



World Mission News

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SAT-7, a Christian satellite TV broadcaster says **North Africans** are showing growing interest in its program especially since 9-11. They have received increasing number of positive letters, phone calls, and e-mails. The broadcasts reach 5 million viewers in the mostly Islamic nations with 1.5 million in Algeria. Broadcast of locally produced programs has expanded from two hours per week in 1996 to 12 hours each day. Partner ministries with the TV broadcast also have 11 telephone-counseling operations throughout the region.

In AD1252, **Lithuania** became the last nation in Europe to be Christianized when its king accepted Christianity for political reasons while retaining much of their pagan practices. This mixing of paganism into the Christian faith can be seen in their festivals like the "Day of Serpents" or the "Feast of the Dead." The former includes worship of serpent deities and the latter ancestors. Roman Catholicism is the dominant group, but only 13% of the people actively attend church on Sunday. In recent years, Pentecostal and Evangelical influence has grown. The Pentecostal Union churches had grown from 3 to 21 between 1993-98. There are about 25 missionaries in Lithuania.

In **Kazakhstan** the gospel is spreading rapidly. A church in **Almaty**, the capital, is attended by 3,500, 40% Kazakhs, 50% Russians, and the rest Koreans and others. This church has planted 160 churches all over the country, at present a new one each month. 1,500 people attend the second largest church in Almaty. They have planted 70 churches and launched the only 24-hour Christian TV channel in the former Soviet Union countries.

Chinese Churches Today reports: there are eight Chinese churches in **Vietnam**, all in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Believers total about 1,000 and speak Cantonese. Most Chinese in Vietnam are city-dwellers working in factories. Only 0.1% of them are Christians.

There are 1 million Turkish immigrants in **Bulgaria**, about 12% of the population. They constitute a sizable and growing Islamic presence in the nation. Five daily calls to prayer from the local mosques are shown on TV, and they have a Turkish language magazine, the *Islam*. In addition, there are about 300,000 Turkish speaking Gypsies, some Islamic or Orthodox, the dominant faith of the nation, and others still deeply involved in the occult. This is great opportunity for Islamic outreach as **Bulgaria** is open to missionaries.

In 1971, American missionary Jim Montgomery to the **Philippines** shared his vision of evangelizing the whole nation with several hundred church and mission leaders at the All Philippines Congress on Evangelism. The congress set a goal of establishing 10,000 evangelistic Bible study groups throughout the land. They reached that goal in 1973 and accepted the challenge of DAWN strategy to grow from 5,000 churches to 50,000 churches by the end of AD2000. Last September another group of several hundred Filipino leaders gathered to celebrate the reaching of this incredible goal. Then, they set a new goal to plant 50,000 more churches in the next 10 years!

In Mar del Plata (population 800,000), a city on the Atlantic coast of **Argentina**, churches that practice Prayer Evangelism have grown an average of 350% in the last 12 months. Evangelist Ed Silvano of Harvest Evangelism has introduced Prayer Evangelism to these churches. It is based on Luke 10 to do four things for the lost: bless them, fellowship with them, take care of them, and finally announce the kingdom of God to them.

According to *China Source*, colleges and universities across **China** will soon expand their bilingual education. Within three years 11 million students will use English textbooks, presenting unprecedented opportunity for overseas Christians to teach English in China.

Kenya's 10 million population is 78% Christian and 36% evangelical. It's widespread poverty (US\$340 average annual income per person) created vast slums such as the one outside of Capital Nairobi known as Kibera, the second largest in Africa on a 300-acre plot with homes for several hundred thousand people. Last December violence broke out due to landowner/tenant tension. 15 people died, hundreds injured, many women raped and homes burnt and chopped apart in a week of riot. Thousands abandoned their shelters leaving the churches with half of their membership and training projects closed down. Churches in Nairobi are trying to help restore peace and assist the people.

Amazon River Basin is the world's largest fresh water system spread over 2,300,000 square miles dotted with 33,000 tribal villages. Since 1976, Project Amazon (PAZ, peace in Portuguese) Mission with 30 missionaries has planted 270 churches there leading 9,000 people to Christ. At the same time, they provide basic medical and educational services plus water filtering equipment that has greatly reduced diseases and infant mortality. Currently there are 3,000 churches in the region, mostly Catholic (many involved with occult).

The house churches in Hainan Province, **China** are leading 1,000 people to Christ every month. The 50,000 Christians there is only 0.6% of the population. Though located on an island with no seminary or Bible training school, oversea Chinese Christians have introduced many innovative evangelistic tools and approaches to the churches there.

The 2 billion **Christians** in the world grow at an annual rate of 1.27% while the 6.2 billion-world population grows at a rate of 1.22%. The fastest growing religious group is the 1.2 billion Muslims. They are growing at an annual rate of 2.11%. The rate for the 218 million Evangelicals is 1.72%.