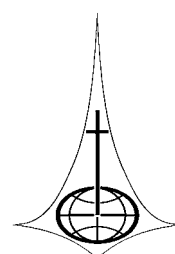
Germany*	12,543,179	Madagascar	3,000,000
USA	7,581,300	Netherlands	2,300,000
Sweden	6,820,161	India	1,889,472
Indonesia	5,450,328	Nigeria	1,880,050
Ethiopia	5,012,486	Papua New Guinea	1,049,455
Tanzania	4,632,480	Namibia	1,028,429
Finland	4,514,359	Brazil	951,466
Denmark	4,494,684	South Africa	666,892
Norway	3,890,718		

\* This figure includes the membership of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad.

### Lutheran churches with more than half a million members

Church of Sweden	6,820,161	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg	2,286,893
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus	5,012,486	North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church	2,076,628
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	4,709,954	Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria	1,745,050
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania	4,632,480	Evangelical Lutheran Church	900,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	4,514,359	of Papua New Guinea	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark	4,494,589	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony	810,558
Protestant Christian Batak Church	4,000,000	Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church	800,000
Church of Norway	3,868,943	Evangelical Church of the Lutheran	717,000
Malagasy Lutheran Church	3,000,000	Confession in Brazil	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover	2,981,313	Evangelical Lutheran Church	673,229
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria	2,632,000	in Namibia (ELCIN)	
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**	2,383,084	Evangelical Lutheran Church	580,377
Protestant Church in the Netherlands	2,300,000	in Southern Africa	

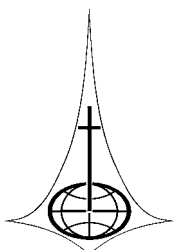
\*\* Not an LWF member church



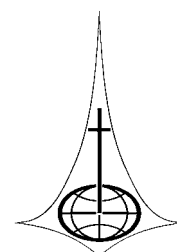
## 2008 World Lutheran Membership Details

- (M) Member Church
- (AM) Associate Member Church
- (R) Recognized Church, Congregation or Recognized Council
- (C) Other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations

<b>Africa</b>	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Angola</b> .....		<b>29,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola (M) .....	29,000	
<b>Botswana</b> .....		<b>18,650</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (M) .....	18,650	
<b>Cameroon</b> .....		<b>330,367</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon (M) .....	105,994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (M) .....	220,015	
Lutheran Church of Cameroon (C) .....	4,358	
<b>Central African Republic</b> .....		<b>55,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (M) .....	55,000	
<b>Chad</b> .....		<b>21,305</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Chad (C) .....	21,305	
<b>Congo, Democratic Republic</b> .....		<b>136,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (M) .....	136,000	
<b>Congo, Republic</b> .....		<b>1,828</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (M) .....	1,828	
<b>Eritrea</b> .....		<b>11,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (M) .....	11,000	
<b>Ethiopia</b> .....		<b>5,012,486</b>
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (M) .....	5,012,486	
<b>Ghana</b> .....		<b>27,521</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (M) .....	27,521	
<b>Kenya</b> .....		<b>144,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (M) .....	100,000	
Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	44,000	
<b>Liberia</b> .....		<b>71,196</b>
Lutheran Church in Liberia (M) .....	71,196	
<b>Madagascar</b> .....		<b>3,000,000</b>
Malagasy Lutheran Church (M) .....	3,000,000	
<b>Malawi</b> .....		<b>60,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (M) .....	60,000	
<b>Mozambique</b> .....		<b>6,482</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (M) .....	6,482	
<b>Namibia</b> .....		<b>1,028,429</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) (M) .....	5,200	



<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) (M) .....	673,229
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) (M) .....	350,000
<b>Nigeria .....</b>	<b>1,880,050</b>
Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (M) .....	1,745,050
Lutheran Church of Nigeria (M) .....	135,000
<b>Rwanda .....</b>	<b>40,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Rwanda (M) .....	40,000
<b>Senegal.....</b>	<b>4,053</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal (C) .....	no data
Lutheran Church of Senegal (M) .....	4,053
<b>Sierra Leone.....</b>	<b>3,150</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (M) .....	3,150
<b>South Africa.....</b>	<b>666,892</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (M) .....	580,377
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) (M) .....	4,083
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal) (M) .....	9,800
Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (C) .....	2,632
Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (C) .....	20,000
Moravian Church in South Africa (M) .....	50,000
<b>Tanzania.....</b>	<b>4,632,480</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (M) .....	4,632,480
<b>Togo .....</b>	<b>5,920</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo (C) .....	5,920
<b>Zambia .....</b>	<b>5,683</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (M) .....	5,683
<b>Zimbabwe.....</b>	<b>150,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (M) .....	150,000
<b>Asia</b>	
<b>Australia.....</b>	<b>75,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Australia (AM) .....	75,000
<b>Bangladesh.....</b>	<b>14,800</b>
Bangladesh Lutheran Church (M) .....	4,800
Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	10,000
<b>Georgia</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Hong Kong, China .....</b>	<b>49,333</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (M) .....	15,531
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,097
Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod (C) .....	8,300
Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (M) .....	14,000
Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (M) .....	9,405
<b>India.....</b>	<b>1,889,472</b>
Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	800,000



## Individual Churches National Total

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (M) .....	16,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States (M) .....	24,750
Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	50,168
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (M) .....	400,503
India Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	80,000
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	133,500
North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	110,301
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	85,000
<i>(see Nepal)</i>	
South Andhra Lutheran Church (M) .....	45,500
Arcot Lutheran Church (M) .....	35,000
Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	108,250

### Indonesia ..... 5,450,328

Batak Christian Community Church (M) .....	20,000
Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias (Gereja AMIN) (M) .....	18,561
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (M) .....	27,810
Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (M) .....	360,000
Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (M) .....	23,000
Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (M) .....	35,798
Protestant Christian Batak Church (M) .....	4,000,000
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (M) .....	38,907
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	211,383
Indonesian Christian Church (M) .....	355,000
Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	348,689
United Protestant Church (M) .....	11,180

### Israel ..... 140

Lutheran Church in Israel Immanuel Church (C) .....	60
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission - Shalhevetyah Christian Center & Cong. (C) .....	80
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) <i>(see Jordan and Palestinian Territories)</i>	

### Japan ..... 32,495

Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	22,056
Japan Lutheran Brethren Church (C) .....	1,219
Japan Lutheran Church (AM) .....	2,613
Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,771
West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	3,836

### Jordan ..... 3,000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (M) .....	3,000
<i>(see Israel and Palestinian Territories)</i>	

### Kazakhstan

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) <i>(see Russian Federation)</i>	
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### Korea, Republic ..... 5,060

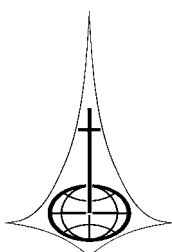
Lutheran Church in Korea (M) .....	5,060
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### Kyrgyzstan

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) <i>(see Russian Federation)</i>	
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### Malaysia ..... 101,942

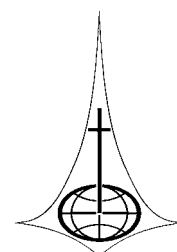
Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (M) .....	58,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M) .....	3,000
Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (M) .....	8,942
Protestant Church in Sabah (M) .....	32,000





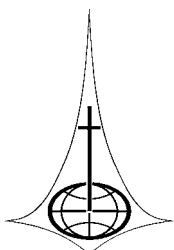
## Individual Churches    National Total

<b>Myanmar</b> .....	<b>1,900</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) (M) .....	1,900
<b>Nepal</b>	
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) ( <i>see India</i> )	
<b>New Zealand</b> .....	<b>1,065</b>
Lutheran Church of New Zealand (C) .....	1,065
<i>(a district of the Lutheran Church of Australia)</i>	
<b>Palestinian Territories</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (M) ( <i>see Israel and Jordan</i> )	
<b>Papua New Guinea</b> .....	<b>1,049,455</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (M) .....	900,000
Gutnius Lutheran Church - Papua New Guinea (M) .....	149,455
<b>Philippines</b> .....	<b>18,000</b>
Lutheran Church in the Philippines (M) .....	18,000
<b>Singapore</b> .....	<b>3,485</b>
Lutheran Church in Singapore (M) .....	3,485
<b>Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>5,324</b>
Lanka Lutheran Church (M) .....	5,324
<b>Taiwan</b> .....	<b>24,594</b>
China Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	2,621
China Lutheran Gospel Church (C) .....	225
Chinese Lutheran Brethren Victory Church (C) .....	3,846
Taiwan Lutheran Church (M) .....	15,088
Lutheran Church of Taiwan (Republic of China) (M) .....	1,614
Lutheran Church of the Republic of China (C) .....	1,200
<b>Thailand</b> .....	<b>3,007</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (M) .....	3,007
<i>(including the Lutheran Mission in Thailand)</i>	
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Europe</b>	
<b>Austria</b> .....	<b>312,883</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria (M) .....	312,883
<b>Belarus</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ( <i>see Russian Federation</i> )	
<b>Belgium</b> .....	<b>974</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium (C) .....	160
Lutheran Church of Belgium: Arlon and Christian Mission (R) .....	814
<b>Croatia</b> .....	<b>3,329</b>
Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia (M) .....	3,329



## Individual Churches National Total

<b>Czech Republic</b> .....	<b>132,166</b>
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (M) .....	102,166
Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (M) .....	30,000
<b>Denmark (including Greenland)</b> .....	<b>4,494,684</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) .....	4,494,589
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark (C) .....	95
<b>Estonia</b> .....	<b>162,000</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	162,000
<b>Finland</b> .....	<b>4,514,359</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (M) .....	4,514,359
<i>(including ELCF members abroad)</i>	
<b>France</b> .....	<b>239,900</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church - Synod of France (C) .....	1,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of France (M) .....	10,400
Malagasy Protestant Church in France (M) .....	8,500
Protestant Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (M) .....	220,000
<b>Germany</b> .....	<b>12,543,179</b>
Church of Lippe (Lutheran Section) (M) .....	32,000
Evangelical Church of Pomerania (M) .....	100,385
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (M) .....	3,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (M) .....	2,632,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick (M) .....	400,315
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (M) .....	463,448
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia (M) .....	431,467
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg (M) .....	2,286,893
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (M) .....	2,981,313
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg (M) .....	201,740
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony (M) .....	810,558
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (M) .....	60,800
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany (C) .....	1,470
Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	35,642
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	25,020
North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,076,628
<b>Greenland</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) <i>(see Denmark)</i>	
<b>Hungary</b> .....	<b>213,125</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (M) .....	213,125
<b>Iceland</b> .....	<b>252,234</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (M) .....	252,234
<b>Ireland</b> .....	<b>256</b>
Lutheran Church in Ireland (R) .....	256
<b>Italy</b> .....	<b>7,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (M) .....	7,000
<b>Latvia</b> .....	<b>250,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (M) .....	250,000



## Individual Churches    National Total

### Liechtenstein

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) *(see Switzerland)*

**Lithuania** ..... **20,000**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania (M) ..... 20,000

**Netherlands** ..... **2,300,000**

Protestant Church in the Netherlands (M) ..... 2,300,000

**Norway** ..... **3,890,718**

Church of Norway (M) ..... 3,868,943

Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (M) ..... 21,775

**Poland** ..... **75,000**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (M) ..... 75,000

**Romania** ..... **44,675**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (M) ..... 13,675

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (M) ..... 31,000

**Russian Federation** ..... **95,000**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) ..... 80,000

*(see Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (M) ..... 15,000

**Serbia** ..... **49,500**

Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia (M) ..... 49,500

**Slovak Republic** ..... **372,858**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic (M) ..... 372,858

**Slovenia** ..... **20,000**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia (M) ..... 20,000

**Sweden** ..... **6,820,161**

Church of Sweden (M) ..... 6,820,161

**Switzerland** ..... **5,370**

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) ..... 5,370

*(see Liechtenstein)*

### Ukraine

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) *(see Russian Federation)*

**United Kingdom** ..... **134,845**

Lutheran Church in Great Britain (M) ..... 2,745

Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (C) ..... 1,500

Lutheran Council of Great Britain (R) ..... 130,600

## Latin America & Caribbean

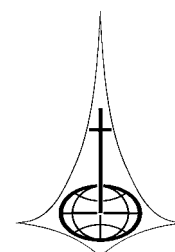
**Argentina** ..... **72,160**

Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) ..... 25,200

*(see Paraguay, Uruguay)*

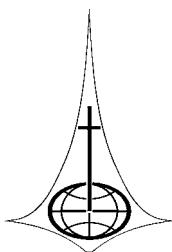
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ..... 30,000

*(see Chile, Uruguay)*



## Individual Churches National Total

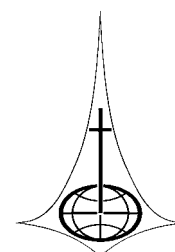
Protestant Congregation in Tandil (C) .....	160
Protestant Society in Southern Argentina - Lutheran Church (C) .....	3,800
Protestant Society of the South-East (C) .....	2,000
United Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	11,000
<b>Bolivia .....</b>	<b>24,400</b>
Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	22,000
Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia (C) .....	700
German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bolivia (R) .....	1,000
Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Bolivia (C) .....	700
<b>Brazil .....</b>	<b>951,466</b>
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C) .....	1,050
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (M) .....	717,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (C) .....	233,416
<b>Chile .....</b>	<b>13,450</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (M) .....	3,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ( <i>see Argentina</i> ) .....	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile (C) .....	170
Lutheran Church in Chile (M) .....	10,280
<b>Colombia .....</b>	<b>3,479</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (M) .....	3,000
St Martin's Congregation (R) .....	160
St Matthew's Lutheran Church (R) .....	319
<b>Costa Rica .....</b>	<b>1,544</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (R) .....	220
Lutheran Costa Rican Church (M) .....	1,324
<b>Ecuador .....</b>	<b>2,020</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ecuador (R) .....	520
<i>(including the El Adviento Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quito, and The Savior Church in Guayaquil)</i>	
Evangelical Lutheran Indigenous Church of Ecuador (C) .....	1,500
<b>El Salvador .....</b>	<b>12,000</b>
Salvadoran Lutheran Church (M) .....	12,000
<b>Guatemala .....</b>	<b>211</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation "La Epifania" (R) .....	211
Lutheran Church of Guatemala (C) .....	no data
<b>Guyana .....</b>	<b>13,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (M) .....	13,000
<b>Haiti .....</b>	<b>no data</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (C) .....	no data
<b>Honduras .....</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (M) .....	1,200
<b>Mexico .....</b>	<b>6,705</b>
All Saints' Lutheran Church (C) .....	191
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico (C) .....	3,000
German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico (R) .....	636
Lutheran Synod of Mexico (C) .....	1,211
Mexican Lutheran Church (M) .....	1,500



<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (C) .....	167
<b>Nicaragua</b> .....	<b>7,050</b>
Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (M) .....	7,050
<b>Panama</b> .....	<b>no data</b>
Brotherhood of Popular Pastoral Action - Lutheran Coordination (C) .....	no data
<b>Paraguay</b> .....	<b>3,981</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) ( <i>see Argentina</i> )	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay (C) .....	3,981
<b>Peru</b> .....	<b>3,480</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (R) .....	220
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Cristo Rey (C) .....	100
Norwegian Lutheran Mission (C) .....	2,060
Peruvian Lutheran Evangelical Church (M) .....	1,100
<b>Suriname</b> .....	<b>4,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (M) .....	4,000
<b>Uruguay</b> .....	<b>190</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) ( <i>see Argentina</i> )	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Uruguay (C) .....	190
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ( <i>see Argentina</i> )	
<b>Venezuela</b> .....	<b>2,934</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (M) .....	1,950
Lutheran Church of Venezuela (C) .....	984
 <b>North America</b>	
<b>Canada</b> .....	<b>244,892</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	8,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (M) .....	161,142
Lutheran Church - Canada (C) .....	75,750
<b>USA</b> .....	<b>7,581,300</b>
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America (C) .....	7,707
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C) .....	44,000
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (C) .....	8,860
Church of the Lutheran Confession (C) .....	8,631
Conservative Lutheran Association (C) .....	994
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (M) .....	4,709,954
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C) .....	19,945
Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (C) .....	2,000
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (C) .....	2,383,084
Protestant Conference [Lutheran] (C) .....	1,125
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C) .....	395,000

*These statistics are based on data received by 31 January 2009. Compiled by Colette Muanda (LWF/OCS)*

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MIDDLE-EAST FOCUS

**North American Lutheran Bishops Proceed with Middle East Visit**

*A Unique Opportunity to Witness Holy Land Challenges, Says Palestinian Bishop Younan*

AMMAN, Jordan/GENEVA (LWI) – Despite the conflict in Gaza, bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) proceeded with plans to travel to the Middle East from 6 to 13 January.

A smaller group of seven ELCA bishops, including Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson, arrived in the Jordanian capital, Amman for a series of meetings with religious, community and political leaders, 3–5 January.

Hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) the North American bishops' itinerary includes meetings with Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian religious, community and political leaders, visit to congregations and schools, and to sites of religious significance. The trip was scheduled months ago as part of an



*ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson (right) speaks on 6 January to Jordanian television at the site of Jesus' Baptism in Jordan. On the left is ELCJHL Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan. © ELCA/John Brooks*

annual bishops' academy, an event in which ELCA and ELCIC leaders engage in theological reflection and study. Accompanied by their spouses and ELCA churchwide staff, they undertake the visit as an expression of support for the ELCJHL, and as a learning experience about the reali-

ties of living in the Middle East and advocating for peace.

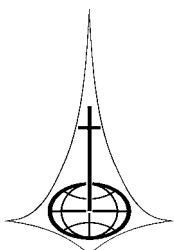
"This is a tragic yet opportune time for North American Lutherans to visit their partners in Palestine," said ELCJHL Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan, also LWF vice president for the Asian region, in a news release prior to the visit. "With bombs raining on Gaza, they will have a unique opportunity to witness the challenges of living in the land called holy."

Hanson in a 31 December pastoral letter to ELCA members wrote, "In this very difficult time, the bishops hope that their presence can be a source of comfort to these partners and manifest support for these ministries."

"There was a lot of discussion about whether we should go ahead with the trip given the eruption of violence in the area," noted the ELCIC national bishop. "But in the end it was a simple decision to make. If we truly want to be a church *In Mission for Others*, if we truly want to work for compassionate justice, then now more than ever this is the



*Bishop Michael Rinehart, left, ELCA Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, greets a young girl at Sabri Ghraeal Abu Sameer's home in Beddo, West Bank. The home is surrounded by the Israeli separation barrier. With Rinehart is Sameer. © ELCA/John Brooks*



time for us to visit the region and do our best to fulfill the goals of the trip—awareness, accompaniment and advocacy,” she added.

In Amman, Hanson, Younan and six ELCA bishops participated in worship services on 4 January at the ELCJHL’s Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd congregation.

“Tonight we come as leaders from the United States and Canada to publicly commit ourselves to pray for peace in the Middle East,” Hanson told the congregation. He said he fears people in the United States view the Middle East in its complexity, which

prevents speaking clearly for an end to violence, withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, return to negotiations, a reestablishment of human rights, and for an opening of borders so that medicine and basic necessities could get to the people of Gaza.

The LWF president expressed appreciation for efforts by Jordan’s King Abdullah II to stop the violence in Gaza, for sending humanitarian relief to people in Gaza, and for the king’s respect for deeper relationships between Muslims and Christians.

In Jerusalem the church leaders would be joined by about 29 more

bishops from the ELCA and four from the ELCIC, to continue their scheduled meetings with religious, community and political leaders in Israel and the West Bank through 13 January.

*(The ELCA, ELCIC and ELCJHL communication units contributed to this article.)*

Information about the North American church leaders visit to the Middle East is at: <http://blogs.ELCA.org/09cobacademy/> on the ELCA Web site.

6 January 2009

## LWF Reiterates Support for Vision of Peace, Urges Ceasefire in Gaza

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) reiterated its commitment to a vision of peace for both Israelis and Palestinians, urging an immediate cessation of both Israeli military operations on Gaza and Hamas missile attacks on southern Israel, and the swift establishment of a workable ceasefire agreement.

In a statement released on 2 January, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko said, “The present bloodshed and destruction will not secure peace for either Israelis or Palestinians. It will only plant the seeds for more conflict, marginalizing the peacemakers, breeding despair, promoting radicalization and strengthening the appeal of violence.”

Reports citing local medical sources put the Palestinian death toll early January at more than 550 and nearly 3,000 civilian injuries, since Israel launched its 27 December operation on Gaza, including ground assaults since 3 January, aimed at stopping Hamas militants from firing rockets and mortars into southern Israel. Hamas said it has killed five Israelis by rocket fire and in combat.

Pointing to the impact of the Israeli siege on the entire civilian population of Gaza during the six-month ceasefire, Noko noted the blockade “imposed severe suffering on the entire

civilian population of Gaza, fostering despair and rage rather than promoting an atmosphere for negotiations and peace.” He added however, that attacks by Hamas and other militant organizations “are condemned by the LWF as an unacceptable response threatening the lives of another civilian population.” Equally, while Israel has an obligation to protect its people and territory, its current military operations “are disproportionate to the actual threat and have resulted in an intolerable number of civilian deaths and injuries.”

The general secretary expressed grave concern for the critical humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, urging the Israeli government to ensure full humanitarian access to the people compelled to survive this conflict “without electricity, medical supplies, or sufficient food or water.”

Citing the LWF’s long-standing support to its member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) in various activities fostering the establishment of peace with justice in the Holy Land, Noko insisted the root cause of the Middle East conflict must be addressed. “The interpretation of God’s promise to Abraham and differing understandings of who may rightfully claim his legacy, which lie at the

very heart of this conflict, can only be resolved by dialogue and reconciliation among all his children,” he said.

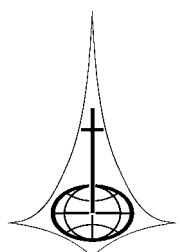
He criticized both parties’ short-sighted focus on political gains through “displays of armed power,” rather than on the “difficult search for peace,” saying this approach was a betrayal of the Israeli and Palestinian “peoples’ hopes for a peaceful future.”

Noko released his statement as a delegation of bishops from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, led by LWF President Bishop Mark S. Hanson, proceeded with their visits with Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian religious, community and political leaders under an annual event hosted by the ELCJHL. *(Separate story will follow.)*

He appealed to all LWF member churches to pray for peace, advocate for justice, and convey these concerns to political leaders. “Without a just peace in the Holy Land, there can be no true or sustainable peace for any of us,” Noko concluded.

The full text of the general secretary’s statement is available on the LWF web site at: [www.lutheranworld.org/LWF\\_Documents/LWF-Statement\\_Gaza\\_Jan\\_2009.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-Statement_Gaza_Jan_2009.pdf)

6 January 2009



## FEATURE: “The First Loan of My Life”

Improving Livelihoods among Marginalized Bangladeshis



*Life has turned around for Salma Begum's family since she joined a micro-credit group supported by RDRS. She is photographed here feeding her cows.*  
© LWF/DWS/RDRS Bangladesh

**SAIDPUR, Bangladesh/GENEVA (LWI)** – “Please make me a member, give me a loan; I will pay it back at any cost,” says Salma Begum, recalling her plea eight years ago to join a micro-credit group in her village. And, she received “the first loan of my life”—2,000 *taka* (around USD 29.00) which she used to buy dried fish and other goods that her husband Tafsir Ali sold locally. Gradually, he managed to invest in a small shop, while Salma, with careful management of their income, bought livestock to start her own business.

She borrowed a further 8,000 *taka* (USD 116.00), with which she bought a rickshaw that she hired out, bringing in additional income. With time, she could take more loans, which saw her expand her family farm to include several pigeons, ducks, chickens, six goats and two cows. No matter how meager

the profits, Salma says she has made it a rule to always save something from each project.

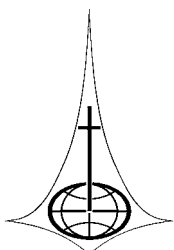
She explains confidently the remarkable progress she has made since joining the micro-credit group, one of many in the Saidpur area in Bangladesh's northwestern district of Nilphamari. “Just from selling pigeons, I earn 1,500 *taka* (USD 22.00) per month which I deposit in the bank for loan repayments. The money from our small shop caters for household expenses and our savings.” She bought 90 decimals (0.36 hectares) of land which provides the family with “enough rice to eat, unless there's calamity, like floods,” she adds.

### LWF Bangladesh Program

Industrious, ambitious and respected in her village, Salma is also a com-

mittee member of a local federation supported by one of Bangladesh's largest non-governmental organizations operating in the northwest regions of Rangpur and Dinajpur. The Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) provides support to 25,746 groups and over 310 federations that have in turn benefited over 2.7 million people or 485,127 households among the poorest people.

Established in 1971 following the war of independence, RDRS started as a country program of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service, evolving into a DWS associate program, and a leading actor in rural development. Its programmatic approach has also changed from needs-based to rights-based, aimed at enabling the rural poor and their institutions achieve





meaningful political, social and economic empowerment and a sustainable environment through individual and collective efforts.

Salma plans to stand for elections as a member of the Union Parishad (lowest tier of the local government) in order to represent the poor people in her village, a move she would not have contemplated in 2000. In fact, when she first applied to join an RDRS group, her neighbors were not supportive because they thought she would not be able to repay the loans. Until then life for the couple had been a hand-to-mouth existence.

RDRS local branch manager Abdul Gafur describes Salma as enterprising and a role model for others. Her husband, rickshaw-puller Ali, just smiles at the mention of his wife's success. As a father he is pleased that his children go to school.

"I hope my son will pass [masters' degree level] and my daughters are more qualified so that we can live better in the future," Salma adds. On her involvement in local politics, she says, "I'll grow and grow; my projects will be bigger; I'll be able to say goodbye to want; and I'll help family members and neighbors."

## Joss Stick Production

Like Salma and Ali, more than 70 percent of Bangladesh's 153 million people live in rural areas, where approaches to the problems faced by the poor are also changing. Where once a small plot of land was enough to pull a family out of poverty, nowadays there are different opportunities as technologies adapt and markets widen, a principle grasped by many of the households and groups with which RDRS works.

Roksana Begum is not only poor but also homeless in her country of birth. Like thousands of other *Biharis*, she lives in a camp of 280 households just outside Saidpur with her husband Mohammad Ibrahim and five children. For over 30 years, this community has lived outside mainstream society, ostracized because

they supported the losing side in the 1971 war of independence.

Despite some legal and political improvements for *Biharis* today, the couple still struggles to survive on Ibrahim's daily wage ranging from 150 to 300 *taka* (2.00 to 4.00 USD) as a casual laborer at the local railway station. Until recently this was supplemented by Roksana's 7.00 *taka* (around 10 cents) income earned from selling to a local businessman a bundle of 1,000 home-made joss sticks (a slender stick of incense burned in front of a deity).

Since joining an RDRS group, Roksana realized that she could make more money by setting up her own joss stick business. Supported by her friend Sabana, she applied for a loan of 5,000 *taka* (USD 73.00) to purchase the raw materials, and gradually increased her profits. "Before," she says, as she works in her congested house, "I made joss sticks for others, but now I do it for myself and even employ three other people. I earn enough money so my family no longer suffers," she explains.

Although Roksana now puts food on the table every day and pays the children's school fees, she wants to expand her business. She plans to learn how to scent the sticks—the

last part of the manufacturing process, done by the company marketing the commodity—so that she can sell them directly to the city traders without going through agents. Until then, she tries to save as much as she can for the future, confident that there will always be a market for her product. "After all," she argues, "although I have a goat and I'm going to buy a cow soon to sell milk, they could die and I will be poor again. But people will always want joss sticks and I'll always have an income."

RDRS is one of the LWF/DWS field programs providing relief and development support to communities in 36 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin and Central America, and Europe.

*(This article was compiled from a series of RDRS feature stories.)*

Donations to LWF/DWS work globally can be made online at:

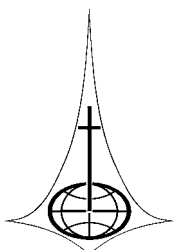
[donations.lutheranworld.org](http://donations.lutheranworld.org)

24 February 2009

**\*The article is in an LWI series focusing on the topic "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread," the theme of the LWF Eleventh Assembly, which will take place 20–27 July 2010 in Stuttgart, Germany.**



Roksana Begum (second from right) and some of her family members prepare joss sticks at home.  
© LWF/DWS/RDRS Bangladesh



# The Lutheran World Federation

## Consultations 2009

The consultations listed below are currently planned and will take place providing funding has been procured.

DMD	=	Department for Mission and Development
DTS	=	Department for Theology and Studies
DWS	=	Department for World Service
OCS	=	Office for Communication Services
OGS	=	Office of the General Secretary
OEA	=	Office for Ecumenical Affairs
OFA	=	Office for Finance and Administration
OIAHR	=	Office for International Affairs and Human Rights

### January

Date	Unit	Place	Title
7-21	DTS	Geneva, Switzerland	International Theological Course: "The Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World"
28-30	DWS	Geneva, Switzerland	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) Peer Review Visit to Geneva

### February

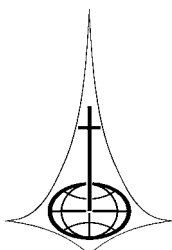
Date	Unit	Place	Title
9-10	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF Strategy Group Meeting on HIV and AIDS
11-13	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	Internship Retreat
19-24	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	Preparatory Meeting: LWF 2010 Pre-Assembly Youth Conference
20-22	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF Executive Committee Meeting
24-26	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF/DMD Core Group Meeting on Diakonia

### March

Date	Unit	Place	Title
2-5	OGS	Sigtuna, Sweden	LWF Renewal Committee Meeting
2-6	DMD	Pematang Siantar, Indonesia	Consultation: Enhancing Cooperation among Indonesian LWF Member Churches
5-6	DTS/OEA/OFA	Strasbourg, France	Board Meeting: Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research
9-13	OGS	Stuttgart, Germany	Meeting: International Planning Group for LWF Eleventh Assembly Worship
10-13	DMD	Lae, Papua New Guinea	Capacity Building Workshop
21-24	OIAHR/OGS	Bangkok, Thailand	Global Ecumenical Conference on Justice for Dalits
25-31	DTS	Augsburg, Germany	Consultation: "Theology in the Life of Lutheran Churches – Transformative Perspectives and Practices Today."

### April

Date	Unit	Place	Title
1-4	DMD	Monrovia, Liberia	Lutheran Church in Liberia Consultation on Strategic Planning
1-5	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia Lutheran News Workshop
1-8	DMD	Managua, Nicaragua	ENGAGE: LWF Global Training for Young Leaders, The Americas Regional Meeting
15-20	DTS	Puri, India	Consultation: "Bearing Witness through the Communion to Climate Change"
17-19	OEA	Strasbourg, France	Drafting Meeting for the Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission
20-27	OEA	Alingsås, Sweden	Anglican-Lutheran Joint Commission Meeting
21-24	DMD	Montreux, Switzerland	LWF Project Committee Meeting
27-28	OFA	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF Endowment Fund Board Meeting
28.04-5.05	OEA	Chennai, India	Anglican-Lutheran International Commission



## May

Date	Unit	Place	Title
4-6	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	Assembly Planning Committee Meeting
4-6	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	DWS Annual Forum
4-9	OEA	Reykjavik, Iceland	Preparatory Meeting for the 15 <sup>th</sup> Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission
7-8	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Standing Committee for World Service Meeting
7-11	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF Youth Consultation on Innovative Approaches to Youth Participation
9-16	DMD	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) Meeting & Mekong Mission Partners' Consultation
11-15	DMD	Lima, Peru	Regional Leadership Conference for LWF Member Churches in Latin America
To be determined	OIAHR	New York, USA	North American Region Indigenous Consultation & Meeting of the LWF Adhoc Advisory Group on Indigenous Issues

## June

Date	Unit	Place	Title
08-12	DWS	Tanzania (To be determined)	DWS Regional Consultation for Eastern Africa
15-19	DMD	Garoua Boulai, Cameroon	Capacity Building Workshop for LWF Member Churches in Cameroon & Central African Republic
15-22	DTS	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Dialogue Meeting: "Freedom & Responsibility: Joint Theological Explorations by Christians and Muslims"
17-21	OCS	Erlangen, Germany	International Consultation: Communication as a Mission and Ministry of the Church
17-24	DMD	Moscow, Russian Federation	ENGAGE – LWF Global Training for Young Leaders, European Region Meeting
26-29	DMD	Budapest, Hungary	Workshop on Church and State in Societies in Transition
To be determined	DMD	Asia (To be determined)	Consultation on Gender and Power

## July

Date	Unit	Place	Title
To be determined	OEA	Germany (To be determined)	First Meeting of the New Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission

## August

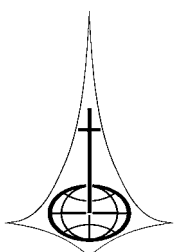
Date	Unit	Place	Title
3-7	OGS	To be determined	LWF Renewal Committee Meeting

## September

Date	Unit	Place	Title
6-12	DMD	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Consultation on Interreligious Diapraxis
7-11	DWS	Mbabane, Swaziland	DWS Regional Consultation for Southern Africa
28.09-02.10	OGS	Stuttgart, Germany	Meeting: International Planning Group for LWF Eleventh Assembly Worship

## October

Date	Unit	Place	Title
4-8	DWS	Jerusalem	Standing Committee for World Service Meeting
4-11	DMD	Nairobi, Kenya (to be confirmed)	Meeting of the Lutheran Council in Africa & Follow-Up on LWF Program on Poverty and the Mission of the Church in Africa
19-21	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	Pre-Council Youth Workshop
21	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF Executive Committee Meeting
22-27	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF Council Meeting
28-31	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	Women's Pre-Assembly Consultation



30–31 OEA Augsburg, Germany Tenth Anniversary Celebrations for the Signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification

## November

Date	Unit	Place	Title
11–14	OEA	Canterbury, United Kingdom	Plenary: Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions

## December

Date	Unit	Place	Title
4–5	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	Lutheran Council in Asia Meeting
6–10	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia Pre-Assembly Consultation & Asia Church Leadership Conference

## Undetermined

Date	Unit	Place	Title
To be determined	DTS/DMD	Central America	Consultation: “Bearing Witness through the Communion to Climate Change”
To be determined	DTS	Geneva, Switzerland	Consultation: “Holding Governments Accountable”

For an updated version, see the LWF Web site: [www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Calendar.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Calendar.html)

## Canadian, US Bishops Reflect on Holy Land Experience

Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) released on 22 January their “Report and Reflections from the Bishops’ Academy Visit to the Holy Land.” It recounts much of the experiences of 44 synod heads from both churches visiting the Middle East, 6 to 13 January, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

Signed by ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson, the report also points to the situation in Gaza at the time as “a dramatic backdrop to our travels and for our conversations with people from different faiths and viewpoints who endure fear and bear oppression in ways that we have never known.”

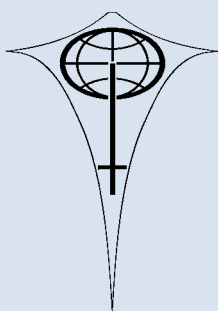
They concluded the report by pledging to continue to “accompany” the ELCJHL, to learn more about the situation in the Middle East and how to change it, “and to advocate in every way possible for the justice that will lead to the security and shared homeland that is the only foundation for lasting peace.” The bishops added they would be “persistent in our efforts to build bridges



*From left to right: ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson, ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson shaking hands with Palestine’s Supreme Judge of Sharia Courts Dr Sheik Al-Tamini, and ELCJHL Bishop Dr Munib Younan, at a 13 January meeting in Ramallah. © ELCA/John Brooks*

with inter-religious partners, and courageous in telling the truth of the ‘facts on the ground’ in the Holy Land.”

The complete text of the bishops’ “Report and Reflections” is at: [www.ELCA.org/bishopstatement](http://www.ELCA.org/bishopstatement) on the ELCA Web site.



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