

# World Mission News

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**Puerto Rico:** There are over 10,000 Chinese in Puerto Rico, an island in the Caribbean Sea about nine times the area of Hong Kong. Most of them are Cantonese men working in Chinese fast food restaurants spreading all over the island. They work long hours and easily fall into the habit of gambling due to lack of other suitable recreational outlets for Chinese. Two Cantonese women missionaries are serving there since 1997. A church has been planted with some 30 people. They appeal for more coworkers, especially male, to serve in over 70 towns.

<Chinese Churches Today 今日華人教會, 6/02>

**Kazakstan:** In 1996, a church in Almaty, Kazakstan embraced a vision to establish ten churches along the Old Silk Road as far as Jerusalem. Already a family from the indigenous people of the area has been sent to the most sensitive nation along the way. Inspired by Silk Road Festival 2000, they now broaden the vision to establishing 1000 churches by 2010 in the "35/45 Turkish Window." They have begun a partnership with a mission of 120 professionals serving the Turkish people along the Road.

<The World Inquiry, the-inquiry@XC.org, 8/9/02>

**Nepal:** Before 1960, no Christian was officially allowed to live in Nepal. Unofficially, there were less than 30 believers in 1959. Today, more than 400,000 are Christians. Though freedom of worship has been guaranteed in the constitution since 1990, proselytizing and baptizing are still punishable by imprisonment. A Maoist uprising threatens civil war with 4,000 deaths in the past six years. Traveling missionaries are easily mistaken as enemy agents by both the army and the guerillas.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, 7-8/2000>

**India:** Since 1989 more than 35,000 people have died in the Muslim-Hindu conflict in Kashmir, India where it flares up again in recent months. But thousands of mostly young Kashmiri Muslims, disillusioned by Islam, are reported to seek new ways to solve the conflict, and inquire about the Christian faith of love and forgiveness. But due to fear, they cannot express interest or accept openly. Operation World estimated 15,000 Christians (with less than 100 former Muslims) and 167 churches among 9.4 million people in Kashmir. There are thousands more in secret.

<Christianity Today, 9/9/02>

**Ethiopia:** It took 14 years for a veterinarian missionary couple working among 5 to 6 thousand Mursi people living in southwestern Ethiopia before leading a few of them to Christ. They took linguistic courses, developed a trial script for the people, but only one youth was willing to learn while others ridiculed it as worthless. His persistence is bearing fruit. Many are now clamoring for chances to learn. And the youth is leading efforts to translate the Bible.

<Serving in Mission Together, www.sim.org, Fall/02>

**Ecuador:** With relative isolation and peoples' fierce devotion to Christo-paganism, Loja province is the last large region in Ecuador still unreached with the gospel. They have forcibly stopped foreign and national Christian outreach to the area. Seeing their desperate need for health care, a missionary couple started eye clinics and witnessed rapid crumbling of barriers. Healthcare missionaries are now warmly welcome to the region opening doors to evangelistic outreach.

<Serving in Mission Together, www.sim.org, Fall/02>

**Argentina:** The pastor of a church in prison which brought 80% of the inmates to be born again Christians has been asked by the Argentine government to build a prototype jail based on Christian principles and run it. They have approved seven such jails all with the name of the church: Christ the Only Hope. This prison church started a revival in Argentina now lasting more than 2 decades. Some pastors of large churches are literally pastoring the entire cities, block by block, business by business.

<Harvest Evangelism, www.harvestevan.org, 8/02>

**Israel:** Despite the turmoil in Israel, Jews from 20 nations have moved there recently. Nearly 50% of the immigrants are from the former Soviet Union. About 20% of all Israelis today speak Russian. In addition to broadcast to Israel in Hebrew and Arabic, the Bible Voice Broadcasting has started in September an one-hour Russian program with plans of expansion.

<mail@Biblevoice.org, 7 & 8/02>

**Turkey:** Since last November, Turkish police have ordered closing of Christian churches for violating building codes, even though they admit 81% of new mosques have no building permit.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 9/02>

**USA:** A 1,000-member Baptist church in Texas, USA sends out 350 missionaries to fields as far as northern Nicaragua and as near as a house six blocks away from the church. Since 1989 the church has sent teams of young people and professionals to offer medical and dental assistance, manual labor and salvation to neighborhoods in needs, Indian reservations in the USA, and fields in Central America. A ninth yearly mission team to Nairobi orphanage for AIDS orphans is planned for 2003.

<Dallas Morning News, 8/17/02>

**Christians:** Every hour, 3,000 decide to be Christians, a record in church history. The number of evangelical Christians in Africa, Asia and Latin America has multiplied thousand-fold in the last 40 years as the fruit of 200 years of Western mission. Yet Christianity is losing ground in Europe. 100 years ago, more than half of all Christians lived in Europe, today only a quarter. By 2025 there will be only one fifth, whereas, more than half in Africa and Latin America.

<National Pastors Prayer Network, www.nppn.org, 8/26/00>

**Missionary's yellow pages:** www.teamgeo.org of the Global Economic Outreach is a "Missionary's yellow pages" started 3 years ago by a former missionary couple. It has 400 people signed up with skills ranging from baking to sanitation. And they are willing to provide information free of charge to any missionary or ministry for sharing the gospel and meeting people's needs. No skill is too small to sign up.

<World Pulse, www.wheaton.edu/bgc/emis, 8/9/02>

**Russia:** Indigenous churches are multiplying in Russia's Ural Mountains. None existed six years ago among the Bashkirs and Tatars, two of the Islamic people groups. Newly trained church planting teams now have founded more than 50. Believers hope to plant at least 100 self-replicating churches by 2003.

<World Pulse, www.wheaton.edu/bgc/emis, 8/9/02>

**Sri Lanka:** Buddhist leaders and organizations in Sri Lanka are putting tremendous pressure on the prime minister and government there to cancel all visas of missionaries and for the banning of any conversions. The Buddhist leaders also wish to stop all foreign funds coming into the country that support any Christian work. Pray that the Government does not give in. There are still over 25,000 villages in Sri Lanka without a local church.

<Gospel For Asia, www.gfa.org, 10/02>