

# The Fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization Seoul, Korea - September 22 – 28, 2024

## Report to Park Cities Pres Missions Committee from Bill Peel

### Overview

More than 5,000 Christian leaders from 202 countries—plus 5,000 online participants, attended the Fourth Lausanne Congress to consider how Christ’s followers can further the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Dr. Michael Oh is the global executive director/CEO of the Lausanne Movement. Oh is a former MTW missionary and founder of Christ Bible Seminary in Japan, where PCPC missionary Brett Rayl serves today.

### History of the Lausanne Movement

In 1974, Billy Graham and John Stott founded the Lausanne Movement to serve the body of Christ by facilitating God-inspired, catalytic connections within and across regions, generations, and shared interests. The first International Congress on World Evangelization was held in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974 and drew 2,300 evangelical leaders from 150 countries. The first gathering produced [The Lausanne Covenant](#), a declaration “intended to define the necessity, responsibilities, and goals of spreading the Gospel.” The second Congress took place in Manila, Philippines - 1989, and the third Congress convened in Cape Town, South Africa - 2010.

Lausanne Four is the culmination of a multi-year process to facilitate catalytic collaboration that will shape the world for Christ. The theme of this year’s Congress was “Let the Church Declare and Display Christ Together.” *Together* is the operative word for what Lausanne is trying to accomplish today, believing that the body of Christ lacks a truly comprehensive, collaborative strategy for global mission.



## **Workplace Ministry at Lausanne Four**

Workplace leaders were minimally represented at the 1974, 1989, and 2010 gatherings, but that changed at Lausanne Four. Hundreds of Christians in the workplace were invited to gather with pastors, missionaries, and evangelists to consider the critical nature of the workplace for the spread of the gospel. Attendance by business leaders and professionals exceeded expectations.

My direct involvement in the Lausanne Movement began in 2019 as a member of the planning team for the Global Workplace Forum in Manila. In June 2021, I attended a gathering of global leaders to begin planning the 2024 Congress. I worked on the planning committee for the Workplace Track—tasked with nominating workplace leaders, with the goal of 2,000 from the workplace among the 5,000 on-site attendees. I nominated 49 individuals, including several PCPC members and staff. Mark Davis and Sam Leopold attended, and I was delighted to introduce them to some of my global faith-and-work colleagues.

Thanks to your generous investment, I was able to attend Lausanne Four and fulfill a key role in the planning and execution of the Workplace Track. In May 2023, we hosted a gathering at PCPC of workplace leaders and Lausanne leaders, including Michael Oh. This meeting proved catalytic for the Fourth Congress and culminated with a compelling Workplace Track. Around 2000 individuals requested to attend the Workplace Track, but our assigned room could only hold 1,500.

To prepare Lausanne Four attendees for workplace emphasis, I [coauthored four articles](#)<sup>1</sup> with Jerry White, President Emeritus of the Navigators. Lausanne used these articles about the importance of the workplace to the Great Commission for conference orientation. I also helped lead and prepare a group of 30 business and ministry leaders from over 20 countries to give presentations for the Workplace Track.

## **Personal Reflection**

Overall, my Lausanne experience was eye-opening. Plenary sessions were stimulating and thought-provoking—especially the focus on the persecuted church, including the bravery of Christians in Iran. Worshipping and learning with 5,000 brothers and sisters in Christ proved awe-inspiring. Although I've been in larger gatherings, the vision of 5,000 people on the same level sitting around tables was breathtaking and gave me a new vision of Jesus feeding the 5,000.



I was both humbled and excited to realize that the average Christian in 2024 is more likely to be African than Western. I was blessed to bring back new relationships with colleagues and friends from Madagascar, Central African Republic, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, the UK, Pakistan, Brazil, Nigeria, and India. (My tablemate from India is planning reformed churches there.)



Not surprisingly, my favorite plenary session, “[Holy Ground: Living Out Faith at Work](#),”<sup>2</sup> focused on how God used ordinary workplace Christians to spread the gospel in the book of Acts. This plenary challenged attendees to rediscover the value of the 99 percent of Christians called to secular work—and the importance of equipping them to be God's priestly presence in their workplace.

Our last Workplace Track session included a moving commissioning service led by 20 pastors, based on a liturgy I created.

Reflection on my experience at Lausanne evoked several new concerns:

- A new burden for my brothers and sisters in Africa and South Asia.
- A new awareness of the extent and global nature of the faith-at-work movement and the need to be more connected.
- An intensified commitment to help spiritual leaders recognize the critical place the workplace has in world evangelism.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://lausanne.org/about/blog/the-most-strategic-mission-field>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcVsrHwVYCs&t=44s>