

Famed communicator Jean-Jacques Bauswein dies at 78

by [Dawn Araujo-Hawkins](#) in the [May 4, 2022](#) issue



(Courtesy of the World Council of Churches)

Jean-Jacques Bauswein, one of the founders of the news service Ecumenical News International, died on March 30. He was 78.

Bauswein, a Lutheran pastor born in Strasbourg, France, was dedicated to both ecumenism and communications throughout his career. From 1972 to 1981, he served as the French and German press officer for the World Council of Churches. For 15 years, he led the John Knox International Reform Center in Geneva, Switzerland—a hostel and meeting space for religious and humanitarian organizations around the world.

It was as a representative of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches that Bauswein helped start Ecumenical News International in 1994. He served as a member of ENI's advisory board and, eventually, as president of the ENI association.

Peter Kenny, former ENI editor in chief, told the World Council of Churches that Bauswein was a “smart, witty, ebullient” communicator.

“Jean-Jacques believed passionately that objectively obtained news about the churches worldwide should be available to church members and the general public,” he said.

Bauswein retired in 2000 and, according to the WCC, became involved in local politics in Ornex, France, where he founded the city’s local history association.