



## Dear valued partners and friends,

Welcome to **"From the General Secretary Desk"**.

It is with immense joy that I introduce our inaugural newsletter, designed to keep you informed about the latest developments, inspiring stories, and impactful initiatives from our global network.

## Reflections from the Lausanne Congress

Attending the Fourth Lausanne Congress in Seoul, South Korea, alongside over 5,000 delegates from 200+ countries, was a profound experience. The congress reinforced our organization's purpose: demonstrating Christ's love to those in need. The theme, "Let the Church Declare and Display Christ Together," resonated deeply with our mission.

During the congress, I witnessed the diversity and dedication of delegates through worship times, table discussions, collaborative action teams, meal-time conversations. Participants shared personal stories, insights, and visions for the future. The Lausanne Congress was a timely reminder that our work at International Needs is part of a larger narrative – a story of God's redemptive plan for humanity.

## Three key takeaways resonated deeply:

- 1 The Urgency of the Great Commission:** With over 3 billion awaiting the gospel, our work remains unfinished. We commit to supporting indigenous leaders in reaching their communities, particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- 2 The Power of Collaboration:** Partnerships are crucial in closing the gaps and advancing the Great Commission. The congress highlighted the importance of intentional collaboration. We were reminded that collaboration is not just a strategy but an expression of Christ himself.
- 3 The Critical Role of Prayer:** Our efforts depend on God's guidance and the Holy Spirit's empowerment. Throughout the congress, we were encouraged to prioritize prayer, recognizing that our efforts are ultimately dependent on God.

Here are helpful links & resources from the Lausanne Movement:

[Lausanne Movement Website](#)

[Lausanne Collaborative Action Hub](#)

[The Accelerate Platform](#)

[The Seoul Statement](#)

[The State of the Great Commission Report](#)



As I reflected on the deliberations during the fourth Congress in Seoul and the call from the first Lausanne meeting in 1974, which Ray Harrison attended, I felt renewed in my commitment to our shared mission and grateful for your partnership. As we reflect on the next 50 years of ministry for International Needs, let's together declare an display Christ through the projects we support.

## Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

During our 8th Congress in Rotorua, New Zealand, we marked a significant milestone, reflecting on our shared accomplishments over the past five decades. We published a commemorative book, produced milestone videos, and created a documentary celebrating our journey together. Digital records of proceedings, including milestone videos and the documentary, are available at the **Congress 8 Information Center** on the Partner Portal.



## Enhancing Excellence in Project Design (Project Managers Forum)

On 25th September, the Global Office convened an engaging learning session on From Dream to Doable Part I: Project Design with over 60 participants from across our network. This highly interactive session fostered meaningful discussions, knowledge sharing and capacity building. Building on this momentum, a follow up session is scheduled for later this month further equipping participants with practical tools and expertise to excel in project management.

## Update on Ministry Project Manager (MPM)

From August 5-9, 2024, the Global Office organized a validation workshop in Accra, Ghana, to assess the design and structure of the new MPM software. Fifteen onsite and three virtual participants from 10 partner countries attended. Participants appreciated the collaborative atmosphere created during the sessions, which allowed for the open exchange of ideas and meaningful feedback, the hands-on sessions that enabled them to actively engage with the MPM tool and test its functions. There were very helpful suggestions for improvement. We look forward to the next phase of development from October to December 2024.



## Executive Directors Working Group

As International Needs (IN) looks forward to its next 50 years of ministry, we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and ask if there are fresh ways IN can be molded for a new generation of Christian leaders. Today, our interconnectedness through technology means that we can operate in real time, and we can be available to one another virtually and dynamically. We are therefore able to consider strategic areas, fresh vision, and develop new ways of working in response to ministry challenges.

To achieve this, the Executive Director Working Group (EDWG) was established with a larger constituency of partners following discussions during Congress 8. This group will work alongside the Executive Committee (EC) and General Secretary (GS) to among others foster deeper inter-partner collaboration, shared resources, practices, knowledge, and expertise. This collaborative approach will enable us navigate the challenges of ministry effectively and fulfill our shared mission.

## Upcoming Events

- Call to Prayer (October 2, 9 am and 6 pm GMT)
- Roundtable Consultation on the State of the Great Commission Report (October 14, 10 am GMT)
- Executive Directors Working Group 1 (October 21, 7 am GMT)
- Learning Session: From Dream to Doable (Part II) on Project Reporting (October 23, 11 am GMT)

## Prayer Points

- Thank God for the impact of the Lausanne Congress equipping the body of Christ for God's mission.
- Ask God to guide relief efforts in Nepal following flooding from torrential rains and for bereaved families to be comforted.
- Ask God for boldness and courage for our brothers and sisters serving in restricted contexts when they face persecution.

Together, we serve as part of the global body of Christ. Thank you for your continued support.

Blessings  
**Edmond Vanderpuye PhD, CA**  
General Secretary, International Needs