



**DYNAMIC GOSPEL
NEW EUROPE**

CONVERSATION
AND GATHERING

PRESS RELEASE
#LausanneEurope

A new leadership team for Lausanne Europe

**With Jim Memory and Usha Reifsnider at the helm,
Lausanne Europe gets a dynamic leadership team,
as diverse as the continent itself.**

As the new Regional Director for Lausanne Europe, Jim Memory brings to the role a lifetime of experience as a missionary, mission leader, and church planter in Spain with the European Christian Mission (ECM). He is a postgraduate lecturer at All Nations Christian College (UK), a conference speaker and a writer on mission in Europe. He is the author of *Europe 2021*, a [report](#) on the context for mission in Europe today which has been translated into six languages.

The new Co-Regional Director, Usha Reifsnider, a British Gujarati, has ministered to migrants and refugees from Muslim, Hindu and Sikh backgrounds for decades. She is one of the directors of the Centre for Missionaries from the Majority World. She will complete her PhD with the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies this year. Her thesis is entitled: *Transcultural Aspects of Gujarati Christian Conversion*.

Jim and Usha will take on the baton from Jean-Paul Rempp who has faithfully served as Regional Director for Lausanne Europe for the past nine years.

They will work together with a regional team, which will initially be the same team which organized the LE20/21 Conversation and Gathering (Lars Dahle (chair), Ole-Magnus Olafsrud (vice-chair), Jim Memory, Usha Reifsnider, Janet Sewell, and Bodil Skjøtt). They are eager to broaden the representation of the team, and to strengthen the momentum built and the connections made during the virtual Gathering, when more than 1.000 church and mission leaders met to wrestle with the issues facing mission and evangelism in Europe today.

“Lausanne Europe aspires to be a network and a platform for collaboration,” Jim Memory says. Since its beginning, in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974, the Lausanne Movement has functioned as a relational network and a theological platform. Going forward it also wants

to develop even further as a digital platform for sharing ideas and fostering strategic initiatives and collaboration.

One of the main topics discussed at the November Gathering was how immigration from the Majority World is contributing to the new evangelization of Europe. Usha Reifsnider's post-doctoral plans include research on how members of the Majority World are working alongside the European churches to reach out to refugee and immigrant communities, as well as how Majority World missionaries contribute to reaching traditional Europeans who no longer relate to the church. Usha's ministry and research have focused on worldwide relationship networks. She hopes to bring this aspect into her role at Lausanne Europe. "I eagerly anticipate the opportunities to work with globally distinct cultures to unite as a body," says Usha Reifsnider.

"Europe is perhaps the greatest challenge in world mission today", says Jim Memory. "Most Europeans appear to have been inoculated against the gospel by the vaccine of cultural Christianity. However, I believe the weakness of the Church is also God's opportunity. More than ever before, European Christians are collaborating, networking, and planting churches together, and into that mix, God has brought the vitality of Christians from the Majority World.

See, Meet, Talk, Act has been the motto for Lausanne Europe activities over the last four to five years. It has included facilitating a continent-wide Conversation, in which leaders met in Impact Groups to discuss relevant topics. Jim Memory believes this motto is relevant for all Christians in Europe: "We need to *see* different perspectives and hear different voices. We need to *meet* to make new connections. We need to *talk* and to hear one another. And we need to *act* in getting the Gospel out to this generation of Europeans. Lausanne Europe is about helping churches, ministries and individual Christians, to spread the Gospel in every sphere of European society."

[**The Lausanne Europe 20/21 Planning Team**](#)
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