



The **Lausanne** Committee for World Evangelization

The Whole Church taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World

## The Lausanne Movement



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## Precursors to Lausanne 1974: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Sponsored Events

World Missionary Conference  
(Edinburgh 1910)

World Congress on Evangelism  
(Berlin 1966)

Asia-South Pacific Congress on  
Evangelism (Singapore 1968)

North American Congress on  
Evangelism (Minneapolis 1969)

Latin American Congress on  
Evangelism (Bogota 1969)

European Congress on  
Evangelism (Amsterdam 1971)

International Congress for  
World Evangelization  
(Lausanne 1974)



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## **World Congress on Evangelism (Berlin 1966)**

- Convened October 26 - November 4, 1966
- Co-sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and *Christianity Today* (CT)
- Almost 1,200 delegates from over 100 countries.
- Theme: One Race, One Gospel, One Task



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## **From Berlin to Lausanne**

- Four BGEA-sponsored regional conferences
  - Asia-South Pacific Congress on Evangelism (Singapore 1968)
  - North American Congress on Evangelism (Minneapolis 1969)
  - Latin America Congress on Evangelism (Bogotá 1969)
  - European Congress on Evangelism (Amsterdam 1971)
- Focus of each conference: sustain the momentum for evangelism generated at Berlin



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## Summary of Pre-Lausanne Congresses

- Ensured that evangelicals would focus energy on evangelism as the primary task of the church.
- Gathered international leaders in regional contexts to consider local and regional issues in light of the universal need for evangelism.
- Enabled theological unity, and at the same time generated discussion on significant theological issues (e.g., the relationship of evangelism and social responsibility; responding to Vatican II).
- Brought evangelicals international attention and gave momentum for the Lausanne consultation.



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## International Congress for World Evangelization (Lausanne 1974) . . . In Context





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## Lausanne 1974: Purpose and Focus

- Framed as a follow up to Berlin 1966, The Lausanne Consultation on World Evangelization was proposed by Billy Graham for the purpose of bringing together evangelicals who focused on evangelizing the world.
- Focus on evangelization—the whole task of the church—rather than evangelism—the proclamation of the Gospel.



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## Lausanne 1974 Factoids

- Met in July 16-25 in Lausanne, Switzerland
- Over 2,700 participants from 150 nations
- Counting observers, media, and guests, over 4,000 people were present.
- About 50% were from majority world settings
- *TIME* commented: “a formidable forum, possibly the widest-ranging meeting of Christians ever held.”



## Lausanne 1974: Significant Results

- The Lausanne Covenant—used as a statement of faith by hundreds of organizations and institutions.
- Focused attention on a different approach to understanding the task of world evangelization through people groups and unreached peoples.
- The eventual formation (1976) of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.
- Served as a launching pad for notable evangelical alliances and movements at local, national, regional and international levels.
- Lausanne as a term was transformed from the name of a Swiss city to the name of an evangelical movement visible around the world.



## The Lausanne Covenant

- The 3,000 word long Lausanne Covenant was agreed upon by more than 2,300 evangelicals during the 1974 International Congress to be more intentional about world evangelization.
- "Covenant" was chosen in preference to "Declaration" because the editors "were determined not just to declare something, but to do something, namely to commit ourselves to the task of world evangelization."\*

\*John Stott, 1975. *The Lausanne Covenant: An Exposition and Commentary* (<http://community.gospelcom.net/Brix?pageID=14323>)



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## Lausanne Covenant

- The Covenant emphasizes six major areas in fifteen points:
  - The authority of Scripture
  - The nature of evangelism
  - Christian social responsibility
  - The urgency of world missions
  - The problems of culture and
  - Spiritual warfare.
- It has been adopted as a statement of faith by more agencies, institutions and societies than any other document.



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## Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE)

- The LCWE was formally organized in 1976 to continue the spirit of the Lausanne Consultation of 1974.
- It was comprised of volunteers and people seconded from mission and evangelistic organizations rather than full-time professionals.
- The leaders were networked together in a common commitment under the Lausanne Covenant to work with others in their areas of ministry to advance the gospel.



## Key Lausanne People

- Billy Graham: provided the impetus, the financing, and the status needed to pull people together
- John Stott: gave the theological framing for the Covenant and ongoing Lausanne deliberations
- Leighton Ford: gave the ongoing continuity of the Lausanne ideal and forged a movement
- Gottfried Osei-Mensah: brought a significant international voice to the movement



## Significance of the Congress

- It reversed the attitude of the Church at large towards evangelization
- It provided a rallying point for evangelicals for their cooperation and united efforts.
- It produced a unique and historic document, the Lausanne Covenant.
- It opened up new ways of looking at the world yet to be reached.
- It gave an impetus for many conferences and consultations on issues related to the theology and practice of world evangelization.
- It helped the evangelicals to develop a broader and more balanced biblical view on issues in such areas as evangelism, culture, other religions, social responsibility and the Holy Spirit.
- It generated a greater awareness of the role of the Two-Thirds world Church.



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## Impact since 1974

- Major conferences held on every continent
- Numerous Lausanne-originated or -related groups formed:
  - Nigerian Congresses on World Evangelization
  - Chinese Congresses on World Evangelization
  - International Conferences on Jewish Evangelization
  - Asia Lausanne Conferences on Evangelism
  - International Researchers Conferences
  - Latin American Congresses on Evangelism (CLADE)
- Lausanne Covenant adopted by hundreds of organizations, fellowships and institutions



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## Lausanne International Congresses and Conferences since 1974

International Congress for World Evangelization (Lausanne 1974)

LCWE founded (1976)

Conference on World Evangelization (Pattaya 1980)

International Congress for World Evangelization II (Manila 1989)

Forum for World Evangelization (Thailand 2004)



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## Conference on World Evangelization (Pattaya 1980)

International Congress for  
World Evangelization  
(Lausanne 1974)

Conference on World  
Evangelization  
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## Conference on World Evangelization (Pattaya 1980)

- Convened June 16-27 in Pattaya, Thailand.
- 650 delegates and some 300 others from around the world met to consider strategic issues of reaching the unreached.
- Chaired by Leighton Ford and directed by David Howard, Pattaya's primary focus was the seventeen mini-consultations included within the conference.
- The results of those mini-consultations were published as Lausanne Occasional Papers.



## Pattaya 1980 Five Goals

- To seek fresh vision and power for the task Christ has given to his church until he comes;
- To assess the state of world evangelization, its progress and hindrances;
- To complete an extended study program on theological and strategic issues related to world evangelization and to share the results;
- To develop specific evangelistic strategies related to different unreached people groups; and
- To review the mandate of the LCWE.

Waldron Scott, 1981. "The Significance of Pattaya." *Missiology: An International Review* 9:1 (January): 60-61



## The Thailand Statement

- Thailand issued a statement, but it never achieved the stature of the Lausanne Covenant
  - It affirmed the participants' commitment to world evangelization.
  - It called for change in four personal attitudes: love, humility, integrity and power.
  - It called for greater cooperation in the task of world evangelization.
- It "reaffirmed our commitment to both evangelism and social action, while at the same time acknowledging, as the Lausanne Covenant had done, that evangelism is 'primary'."<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>John Stott, 1995. "Twenty Years after Lausanne: Some Personal Reflections." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 19:2, p. 52.



## Focus of LOPs

- Thailand's lasting impact came through the 17 Lausanne Occasional Papers (LOPs) developed there and subsequently published.
- These LOPs focused on reaching "unreached peoples" from a variety of perspectives focused on religious, ideological, or socioeconomic distinctions rather than ethnolinguistic ones :
  - Marginalized peoples (Refugees)
  - Ethnic peoples (Chinese, Jewish)
  - Religious peoples (Muslims, Hindus, Traditional Religionists, New Religionists, Secularized, Marxist)
  - City peoples (Urban Poor, Large Cities)
  - Nominal Christian peoples of various types (Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants)
- As can be seen in these categories, Pattaya exhibited a lack of unanimity over the concept of "people" found within evangelicalism at that time.



## International Congress for World Evangelization II (Manila 1989)

International Congress for World Evangelization (Lausanne 1974)

Conference on World Evangelization (Pattaya 1980)

International Congress for World Evangelization II (Manila 1989)

Forum for World Evangelization (Thailand 2004)



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## Manila 1989 Factoids

- Convened in Manila, Philippines in July of 1989.
- 4,000 from 191 countries attended.
- Program Chairman was Saphir Athyal; the Program Director was Ed Dayton.
- Conscious inclusion of Pentecostals and Charismatics was a distinctive (e.g., Jack Hayford and J. I. Packer were plenary speakers).
- Women were more consciously included in platform presentations and group leadership.



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## Manila Manifesto

- The results of deliberations during the course of the Congress were summarized in The Manila Manifesto.
- At double the length of the Lausanne Covenant, was intended to affirm and supplement it.
- It consists of 21 affirmations followed by more extensive discussion of critical issues under three headings—A) The Whole Gospel, B) The Whole Church, C) The Whole World—followed by a concluding challenge to proclaim Christ until he comes.



## Significance of Manila 1989

- It was significant in its *purpose*: to focus the whole church of Jesus Christ in a fresh way on the task of taking the whole gospel to the whole world.
- It was significant in its *representation*: 4,300 in attendance from 173 countries, including the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and with a larger proportion of women, lay persons and younger leaders than at previous conferences.
- It was significant in its *timeliness*: building on the foundation of Lausanne '74, on the work which has taken place since then, and leading into the final decade of this century.
- It was significant in its *breadth*: consideration was given to scores of important topics, ranging from the A.D. 2000 movement, to the work of the Holy Spirit, to liberating lay people, to the heart-cry of the poor of our world—and all related to Christ's global cause.

Leighton Ford, 1989. "Foreword." In *The Whole Gospel for the Whole World*



## Forum for World Evangelization (Thailand 2004)

International Congress for  
World Evangelization  
(Lausanne 1974)

Conference on World  
Evangelization  
(Pattaya 1980)

International Congress for  
World Evangelization II  
(Manila 1989)

Forum for World  
Evangelization  
(Thailand 2004)



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## **Forum for World Evangelization (Thailand 2004)**

- Convened September 25 – October 5, 2004 in Pattaya, Thailand.
- Chaired by Roger Parrott.
- More than 1,500 participants from around the world.
- Theme: “A new vision, a new heart and a renewed call.”
- The structure and purpose paralleled the Pattaya 1980 Conference.



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## **Thailand 2004 Forum Distinctives**

- Participants were selected to participate in a specific Issue Group.
- Each Issue Group conducted its own independent selection process.
- Each Issue Group has gathered representative voices from the whole breadth of the church.
- There will be limited financial assistance to attend for the Forum—primarily directed to the portions of the world where the need is the greatest.



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## Thailand 2004 Forum: Issue Group Focus

- Thirty one specific issues that impact evangelism have been identified through a comprehensive world-wide research effort of listening to God's voice as reflected through the input of a diverse group of Church leaders. These issues were addressed by teams of 30 to 70 persons each, who worked in researching, collecting best practices and preparing to articulate an action plan that the Church can implement through denominations, local churches and focused ministries.



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## Lausanne Media Resources

- Web site ([www.lausanne.org](http://www.lausanne.org))
- Lausanne World Pulse ([www.LausanneWorldPulse.com](http://www.LausanneWorldPulse.com))
- Lausanne Occasional Papers ([www.lausanne.org/Brix?pageID=12890](http://www.lausanne.org/Brix?pageID=12890))
- Lausanne Connecting Point newsletter (sign up at [www.lausanne.org/Brix?pageID=12902](http://www.lausanne.org/Brix?pageID=12902))



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### A Bird's Eye View: Lausanne International Congresses and Conferences since 1974

International Congress for World Evangelization (Lausanne 1974)

Conference on World Evangelization (Pattaya 1980)

International Congress for World Evangelization II (Manila 1989)

Forum for World Evangelization (Thailand 2004)

International Congress for World Evangelization III (Edinburgh 2010)



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### Just What Is Lausanne?

- Little did we know then that "Lausanne" would become more than the name of a city.
- For the thousands of evangelical leaders who gathered there, Lausanne would become an event never to be forgotten.
  - It would become a Covenant, a 15-point document spelling out the theology and strategy of world evangelization which has been translated into scores of languages and today stands as a remarkable exposition of biblical evangelization.
  - Lausanne became a vision—the vision of completing the task of world evangelization through making disciples among all the unreached peoples of the world.
  - Lausanne became a committee—the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization—charged with the task of carrying on the vision of Lausanne and spreading information about what God is doing throughout the world.
  - The "Spirit of Lausanne" was understood as the spirit of cooperation in world evangelization, as evangelical believers from all regions and all ethnic groups prayed and planned and worked together.
- In a word, Lausanne has become a movement of the Spirit of God including all who are committed to the task of world evangelization in the spirit of Lausanne.