

World Mission News

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<Asia Harvest, 7 & 9/2001>

In Nagaland, a province in northeast India bordering Myanmar, nearly all its 1.6 million people are Christians. They are linguistically and culturally related to the Yi people of China as well as other tribes in Myanmar, Bhutan, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Nepal. The Nagas are consisted of 36 different tribes, headhunters only decades ago. The first Naga Christian was baptized in 1847. In 1911 it grew to 1,128. In 1955 foreign missionaries were expelled from the province before the Holy Spirit was poured out in a mighty way in a church in Sendenyu beginning in February 1959 and soon spread all over the province. At that time, the Nagas had been in a bitter war with India resisting its attempt to include them in an independent India since 1947. So after years of suffering, Christians at Sendenyu Baptist Church organized prayer meetings and cried to God in repentance. God responded and the fire of revival swept through the province. Christians were miraculously set free from prisons. A manna-like edible root was providentially provided during a year of famine. Live grenades thrown into a church were kept from detonated. Demonic strongholds of large cave, enormous rock and gigantic tree collapsed on their own. Thousands were healed divinely and at least four were raised from the dead. Since a cease-fire in force for the past few year, the province has been at peace and prospering. The Church is planning to send 10,000 cross-cultural missionaries to neighboring totally unreached people groups.

<SIMNOW, Issue 96/2001>

There are over 4,000 Korean churches and 2.5 million Koreans in the USA. In mission conferences, 10,000 potential Korean-American missionary candidates have been identified, mostly college and seminary students. SIM USA recently named a Korean as Director of Asian Ministry who for eight years headed the Korean World Missions Council. He challenges the agency to send 100 Korean-American missionaries each year for the next ten years. There are over 10,000 Korean missionaries around the world, and 49% of 48 million population of South Korea are Christians.

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A historic five-year project to produce an African Bible Commentary by 2005 is in progress through a partnership of SIM and dozens of Africa's leading evangelical theologians. They aim to incorporate African historical and cultural traditions and help the church to face effectively diverse issues as ancestral spirit worship, poverty, AIDS pandemic, the growth of Islam, and ongoing ethnic dissension and political anarchy, while holding to the supreme and final authority of the Scriptures. It's projected cost is one million and will be printed in English and French. After this another project is planned to produce translations into trade languages such as Hausa, Swahili, Amharic, Portuguese, etc.

<Send!, 11-12/2001>

Gospel For Asia dedicated last August a new web press capable of printing 500,000 New Testaments per month in all major languages of India & neighboring countries. It was significant as only 1% of Asian population today has access to a Bible or New Testament, which are in short supply especially in view of potentially large number of people coming to Christ. Several major leaders of the 300 millions 'Dalits' (the Untouchables) in India have urged them to turn to Christ to be free from slavery and hopelessness of the caste system. GFA's vision is to send 100,000 trained workers to reach the 500,000 villages in India still untouched by the gospel giving them the Bibles.

<Global Update, 10/2001>

Churches in Bulgaria have launched a 10-month outreach program, Hope For the Balkans, to convey the gospel in word and deed to a hurting region. The outreach begins with evangelism training using the Alpha course. Other initiatives include community clean up; providing meals to the invalid and elderly; conferences for pastors, women and youth on Christian witness; visits to hospitals and orphanages; humanitarian aid and Scripture distribution. Western gospel musicians and evangelists will assist in leading crusades with a final rally on April 28, 2002 in Sofia.

<Mosaic/Women of Global Action, 4th Quarter/2001>

10,000 women from 156 nations gathered for the Global Celebration for Women Conference in Houston, USA, September 19-21, 2001 braving the air travel restrictions after the 911 tragedy. They came to worship and praise God and to accept the challenge to share the hope and mercy of Christ to the hopeless, abused and downtrodden in a dark and ever-changing world.

<Christianity Today, 12/3/2001>

16 Christians worshipping in a church were gunned down by militants shouting Islamic slogans in Bahawalpur, Pakistan last October 28. The dead included seven women, three children, the pastor of the 100-member church, and the police officer assigned to guard the church. Christians constitute only 2% of the population and had asked for more protection after a lot of protest and people calling for jihad against the West and all 'infidels' following the US-led attack on Afghanistan. Most Muslim and a few pro-government Christian leaders blamed the massacre on Indian and Israeli intelligence agencies.

<Global Chinese Ministries/OMF International, 11/2001>

China is on the brink of moral crisis as evidenced in serious moral decline and social disintegration: rampant materialism; freer sexual mores leading to an explosion of AIDS, visible official corruption, increasing gap between rich and poor, cheating in schools, etc. Many students writing essay for college entrance exam on the topic of 'honesty and trustworthiness' dismissed it as unimportant. Recently officials in Guangdong province found that one sixth of high school diplomas were bogus. An amazingly honest commentator in Beijing News (August 14) used 'Christians following the Ten Commandments' as an example that 'true unselfish behavior still exists on earth'. He also suggested that "since virtue and morality need to be habits without thinking, they can only be obtained when introduced as part of a child's education at an early age," and "by the knowledge of God." This comment may stimulate discussion of Christianity as a solution to China's problems.