

World Mission News

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India: More than 4,000 'untouchable' Dalits India recently received Christ and are waiting to be baptized. Due to anti-conversion law, they must first fill out required forms. The Dalits still suffer at the hands of the 'uppercaste' people. Last April, only 22 of 70 men went to jail for their crime of burning down 100 plus Dalit homes back in 1997. And last March, a 16-year old Dalit girl was burned to death by the angry father of one of her two rapists. The rapists were arrested after the girl defied threats and went to the police.

<Gospel For Asia Update, www.gfa.org, 3/25/03>

Saudi Arabia: Christians face deportation from Saudi Arabia. Last March, a Christian worker from Eritrea was arrested and placed at a deportation center. And in late April the pastor of the same Ethiopian/Eritrean church in Jeddah was also arrested. Police told the pastor's employer that he is accused of selling alcohol and involving in prostitution which the pastor vehemently denied. But an official of the Ethiopian Consulate said the arrest was due to Christian activities. Some church members were warned by police not to attend church again.

<www.crosswalk.com, May/03>

USA: Chinese are among the largest and fastest growing ethnic groups in USA, and are increasingly turning to evangelical Christianity. Since 1990 they have grown almost 50% to 2.4 million today. Many of them return to China to visit and share the gospel in various ways.

<World Pulse, www.wheaton.edu/hgc/emis, 5/7/03>

Haiti: Haiti government has officially sanctioned voodoo as a religion, allowing practitioners to perform legal baptism, marriage, etc. Voodoo adherents believe in a supreme God and spirits who link the human with the divine. They practice black magic based on animal and human sacrifices to summon zombies and evil spirits. It evolved from West African belief and developed among slaves in the Caribbean who adopted elements of Catholicism.

<Dallas Morning News, 4/11/03>

Hong Kong: Jireh Fund called on Christians to join the 'Never be Silent Day or Night' prayer vigil for the city of Hong Kong which is under the shadow of SARS epidemic on top of other travails. The vigil lasts from April 22 to October 21. At least ten units or individuals have pledged to pray during each of the 48 half-hour segments daily. Starting April 7, a column has appeared in the newspaper Ming Pao calling all 'to bless Hong Kong for five minutes' each morning at 8 am.

<Jireh News, www.jirehfund.org, May/03>

Italy: There are 100,000 Chinese in Italy, many from the Zhejiang province of China. The majority of them work in garment and handbag industries or restaurants. The total number of Chinese churches is 24 with some 2,500 attending services each Sunday. A few of the churches have pastors. The rest are led by some 60 lay co-workers. A recent seminar on youth ministry, however, attracted more than 50 eager and vibrant young workers lending much hope for the future.

<Link, www.cocn.org.uk, 3-4/03>

South Africa: Four marketplace ministers visited South Africa recently. When they got to the hotel they began quietly to speak peace to every employee. In 4 days, 39 people received the Lord, all were baptized and received training on prayer evangelism. The hotel became a church. Church leaders of the country are using 'Anointed for Business' as textbook to mobilize the church in the marketplace. A planned event last May 1 was to have over 3 million Christians praying in 133 stadiums.

<Silvoso News, www.harvestevan.org, April/03>

Ghana: 1,000 pastors in Ghana attended a Heart of Man seminar last March. They were encouraged to adopt a soul winning mentality in planting new churches, venture into new areas and increase membership. At a recent program in Koforidua, 1,000 people viewed the Heart of Man Chart and 500 were converted.

<Every Home for Christ, Prayer + Praise, 4/8/03>

Iraq: There are about 700,000 Christians (3% of population) in Iraq, half of them living in and around Baghdad. They now fear the establishment of an Islamic state governed by Shari'ah law similar to that in Iran. This is the call of many clerics of the majority (60%) Shia group. Other groups, the Sunni and Kurdish, appear to be more moderate and prefer a 'secular government. The fear of the Christians is based in part by the fact that in 1991, when the Shias rebelled against Saddam Hussein in Basra, Christian quarters was the first being attacked.

<www.crosswalk.com, May/03>

Germany: In Germany, 3% Protestants and 8-9% Catholics attend church. But there are pockets of renewal and signs of growth. In 2002, the Christival event drew 20,000 youths. The satellite-linked crusade for youth, JesusHouse, was held in Hanover for 5 nights last October. Some 100,000 attended in Germany and neighboring countries. There is a growing evangelical movement of more than 1 million some even within the declining mainline churches.

<World Pulse, www.wheaton.edu/hgc/emis, 4/11/03>

India: For 200 years since William Carey went to India, the Holy Spirit has used countless thousands of Indian and expatriate workers to affect India for good in education, health, challenging social wrongs, and to plant over 300,000 churches. Most of these churches are in the south and northeast parts of this country of 600,000 villages and 4,000 people groups. But things are changing. God has raised up tens of thousands of Indian missionaries today to go to these unreached peoples. Broad cooperative missions efforts are underway, backed by committed prayer networks. In the midst of increasing persecution, Christians are serving sacrificially in the name of Jesus throughout the nation. Less than 2% Indians are evangelical Christians. At the current growth rate, the evangelical Church in India will double in size by 2017.

<GMI World, www.gmi.org, winter-spring/03>