Bishop Munib A Younan is President of the Lutheran World Federation!

A Passionate Campaigner for Peace and Inter-Faith Dialogue in the Middle East

Bishop Munib A Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) has been elected President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) by the Eleventh Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany, a gathering of 418 delegates and others from the LWF member churches.

Three hundred and sixty registered delegates voted, representing 140 member churches from 79 countries. Rt Rev Dr Younan received 300 votes affirming his election, 23 against; there were 37 abstentions. There were no other nominees.

Younan, 59, succeeds Presiding Bishop Mark S Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), who has been President of the LWF since the organization’s last Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, in 2003.

Ordained in 1976 after study in Palestine and gaining a degree from Helsinki University, Finland, Rt Rev Younan was a youth pastor and teacher in his homeland. From 1976 to 1979 he was pastor of the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and also served parishes in Beit Jala and Ramallah. He studied at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and holds an honorary doctorate, granted by Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Chocolate milk was the young Munib Younan’s first contact with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Prior to his election as the next LWF President, Rt Rev Dr Younan told the Assembly that, in the 1950s, chocolate milk was offered daily to students in the Martin Luther School in Jerusalem. It was a gift of the LWF which “physically nourished us refugees and was the answer to our prayer, ‘Give Us Today Our Daily Bread’. It also nurtured in us knowledge of the theology of the Lutheran communion; it taught us about God’s love.”

Reflecting on his personal history as a recipient of “daily bread” from the hands of others, Rt Rev Younan said that “we [the LWF] must be boldly prophetic”. He urged the communion to shape policies that will address the world’s pressing concerns, including climate change, illegitimate debt, gender discrimination in church and society and governmental corruption. In this way, he said, the communion “carries her pulpit out into the street.”
and introduces to the world the God of love”.

The president-elect has headed his church body since 1998 and was the third Palestinian bishop of the church founded by Germans in the nineteenth century. A member of the LWF since 1974, the ELCJHL has about 3,000 members.

He noted that both the general secretary-elect, Rev Martin Junge from Chile, and the president-elect come from two of the smallest Lutheran churches in the world. “In our communion,” he said, “there is no large or small, no majority or minority, no South or North, for we are all servants, sharing the resources and gifts that God has given to us.”

The bishop was the first to translate the Augsburg Confession, a key document of the Lutheran Church, into Arabic.

Rt Rev Younan is a former vice-president of the LWF, is president of the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches and serves with three Jerusalem patriarchs and nine other bishops on the International Christian Committee of Jerusalem. He is also a co-founder of the Council of Religious Institutions in the Holy Land, made up of the two chief rabbis of Israel, heads of the local churches, the Chief Judge of the Islamic Court in Palestine and other Muslim leaders.

### Message from the LWF President to Asia

**Dear sisters and brothers in the LWF Asia region:**

Thank you for your support of my candidacy. I am proud of all the Lutheran churches in Asia. Our unity is a sign of our strength. And I hope the unity that we experienced at the Lutheran World Federation general assembly in Stuttgart will continue to be our focus for the next seven years. To work together in unity is a sign that the Holy Spirit is working among us for the welfare of God’s mission in our world, especially in Asia.

I am also very thankful for all the churches and the rest of the communion that supported and encouraged us. This is the first time in LWF history that Asia holds the position of president, and this historic first came by an overwhelming majority. It is an event we can all celebrate.

With the election aside, there are several aspects about the assembly that I think are worth celebrating. The assembly, I believe, proved that our communion can remain unified despite the social and cultural challenges that exist. We have seen that our communion has the maturity to deal with sensitive issues in a responsible way.

The worship services we experienced in Stuttgart reflect a deep spirituality -- one that guides us and sustains us for creative mission and prophetic diakonia. The collegial way in which we conducted business at the assembly also shows that we know how to be a church that is reconciled and diverse.

Because of this, I believe that we in Asia must recognize that our work is just starting. I see this fruitful assembly and the election as Christ’s call for all of us as individuals, as churches and as a region to serve the communion and to continue our work among the nearly 4 billion people in Asia. We in Asia must answer this call and pray that the Lord would provide the ways and means for us to be proactive members of the communion - expressing our challenges and needs, offering our strength and unity; joining with all member churches in this communion to further God’s kingdom.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank former LWF President Bishop Mark S Hanson and LWF General Secretary Rev Dr Ishmael Noko for their outstanding service to our communion. To General Secretary-elect Rev Martin Junge I offer greetings, and look forward to working with him. Please keep us in your prayers as we work together on your behalf for the next seven years.

I also extend best wishes to the new LWF Council members, in particular to your next Asia region vice president, Ms Eun-hae Kwon of the Lutheran Church in Korea. She will provide a fresh perspective and a strong Asian voice to the LWF Council. I trust that you will give her all the love, support and prayers that you have given me over the years. A brief explanation is in order here: Under the terms of the existing constitution, I remain Asia region vice president until the new constitution, which was adopted at the Assembly, goes into effect in one year. During that time, Ms Kwon will participate in the LWF Executive Committee meetings but without vote.

Although Asia is no longer my only focus, I want to encourage you to continue giving me advice and feedback as you have in the past. It is very important that Asian churches remain an integral part of the communion and that the communion addresses Asian needs.

Finally, on behalf of the ELCJHL, I want to thank you for what you have done for us. I encourage you to remember that the strength of our churches is not in numbers but in our witness for Jesus Christ and in our service for humanity.

May God bless you!

Bishop Dr Munib A Younan
What is an LWF Assembly?

The Assembly, normally held every six years, is the LWF’s highest decision-making body. Between Assemblies the LWF is governed by its Council, which convenes annually, and by its Executive Committee.

The Assembly consists of representatives of the member churches of the Federation. As the principal authority of the LWF, the Assembly:

- is responsible for the LWF Constitution
- gives general direction to LWF work
- elects the president and members of the Council
- takes action on the address of the president and the reports of the general secretary and the treasurer

What Happens at an Assembly?

Representatives gathered at an Assembly make major decisions on the future direction of the LWF, share experiences about issues facing their churches, and worship together celebrating their cultural diversity.

Who Attends?

The Assembly participants will include 418 delegates from the 140 full LWF member churches around the world. Others attending are representatives from associate member churches; observers from recognized congregations and councils; advisers from LWF national committees and related agencies; non-delegate members of the LWF Council; local, co-opted and LWF staff; interpreters and translators; stewards; ecumenical guests; visitors; and accredited media.

Previous Assemblies and Themes

- 1947 - Lund, Sweden (The Lutheran Church in the World Today)
- 1952 - Hanover, Germany (The Living Word in a Responsible Church)
- 1957 - Minneapolis, USA (Christ Frees and Unites)
- 1963 - Helsinki, Finland (Christ Today)
- 1970 - Evian, France (Sent into the World)
- 1977 - Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania (In Christ - A New Community)
- 1984 - Budapest, Hungary (In Christ - Hope for the World)
- 1990 - Curitiba, Brazil (I Have Heard the Cry of My People)
- 1997 - Hong Kong, China (In Christ - Called to Witness)
- 2003 - Winnipeg, Canada (For the Healing of the World)

About the Assembly 2010 Logo

The cross in the center clearly indicates that Jesus Christ, the Crucified One, is the Lord of the church. The cross is curved in order to emphasize that it is not an inert but rather a living entity. Its graceful upward curve symbolizes our hope in the resurrection.

The cross is surrounded by a stylized bud drawn by a single pen stroke in a vivid green. This bud represents the life and growth which God gives to all the creation. It symbolizes also the reign of God, which is growing and spreading.

The unfolding bud represents “our daily bread.” All bread, all food begins as something minute. Every plant begins with a tiny seed, and only if this seed falls into the earth and dies can it become a great plant which will bear much fruit.

The small number of brush strokes contained in the logo makes unmistakably clear how dependent humankind is on bread and how our petition for “daily bread” is at once simple and vital. The kind, reassuring character of this logo attempts to reflect the kindness of God who is present among us in the form of bread and wine—the fruits of the earth in which we see the crucified and risen One.
LWF General Secretary: “Daily Bread” is “Caring for the World”

Referring to the Assembly theme during his report, the LWF General Secretary, Rev Dr Ishmael Noko said that “daily bread” had strong “spiritual significance”. It was in the act of breaking bread that the risen Lord Jesus was revealed to the travellers on the road to Emmaus, he said. “And it is in fellowship and care for one another that we recognize the face of God.”

“The forces of globalization both connected and disconnected people,” he added. “The gap between those who do not have enough to eat and those who have far more than they need has grown tremendously”, and in Europe “the situation of minority peoples and communities has become an increasingly heated political issue.”

The General Secretary also said that the equitable participation in God’s mission is “the hallmark of an inclusive communion.” Member churches were therefore urged to take appropriate steps towards the ordination of women and, where this was not the case, to put in place “practices of equality.”

For the 500th anniversary of the Reformation for the whole of the church today,”

He reported to the Assembly that a number of commemorative activities had underscored the “wide ecumenical significance” of the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) in 1999, which he described as “a powerful sign of the value of the LWF as an instrument for ecumenical progress.” In Augsburg on 31 October 2009 Lutherans, Roman Catholics and Methodists celebrated the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration, and in Wittenberg the planting of commemorative trees marked the event. Dr Noko said that the dialogue relating to the JDDJ was continuing.

Continuing the ecumenical theme, Noko previewed the action that will take place during the Assembly to redefine Lutheran relations with Mennonites. “Our Lutheran confessions have some very harsh things to say [about Mennonites],” he said, noting that even Martin Luther used theological arguments to support persecution of members of the Anabaptist tradition. Assembly delegates will be asked to consider an action asking for forgiveness, “from God and from our Mennonite sisters and brothers,” for past persecutions and violence.

Interfaith diapraxis – cooperation across religious borders – has been a special focus of the life of the LWF since the 2003 Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada. “Diapraxis provides a platform from which people of all faiths can jointly address many common concerns and in the process build deeper and stronger relationships.”

On issues relating to marriage, family and sexuality, Dr Noko said member churches are at various stages of reflection and action, and that different positions are emerging on these issues. “The general consensus in pre-Assembly meetings was that these issues not be dealt with by the Assembly.”

The forces of globalization both connected and disconnected people ... The gap between those who do not have enough to eat and those who have far more than they need has grown tremendously
The President’s Address: A World in “Pain” but Lutherans Gather in “Confident Hope”

On the theme of the meeting, “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”, President Mark Hanson said that although many in the world lack their daily bread, “we gather for this assembly in confident hope, for God has neither abandoned God’s people nor forsaken God’s creation.”

Lutherans from around the world are creating a “communion” of churches, he said, where Lutheran churches working together celebrate their common heritage, but do not become “preoccupied with our own identity and survival”. “Rather,” the LWF President said, “I believe our self-understanding is for the sake of being turned outward toward the world God so loves.”

The LWF president raises three issues that the LWF should address:

- Leadership – holding one another accountable for our commitment to support the ordination of women
- Decision-Making – ‘Healthy tension’ among some LWF member churches because of the way decisions made in one church impact churches in other parts of the world
- Sustainability – furthering trust in and support for the Lutheran communion as developed in the LWF

On his seven years as LWF president Hanson reiterated the identity Lutheran churches as:

- “Evangelical,” stressing the good news that Jesus Christ frees people from bondage to sin
- “Sacramental,” focusing on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion
- “Contextual,” adapting their mission and service to specific social situations
- “Communal,” living in communion with one another and with concern for the entire human community
- “Diaconal,” giving service to others in God’s name
- “Ecumenical,” seeking unity among the world’s Christians

(Full reports of speakers are available under “Assembly Documents” at the LWF Assembly website: www.lwf-assembly.org)

LWF Treasurer’s Report: “It is Time to Restructure”

There has been a positive development in the Lutheran World Federation’s (LWF) membership fees, LWF Treasurer Mr Peter Stoll said in his report to the Eleventh Assembly. Since the 2003 Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, fees have increased from USD 2.6 million to USD 3.2 million in 2009.

Although the financial situation of the LWF is stable, efforts must be increased to secure its future in the longer term. Funds in the Endowment Fund, founded in 1999 with a long-term target of CHF 50 million, amounted to almost CHF 12 million at the end of 2009. The next goal is to reach CHF 20 million by 2017.

Now is the time to financially restructure the LWF headquarters, said Mr Stoll. All departments have faced financial deficits, he said, urging efforts to achieve balanced budgets. The Treasurer asked the Assembly to consider decentralizing the headquarters to “create more synergy with the resources of the member churches and regions,” and restructuring the seven LWF regions and all the departments of the LWF offices in Geneva, Switzerland, LWF headquarters since it was founded in 1947.

The LWF Treasurer stressed that the changes should not be driven by financial reasons alone. Restructuring must be linked to a clear, strategic reflection on the LWF’s tasks in the world as well as the resources available. For example, he noted that the Eleventh Assembly of the LWF would cost about USD 2.3 million and suggested that future assemblies might be coordinated with other ecumenical organizations, not only for financial reasons but also to further inter-church cooperation.

“Today we are witnessing the accelerating pace of globalization,” Mr Stoll said. “We are confronted with increasingly new challenges for our churches. We have to do our work under rapidly changing, if not deteriorating, financial conditions.” Because of this, the LWF and its member churches need to concentrate on “being a communion, holding onto our mission and vision [and] being willing and flexible enough to adapt to the conditions and contexts existing in our world today.”
Exploring this theme of “tomorrow’s bread” further, the head of the Anglican Communion, Dr Rowan Williams said that “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” is “a prayer that inevitably looks beyond the present moment and the settling of immediate needs ... It is as if in order to live in peace and hope today, we have to ask for that foretaste or ‘advance payment’ of God’s future.” He said that every petition in the Lord’s Prayer is implicitly a prayer for the coming of the Spirit, “and this one is no exception.”

The Archbishop said that praying for the Spirit “is indeed praying for the grace to receive our humanity from God at each other’s hands in the reality of communion”, noting that this often involves struggle, “since we cannot remain content with our images of each other. Becoming bread for each other means breaking the stony idols of ourselves and of the other.”

He told the Assembly that people recognized human dignity in one another by sharing the truth of what humanity is in the eyes of God. “We feed each other by honouring the truth of the divine image in each other,” he said.

Thus “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” is a petition for all humanity, Dr Williams said. The prayer “both challenges the arrogance of those who think they are not in need and establishes that the needy are fully possessed of a treasure that needs to be uncovered and released.” The prayer keeps us awake to what we owe to our neighbour as a gift; “their humanity depends on ours, as ours does on theirs.” It is irrational to pray for our daily bread while at the same time seeking to hold on to it at the expense of others in one way or another, he said.

Daily bread is the bread of truth, he said, which is also the bread of honesty about ourselves. So when we pray for our daily bread, “we pray also for awareness of our failure, and – hard as this always is – for the grace to hear the truth about it from one another, and also from the wider world.” He said that God also acts to nourish our humanity by the challenges, questions and rebukes that the rest of the human race puts to the Church.

“Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” is thus a prayer for the fullness of the Church to be made manifest in a pattern of recognizing our own need and our neighbor’s, the Archbishop said, “and to turn with confidence to each other so that the need may be met.”

The prayer is, simply, “for Christ to be our food and sustenance, so that all self-sufficient pride, all individual anxiety and defensiveness, all greedy effort to live at the expense of the neighbour are overcome.”

Young Leaders Offer Themselves as Gifts

Youth Call on LWF to Address Issues of Sustainability, Gender Justice and LWF’s Visibility

“We young people offer our enthusiasm, energy and networking skills to assist in raising the profile and visibility of the LWF,” declared youth delegates to the Eleventh Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly as they concluded a creative, colourful and offered themselves as gifts to the communion. “We ask only for the opportunity and the forums to do this.”

The presentation summarized the three issues identified as “important and urgent” by the LWF Pre-Assembly Youth Conference held in Dresden, Germany, 10-17 July 2010.

In offering themselves as gifts to the communion, the youth pledged to be “active and constructive participants” in the life of the LWF. Young Lutherans must be given opportunities, resources and information in order to better understand the communion’s structures and processes, they said.

Injustice has its Origin in Greed

Underscoring the Assembly theme, “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread,” the youth declared that food security must be addressed within the context of climate change and agro-ecological approaches to food production, distribution and...
Greed was identified as a great problem for the world. “Injustice between rich and poor [and] between developed and developing countries has its origins in this source,” they said in the Pre-Assembly Youth Conference message. “We look for a future in which we all finally share our daily bread.”

Unsustainable methods of production are the cause of suffering to humans through economic injustice and also to creation. “We have to find a new paradigm in which all three pillars of sustainability – society, economy and the environment – are fully integrated,” they said.

The Assembly and member churches of the communion were called to advocate with governments and other relevant parties for social, economic and environmental sustainability in policy and practice. In addition, the youth asked members of the communion to purchase and promote fair-trade and sustainable products. Member churches were urged to invest only in ethical and environmentally-friendly funds and investments.

**Challenging gender stereotypes**

The youth called on the whole communion to challenge the systems and practices that limit the choices for men and women on the basis of gender. In a powerful display of this message, youth draped placards with common gender stereotypes around their necks during the presentation.

“We believe that practices within both church and society that diminish the God-given dignity of women must be transformed,” said the youth, who agreed with the outcomes of the Women’s Pre-Assembly, “especially on the subjects of vocational leadership, vocational gifts and ordination.”

**LWF General Secretary-elect shares key concepts for service in the LWF**

**Three key concepts as orientation points**

The Lutheran World Federation General Secretary-elect, Rev Martin Junge, told the Assembly that there are three aspects of the LWF’s nature that will be orientation points for his service as General Secretary. Firstly, there is the LWF’s polycentric nature, meaning that it does not have one centre but many. “The LWF is globally present,” he said. Each member church brings something valuable to the table. “There is no church in this communion which doesn’t have something to give. There is no church in this communion which isn’t in need to receive.” He urged member churches to “circulate and share” their capacities, experience and knowledge.

A second concept is that of transcontextual dialogue. Rev Junge said that this term expresses the idea that, while the human race is increasingly interconnected through various forms of media, it has not learned how to live as neighbors. Churches need to be “contextual,” he said, “responding to conversations, challenges, needs and questions, which are identified locally.”

This sort of active engagement with and contribution to “the wider questions of our neighborhood” is also an excellent entry point for interreligious conversation, with a particular emphasis on diapraxis, he said.

Inclusiveness is the last concept that “will shape the way” in which he will serve the communion, Rev Junge said. Noting that advances have been made over the years to more actively and intentionally include women and youth in the life and decision-making processes of the LWF, he said that “there is homework left for us.”

“We have quotas but often we have difficulties reaching them,” he said, noting that decisions made in an Assembly might not be enacted locally. But even if quotas are reached, this is not sufficient, he said. Reaching quotas “might ensure presence, but not necessarily participation.”

The LWF needs to be transformed by the power that women and youth bring to the global communion, the General Secretary-elect said. “It is time for us men to get involved in making our churches and the communion more inclusive.”
The 11th Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) will leave, as described by Bishop Mark Hanson, possibly “the most significant legacy” by taking the historic step of asking the Mennonites for forgiveness for past persecutions. Delegates unanimously approved a statement calling Lutherans to express their regret and sorrow for past wrongdoings towards Anabaptists and asking for forgiveness.

Hanson described the act of repentance and reconciliation as “communion building and communion defining. “We will not just look back; we will also look towards together to God’s promised future.”

Through the adoption of the statement titled, “Action on the Legacy of Lutheran Persecution of Anabaptists”, Lutherans repented for violent persecution of Anabaptists and for the ways in which Lutheran reformers supported persecutions with theological arguments. The statement asks for forgiveness “from God and from our Mennonite sisters and brothers” for past wrongdoings and the ways in which Lutherans subsequently forgot or ignored this persecution and have continued to describe Anabaptists in misleading and damaging ways.

Archbishop Nemuel Babba of The Lutheran Church of Christ of Nigeria told delegates: “Forgiveness’ is a difficult word for everyone to pronounce,” he said. “[But] today has marked a milestone for two groups coming together because of the word ‘forgiveness’.”

In introducing the vote, Assembly delegates and others present in the plenary hall were called to indicate their endorsement of the statement by kneeling or standing in silence. In a watershed moment in the life of the LWF and Lutheran-Mennonite relations, the LWF President announced the statement unanimously endorsed “in a spirit of great humility.”

In a symbolic act of reconciliation and servanthood, Dr Ndlovu, President of the Mennonite World Conference, presented Bishop Hanson with a wooden foot-washing tub, saying that it represented the Mennonites’ commitment to a future “when the distinguishing mark of Lutheran and Anabaptist-Mennonite relationships is boundless love and unfailing service.”

Dr Ndlovu described how, in some Anabaptist and Mennonite churches, the practice of foot-washing has long been maintained. “It is in our vulnerability to one another that God’s miraculous, transforming and reconciling presence is made visible in the world.” Accepting the gift, Bishop Hanson said, “In this and so many other ways, we will continue to follow [the Mennonite] example, and in this most significant day in our life there may be no more public example of reconciliation.”

In a solemn and powerful service of repentance that follows, the LWF Eleventh Assembly, along with members of the Mennonite community, came together to reflect on the painful past that has caused divisions between Lutherans and Mennonites for hundreds of years.
Women Identify Human Trafficking, Women in Leadership, and Poverty as Issues for Attention

Delegation Asks Assembly to Address Injustices

Human trafficking, leadership by women in churches and society, and unequal food distribution have emerged as key issues for women around the world, according to the presentation on behalf of women at the Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). These issues were identified in the Women’s Pre-Assembly meeting and regional meetings as requiring action by the LWF.

Human Trafficking

At least 27 million people — women, men, and children — are being trafficked worldwide, within their own countries and across borders.

In Tanzania some mothers give their daughters to friends, who promise to feed, clothe and educate the girls. They are then forced into the sex trade and to bear children, whom they are not allowed to keep. When they are no longer able to bear children, the girls are shot or poisoned.

The six-member delegation called on member churches “to engage in advocacy and awareness programmes, to develop strategies to overcome ignorance, and denounce the sin of human trafficking.”

Women in leadership in church and society

The delegation highlighted that not all LWF member churches ordain women “… because some people think that this ministry is for men only, and sometimes is based not on theological but on cultural and traditional grounds.”

Member churches were urged to adopt policies that promote women in both lay and ordained leadership positions. Churches that do not ordain women are “to prayerfully consider the effect that inaction and refusal on this matter has on those who are precluded from exercising their God-given calling.”

“The pain of exclusion and the loss of God-given gifts are experienced by the whole church,” the women said.

Food security

A chasm separates those who are hungry and deprived, and those who consume too much. The women’s delegation urged member churches to engage in advocacy campaigns with governments directed towards securing “food justice” for all. They also asked the LWF to connect member churches with one another and with civil society efforts, with the goal of achieving a “worldwide increase in food sovereignty.”

As they laid a tablecloth on a table, the six women said that the cloth “sets and prepares the table” for daily bread. In a similar way, “the Lutheran community is also called to be a table that is set and prepared for cultural transformation.”
A special farewell was organized during the LWF Assembly for delegates and participants to express their appreciation and bid farewell to Rev Dr Ishmael Noko, LWF General Secretary. Dr Noko had served the Federation for 28 years (1982 to 2010) and will be completing his term of office in October 31 this year. Gifts and good wishes were showered on Dr Noko and his wife Gladys from the different regions and individuals. Asia and Africa also expressed their deep appreciation to Dr Noko through two specially composed songs.

Dr Ishmael Noko, was first elected as General Secretary of the LWF in June 1994, and is the first African to hold this office. He joined the then LWF Department of World Service in 1982, and was Director of the Department of Church Cooperation, later called Department for Mission and Development (DMD), from 1987 until 1994.

The Council of the Lutheran World Federation re-elected Rev Dr Ishmael Noko for his second seven-year term as LWF General Secretary during the Council meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland on September 1, 2004.

Dr Noko had made great and numerous contributions to the life and work of the Federation, including paving the way which led to the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in 1999. His successor, Rev Martin Junge from Chile, was elected during the LWF Council Meeting from October 22-27 in Chavannes-de-Bogis, near Geneva, Switzerland.

**Farewell Songs specially dedicated to Dr Ishmael Noko**

**ASIA: God Bless You Dr Noko**

God bless you Mister Noko, we thank you Reverend Noko!
You served the Asian churches with the deepest dedication, Oh
Ref: Horas, horas, Ya’ahowu, horas, ya’ahowu, horas, ya’ahowu horas

God bless you Ishmael Noko, we thank you Dr Noko
You led the Lutheran churches to the glory of our Saviour, Oh
Ref: Shanti, shanti, horas, shanti, shanti, horas, shanti, shanti, horas, shanti, shanti

God bless you Mister Noko, goodbye Mister Noko
We say “Taniawad”, “Namaskaram”, “Terima Kasih”, Oh
Ref: Salaam, salaam, horas, salaam, salaam, salaam, horas, salaam, salaam, horas, salaam, salaam

God bless you Bapa Noko, and “siesie” Baba Noko
We say “selamat po”, “Arigato”, Selamat jalan”, Oh
Ref: Sayonara, horas, sayonara, horas sayonara, horas, sayonara, (Lyrics: Bishop Mangisi Simorangkir; Tune: Batak Melody)

**AFRICA: Our Hero**

Doctor Noko welcome home! Our hero welcome home (verses 2x each)
We salute your services, Christian soldier! Ishmael! Hoioy iyo!

Twenty-seven years with the LWF! What a feat! Hoioy iyo!
Fighting apartheid like a Christian soldier! Marching on! Hoioy iyo!
Doing Zimbabwe proud, oh Christian soldier! Welcome home! Hoioy iyo!
Sweet home Zimbabwe (4x)
(Lyrics and melody by Paul Maposa)
Some of the Asian delegates had expressed how deeply the theme of the Assembly, “Give us today our daily bread” has touched their hearts. This is because the ministry of the Asian churches has continuously been challenged by natural disasters, economic and climate changes, fear, global food shortages, political and religious fundamentalism, etc. Member churches in Asia felt the theme had called them into the ‘actions of sharing’ because Christ is the bread of life, and to look into the possibility of supporting one another in meeting their dire needs and accompanying one another through difficult situations. It is the heart of the gospel and the heart of being united in Christ.

Delegates were particularly impressed by the worship services each morning with the Holy Communion led by the different regions. Each service was presented in different style, with different music and national / traditional clothes, indicating the richness and diversity of the communion. The messages and delivery of God’s Word were also excellent, conveying clearly the deep spiritual lessons that strengthened the listeners’ faith. I personally thank God that the Bible study by Asia region conveyed the clear message on the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), emphasizing how the rich man strengthened and empowered Lazarus to become a giver instead of a receiver - “Giving is a privilege and a joy”. This has been a strong message for all delegates, especially for the Asian Lutheran Communion.

Most delegates from Asia do not know much about the life of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as known by the church leaders and were happy to learn more about it as a communion of churches during the Assembly. Although there were only three Asian delegates (men) who spoke out during the Assembly plenary session, many were quite active during the Village Group discussions. It was also observed that people who were gathered in Stuttgart had different cultures and background, yet they recognized that the love and the power of God through His Holy Spirit really united the communion. The Lutheran World Federation as a communion of churches is recognized as a special gift from God in uniting His churches. The Asia Regional meeting in the evening of July 21 and July 26 also clearly demonstrated the strong unity of the Asia Lutheran communion.

The Assembly informed all delegates/participants of the approval of the LWF Council’s meeting prior to the Assembly to accept five new churches from Asia to become LWF members. Three of them are from Myanmar, namely the Lutheran Church of Myanmar (LCM), Myanmar Lutheran Church (MLC), and the Mara Evangelical Church (MEC) and the other two churches are from India: the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in India and Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nepal. LWF member churches in Asia are so happy to welcome them to be part of the Asian Lutheran Communion. This has brought the number of LWF member churches in Asia to 52 in 19 countries. It is hoped that the four LWF members in Myanmar will establish the LWF National Committee as a forum for the churches to discuss joint activities among themselves. It is a tool to strengthen the unity and cooperation of the four LWF members in Myanmar.

The Lutheran communion in Asia is so happy that the LWF Eleventh Assembly in Stuttgart has elected Bishop Dr Munib Younan from Asia as the new LWF President. It was a dream and wish of Asian member churches during the Asia-Pre Assembly Consultation in Bangkok, December 6-9, 2009 that Bishop Younan was unanimously nominated for the post of LWF President. Bishop Younan is instrumental in promoting peace, reconciliation and justice, particularly in relation to the conflict in the Middle East. The Asian Lutheran communion will continue to support Bishop Younan and pray for him for God’s courage and wisdom to be an effective and prophetic leader for the whole Lutheran communion.

The Asian Lutheran communion welcomed the new LWF council members from Asia who were elected during the Assembly, which followed the required balance between men, women, youth, clergy and lay. The Asian Lutheran communion also welcomed a female youth Ms Eun-Hae Kwon from the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) who was elected LWF Vice-President from Asia by the new LWF Council in its meeting, July 28-29 in Stuttgart. This opportunity is a special gift from God to the young people for their role “in enhancing the profile and visibility of the LWF”. It is a special gift not only to the Asian Lutheran communion but also to the Lutheran communion as a whole. As LWF Council members and Vice President from Asia, they are expected to bring especially the Asian voices and concerns to the attention of the global communion.

Rev Dr Ginda P Harahap
Area Secretary for Asia and the Middle East
I was especially impressed by the creative daily presentations from the worship team. It helped me focus on the Scripture and understand the Word of God.

The Village Groups helped us understand one another’s perspective about issues in our society and churches as well as an open stage to express our opinions freely and be heard by the plenary. Plenary sessions also included public hearings on Climate Change, Illegitimate Debt, HIV/AIDS and the presentation of messages from the women and youth. The youth presentation, in particular, was sensational for me. It made clear that the youth in the LWF are prepared to work for their churches and the world. They proved themselves as new leaders in our community with love, passion and capacity.

One of the significant and historical landmarks for this Assembly was the reconciliation with the Mennonites. This act by the LWF demonstrated its efforts to widen ecumenical movement for peace.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Asia region for their support. Being appointed as Council Member and LWF Vice- President for Asia was a great honour for me. I was elected as a representative of Women, Youth and Lay in these positions. It was significant because it declared that Asia is ready to work with youth and expected them to play an effective and important role in the LWF. It is a heavy responsibility to be a voice for Asia but I pray that God will give me the strength, wisdom and inspiration to be an instrument for His amazing work. I request your continued prayers and supports.

I felt the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the Assembly and experienced the deep fellowship in this remarkable communion. During the 11th LWF Assembly, my view of neighbours, churches, society, world and God were broadened. Now, I’m looking forward to sharing my views with more members in my church and working further with them on the Message of this Assembly. Give thanks to God!

Ms Eun-Hae Kwon: Youth Delegate, Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK), LWF Vice President for Asia

The 11th LWF Assembly in Stuttgart was indeed a very successful and blessed event. The time of fellowship and worship, learning and sharing, discussing and deliberating were all very enriching, empowering and strengthening.

The theme, “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” has an inclusive perspective as it covers both the physical and spiritual needs of all humankind from various walks of life. It has brought many new insights to the participants. In the current time and context, the theme has been very powerful and relevant to everyone.

The overall programmes were practical and appropriate. The daily worships were very renewing and refreshing and the presentations of programmes created an atmosphere that is warm, loving, stimulating and uplifting. To me, this is a much Spirit guided Assembly that had brought about positive impacts to the communion.

A very significant event to me was the moment when we Lutherans asked for forgiveness and reconciliation with the Mennonites. The service and acts of the worship was so powerful and so moving. Thanks be to God!

I am glad to participate in the Assembly for the first time and had learnt much. Pray that the communion may continue to bring peace, love and justice to the world. May God keep and bless all member churches around the world to be His witness for the Gospel of Christ. All glory be to God alone forever and ever!

Bishop Dr Thomas Tsen: Delegate, Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM)

The LWF Eleventh Assembly is an eye-opening experience and unlike any event that I have attended. The theme: ‘Give us today our daily bread’ is also a timely communal petition to God. The ideas ‘to share’, ‘among all human beings on earth’, ‘timely and immediately’, and the ‘bread for life’ struck me hard throughout the entire week. These ideas awakened me to the seriousness of global issues like climate change, gender injustice, food shortage -- and I am highly pressed to respond to them.

The daily morning Eucharist services impressed me most – the setting, the dramas, and the hymns and music chosen prepared much space for meditation on the theme each day. Besides, brothers and sisters from all around the world, regardless of their colour, ethnicity, age, gender and status, sharing the one Bread and the one Cup in the Holy Communion embodied very well the reality of ‘unity within diversity’

I could never have imagined what a wonderful spiritual and overwhelming journey this trip had turned out to be! Praise to the Lord!!
I am very grateful to God for the opportunity to attend the LWF assembly for the first time. It was so wonderful to be in fellowship with people from all over the world gathering under the theme, “give us this day our daily bread.” I had this similar feeling during the Asia Pre-Assembly in Thailand last year, but seeing everyone in their respective ethnic garb during the Assembly was extremely impressive. I am proud of this strong expression of Asian solidarity and thankful to be a part of it.

Currently Japan is in the vortex of great change. The Japanese’s ideology of “Economics above Everything” has smashed up against a great wall and Japan is now in a period of extreme economic instability. The hearts of the Japanese are being brutalized and crimes of extreme savageness have been on the increase. The Japanese are hungering and thirsting, yet the mission of the Gospel is unable to advance among us.

However, seeing Japan’s past, present, and future problems from a global perspective had given me hope and joy. The advancement of gospel mission, social and ethical problems have not been easy among LWF member churches around the world. We need to be praying, supporting and accompanying one another in our walk and ministry. May the Lord’s generous blessings be upon President Bishop Younan, the LWF new General Secretary, Rev Junge, and all newly elected Council members.

President Shigeo Sueoka: Delegate, Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC)

I really enjoyed the Bible study and the village groups. Each morning’s devotion and Bible study has a unique presentation and message. The bowl, water, soil, bread, seed, oil, flour, etc., as visual aids during the worship and Bible study carry a strong message that God created all things for the benefit of all humankind. The topics discussed at the various Village Groups – “water”, “climate change”, “energy”, “economic development”, etc. were good, but it would have been more beneficial if there were some experts in these fields to explain and update about what is the current global situation on these matters.

The music and hymns were excellent during the Assembly, providing participants with a time of silence contemplation after a long tiring day of conference. May Asian musicians in our churches be motivated to use their gifts for future international church events.

Bishop Mangisi Simorangkir: Delegate, Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (GKPI)

I can’t begin to tell you the joy I experienced at the LWF Assembly of being with so many other faith-filled Lutherans from around the globe.

The highlights of the Assembly for me were the joint worship services each morning and night, as well as Sunday worship in local congregations. The morning services were full of drama and symbolic actions to highlight the theme of each day, and each morning worship service concluded with Holy Communion. It was such a special bond to be able to worship and commune with so many brothers and sisters – even if we couldn’t speak the same languages – a ‘foretaste of the feast to come’.

The worship music, led by very able musicians and song leaders as well as a choir of delegates and volunteers, was multicultural in sight and sound. Such a variety of worship styles, yet such unity and fellowship centred around the Word of God. The morning worship services flowed into small group discussions based around the six Assembly Bible Studies centred on the Assembly theme; ‘Give us today our daily bread’.

Renewing past friendships and creating many new ties and friendships over coffee and German pretzels are experiences I will never forget and I thank the Lutheran Church of Australia for enabling me to attend as their lay-representative.

Ms Heidi Smith: Delegate, Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA)
It was the first time for me to attend such an international meeting and I have learnt much. The LWF 11th Assembly took me out of my contextual views of my church’s challenges into realizing the value of serving the world with my potentials.

The atmosphere of the Assembly was filled with meditation, singing, devotions, listening, sharing and discussions and make me realized that every church throughout the world (no matter the size or economy strength) has its own respective challenges.

I come to see the value of my church as a member of this Communion of Churches in Asia and the world. Though the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) has its challenges, I now realized it also has the potential to help other churches in Asia and the global communion … but has not been doing so. We can support one another in prayer, sharing of God's Word, offering and thanksgiving. I believe that this should be the ‘daily bread’ of my church as a member of the LWF. What matter is not the quantity but the quality of the sharing (‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty, Zachariah 4:6) that will sustain and keep the communion.

LWF is not Geneva but each and every member churches that makes up LWF. Therefore every member church must not only consider about their own daily bread but also how they can be serving other churches with our daily bread.

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will guide us in the right direction for His glory!

Mr Warime Guti: Youth delegate, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea

LWF Assembly Elects 48 New Council Members

LWF President: Bishop Munib A Younan
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Member church</th>
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<td><strong>AFRICA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ordained</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Dr Wakseyoum Idosa</td>
<td>Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Alex Malasusa</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (Vice President)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Zephania Kameeta</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Dr Ndanganane P Phaswana</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Samuel Dawai</td>
<td>Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon</td>
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<td><strong>Lay:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Mami Brunah Aro Sandaniaina</td>
<td>Malagasy Lutheran Church, Madagascar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Pamela Akinyi Oyieyo</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya</td>
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<td>Ms Colleen Elizabeth Cunningham</td>
<td>Moravian Church in South Africa</td>
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<td>Mrs Titi Malik</td>
<td>Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria</td>
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<td>Mr A Elijah Zina</td>
<td>Lutheran Church in Liberia</td>
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<td><strong>ASIA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Naoki Asano</td>
<td>Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Rev Jenny Chan</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Rev Dr A G Augustine Jeyakumar</td>
<td>The Arcot Lutheran Church (India)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Oi-Peng Lok</td>
<td>Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Dr Mangisi Simonangkir</td>
<td>Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia</td>
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<td><strong>Lay:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Eun Hae Kwon</td>
<td>Lutheran Church in Korea (Vice President)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Christina Soren</td>
<td>Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (India)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Rani Bormon Dipti</td>
<td>Bangladesh Lutheran Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Guti Warime</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td>Ms Jenette A L Purba</td>
<td>The Indonesian Christian Church</td>
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<td><strong>CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ordained:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Tamás Fabiny</td>
<td>The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (Vice President) (Northern Diocese)</td>
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<td>Bishop Geza Erniša</td>
<td>Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia</td>
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<td>Bishop Janis Vanags</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia</td>
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<td>Bishop Miloš Klátik</td>
<td>Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic</td>
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<td><strong>Lay:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Iwona Baraniec</td>
<td>Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland</td>
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<td><strong>CENTRAL WESTERN EUROPE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ordained:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Dagmar Magold</td>
<td>Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland &amp; in the Principality of Liechtenstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Dr Bernd Oberdorfer</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Rainer Kiefer</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Martina Berlich</td>
<td>Evangelical Church in Central Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Frauke Eiben</td>
<td>North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Germany</td>
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<td>Bishop Frank O July</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg, Germany (Vice President)</td>
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<td><strong>Lay:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Danielle C Leker</td>
<td>Protestant Church in the Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Anna-Maria Tetzlaff</td>
<td>Evangelical Church of Pomerania, Germany</td>
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<td><strong>NORDIC EUROPE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ordained:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Antje Jackélen</td>
<td>Church of Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien</td>
<td>Church of Norway (Vice President)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Niels Henrik Ahrend</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark</td>
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<td><strong>Lay:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Maria Immonen</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland</td>
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<td>Ms Jenny Skumsnes-Moe</td>
<td>Church of Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Magnea Sverrisdottir</td>
<td>The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland</td>
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<td><strong>LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ordained</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Dr Gloria Rojas Vargas</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (Vice President)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Melvin Jiménez</td>
<td>Lutheran Costa Rican Church</td>
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<td><strong>Lay:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Carlos Bock</td>
<td>Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Danielle Dokman</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH AMERICA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ordained:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Mark S Hanson</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Dr Robin Steinke</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Susan Johnson</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Vice President)</td>
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<td><strong>Lay:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Christina Jackson-Skelton</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Treasurer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Mikka McCracken</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</td>
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The new LWF Council consists of 26 female and 22 male members. Ten members are under 30 years and belong to the youth category. Twenty-eight members of the Council are ordained, 20 are lay. Bishop Dr Munib A Younan from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), elected as the next LWF president, is also a member of the Council.

A new treasurer and seven vice presidents were elected for The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) during the first meeting of the LWF new elected Council led by Bishop Dr Munib A Younan from July 28-29.
Theme: “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”
Date: 20-27 July 2010
Venue: Stuttgart, Germany
Host Church: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg
Delegates: 418 (at least 1 representative from each full member church) – including 50% women, 20% youth (under age 30)
Village Groups: 5 (small discussion groups)
- Village Group 1
  Good soil – Clean water (gift of clean water, climate change, energy, care of creation and economic development, just distribution: “who among us hungers?” life in abundance: proclamation)
- Village Group 2
  Sowing (the gift of good seed, advocacy, living with HIV/AIDS, genetically modified seed, human trafficking, education and empowerment)
- Village Group 3
  Growth – Harvest (the gift of harvest, fair trade, agribusiness, the rights of the child, diakonia as a reaction to exclusion, living by grace
- Village Group 4
  Processing what is harvested (gift of preparation, agricultural practices, decent work, consumerism, food and culture, migration)
- Village Group 5
  Breaking the bread – Sharing solidarity (breaking and sharing, justice in gender relationships, divided church in a divided world, ecumenical relations, communication, your kingdom come: Eucharistic hospitality)
Bible Studies: 6 - explore each day’s theme by examining one or more relevant biblical passages
  1. Bible Study One: Given By Grace
  2. Bible Study Two: To All
  3. Bible Study Three: Today
  4. Bible Study Four: Having Enough
  5. Bible Study Five: Bread
  6. Bible Study Six: Bread of Life
Note: Assembly Bible Study materials and other documents may be downloaded from the LWF Assembly website: www.lwf-assembly.org
Worship times: 21
The daily cycle includes morning worship with Holy Communion, midday devotion and evening prayer – undergirded by lively hymns, organ, choirs, brass, drums, guitar and various traditional instruments. Six morning sermons – based on the daily Bible study – were proclaimed by representatives from each LWF regions with drama, mime or symbolic action. The liturgies were prepared by an international committee. The local worship team comprised of pastors, church musicians, persons from various church-related agencies and representatives of the consistory of the Assembly host church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg.
Daily Bread of the Different Regions

Asia | Rice

*Know you that your bowl of rice each grain from hardship comes? Chinese saying*

Rice cultivation is said to date as far back as 10,000 years, when growing techniques spread throughout south and southeast Asia. Today, more than 1 billion men and women spend most of their lives doing little more than growing enough rice to keep alive. That history has nurtured a special consciousness about rice in many Asian societies. In some parts of Asia, the word for rice is the same as that for food, agriculture or even life itself.

Africa | Millet

*The growing millet does not fear the sun. Acholi*’s proverb

Millet, sorghum and cassava (or manioc) are important staples in Africa. Mainly grown by small-holder farmers in environments with limited water and no fertilizers, they are seen as “poor people’s crops.”

Pearl millet was domesticated in what is now the heart of the Sahara over 4,000 years ago and spread to East Africa about 2,000 years ago. Although mainly starchy, it is a “high-energy” cereal that contains at least nine percent protein, and has none of sorghum’s digestibility problems.

* The Acholi people inhabit northern Uganda and southern Sudan

Europe | Potatoes

*It is easy to halve the potato where there is love. Irish saying*

Potatoes are the world’s fourth largest food crop, following rice, wheat and maize. Common dishes are mashed, baked, boiled, steamed, roasted or french-fried potatoes; potato pancakes or dumplings made from grated potatoes.

Originating in Peru, the potato was introduced to Europe in 1536 and soon became an important food staple. Famines in the early 1770s contributed to acceptance, as did government policies in several European countries and climate change during the Little Ice Age. Potatoes remain an essential crop especially in eastern and central Europe.

Latin America & the Caribbean | Maize

*Never sell or give away the first fruits of the maize harvest. Quiché*’s saying

Maize or corn is widely cultivated throughout the world and a greater quantity is produced each year than any other grain. A food staple in much of South and Central America, it provides an important source of carbohydrates, vitamin B and minerals but is a poor protein food. In Central and South America, maize meal is the main ingredient in bread or tortillas.

Thought to have originated in either Mexico or Central America, some of the earliest traces of maize date back about 7,000 years.

* The Quiché people are Mayan Indians living in the mid western highlands of Guatemala

Nordic Countries | Fish

*She [the Finland Woman] put the fish into the kettle of soup, for they might as well eat it. She never wasted anything. Hans Christian Andersen, “The Snow Queen”*

With Scandinavia’s extensive coastlines, fish is a major element in Nordic people’s diets. Rich in protein, omega-3s and antioxidants, fish such as herring, cod, mackerel, salmon and trout are served with boiled potatoes and root vegetables. The region also boasts a wealth of forest fruit such as lingonberries, cloudberries, wild strawberries and raspberries, and these are especially rich in vitamins and minerals.

Because winter ice and storms restricted the fishing season, Nordic people became adept in preserving food. Salting, smoking, pickling and drying are still traditional techniques, intensifying flavors as they extend shelf life. In ancient Norse culture, fish symbolized adaptability, determination and the flow of life.

North America | Wheat

*Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24*

In 2007, the most widespread of the world’s three main food crops, wheat, had dropped to third position after maize and rice. The popularity of foods made from wheat flour creates a large demand even in economies with significant food surpluses. Wheat flour is one of the most important foods in European and North American culture, and the defining ingredient in most breads, pastries and pasta.
Participating in worship and Bible Study

Rev W Pel, Guti Warime, Dawa Sirah – delegates from ELC-PNG

Asia leading the morning worship Service / Bible Study

Installation of the LWF New Council
Asians speaking up during plenary sessions

Bishop Christian Krause, former LWF President

Guti Warime (ELC-PNG)

Plasthon Simanjuntak (HKBP) spoke up on Climate change during plenary

Delegates exercising their rights

Plenary sessions

Congratulating the incoming LWF President

Bishop Joseph P Bvumbwe (ELC Malawi)

From wife, Suad

Bishop Christian Krause, former LWF President
and so much more...

Delegates from ELCHK – Debbie Tin, Lydia Fong & Bishop Tai

Rohana Napitupulu, Mika Purba, Roswita Silalahi, Plasthon Simanjuntak (HKBP, Indonesia)

(L) David Lase (PCS), Dr Tuhoni Telaumbanua (BNKP), Rev Sopirid Masandu (PCS), Allambra Kalavathy, Arul Selvaraj (TELC)

Heidi Smith & President Michael Semmler (LC Australia)

Dr Wong Fook-Yee (Tsung Tsin Mission, HK)

Colourful Asia
LWF Council from Asia: (L) Christina (NELC), Dr A Jeyakumar (ALC), Bp Simorangkir (GKPI), Guti Warime (ELC-PNG), Kwon Eun-hae (LCK), Bp Philip Lok (LCMS) & Jenette Purba (HKI)

Bishop Nag Godwin (ELC Himalayan States)

Bishop Giegere Wenge (ELC-PNG)

LWF Council member for Asia, Ms Jenette Purba
Five Churches in Asia Join LWF

Asia now has 52 member churches

Five new churches, all of them in Asia, have joined the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The LWF Council approved their admission at its meeting July 18-20.

Three of the new churches are from Myanmar:
- The Lutheran Church of Myanmar, founded in 1995 with 1,620 members
- The Myanmar Lutheran Church, founded in 1998, with 2,150 members
- The Mara Evangelical Church, founded in 1984, with 21,573 members.

Also joining the LWF membership:
- The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in India, founded in 2007, with 15,400 members
- The Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nepal, established in 1943, with 676 members.

The five new churches bring the number of LWF member churches to 145 in 79 countries. LWF member churches now have a combined membership of 70.1 million (70,094,735).

Assembly Message and Consolidated Report of Actions NOW available at LWF Assembly website!

The LWF 11th Assembly Message and Consolidated Report of Actions are now available under “Assembly Documents” at the LWF Assembly website: www.lwf-assembly.org

Assembly Message:
In a time of “grabbing and keeping,” we once again become aware that true humanity is found in receiving and sharing...

Note: Other reports and presentations of the Assembly are also available for download in this same website

Editor/News Coordinator
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Five Churches in Asia Join LWF

Asia now has 52 member churches

Five new churches, all of them in Asia, have joined the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The LWF Council approved their admission at its meeting July 18-20.

Three of the new churches are from Myanmar:
- The Lutheran Church of Myanmar, founded in 1995 with 1,620 members
- The Myanmar Lutheran Church, founded in 1998, with 2,150 members
- The Mara Evangelical Church, founded in 1984, with 21,573 members.

Also joining the LWF membership:
- The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in India, founded in 2007, with 15,400 members
- The Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nepal, established in 1943, with 676 members.

The five new churches bring the number of LWF member churches to 145 in 79 countries. LWF member churches now have a combined membership of 70.1 million (70,094,735).