

# World Mission News

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**Iraq:** Without the restriction on group meetings in private homes, many new, small churches have sprout in Iraq, a sign of awakening of the church. Some church leaders warn about potentially aggravating relations with Muslims, and loss of clout of Christian community as it diffuses into the countryside. Also the occupying forces cannot provide blanket protection to Christians facing threats of death and extortion from extremists. And no foreigner is safe in the country at present.

<Christianity Today, September/03>

**Argentina:** Last November Argentina Christians in five widespread locations raised a national canopy of prayer for revival and evangelism into the marketplace. Since then, a governor has turned all schools to the pastors to pastor the teachers and students. A pastor was named minister of education by another governor and now asked to be his running mate in the election. In one city 880 marketplace ministers were ordained and 7,000 attended a crusade with 4,000 saved. One central city's crime and unemployment decrease drastically. It is now the safest and most economically vigorous in the nation. Pastors have assigned 2 intercessors to each of 6,200 blocks in the city.

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

**Southern Africa:** World Vision was a major partner of an international consortium in averting recent food crisis of 15 million people in Southern Africa. It provided food to 2.4 million people along with help in agricultural recovery, health and nutrition, water and sanitation and asset protection. Still more than 30% of 20-40 year old people in the region is HIV positive.

<MARC Newsletter, www.wvi.org, August/03>

**AIDS:** Last year 44,000 children in Sub-Saharan Africa under 15-year old died of AIDS. The region with next highest deaths was Southeast Asia with 40,000. The Caribbean and Latin America each lost around 3,000.

<IPC Weekly, 8/13/03>

**Haiti:** In 2004 president of Haiti plans to rededicate Haiti to Satan for 200 years more and make Satanism the national religion. Men for Missions have launched a prayer initiative 'Operation Saturation' to stand in the gap for Haiti.

<www.MNNonline.org/IPC Weekly, 8/13/03>

**England:** 1,000 Christian youths went to Swinton Valley, Greater Manchester, one of the most run-down neighborhoods in England. As outreach for Soul Survivor, in 10 days they tidied up 300 gardens, collected over 200 tons of refuse and renovated a public hall and a park. The police credited them for the dropping of youth crime rate by almost half 18 months later. Soul Survivor plans a similar outreach in London in August 2004.

<www.soulsurvivor.com/Compass Direct/ FridayFax, 8/8/03>

**Brazil:** At the founding 50 years ago of the New Tribe Mission Brazil, 80% of the staff were foreigners. Today on a staff of 500 only 20% are foreigners. The Ajoreus Indians used to kill missionaries, now they send them and with more being trained in Bible School.

<Global Mapping International/ FridayFax, 8/8/03>

**Egyptian:** On a train an evangelist and his family were returning home after visiting the villages. A TV crew interviewing families talked to him about his relationship with his family even knowing that they were Christians. When told he was a schoolteacher, more questions were asked. Astonishingly, the interview was broadcast later on Egyptian national TV in prime time with all his Bible-based answers, the basics of the gospel and the difference between nominal Christianity and true discipleship.

<SIM NZ/ FridayFax, 9/12/03>

**Spain:** A recent item in the Diario de Cordoba newspaper in Spain: 'The world should hear that the Evangelical churches have taught the Gypsies to read and brought them out of the twilight zone of drug abuse, with far more success than all political programs and official attempt at social rehabilitation.'

<Global Mapping International/ FridayFax, 8/22/03>

**Children:** Studies show that 85% of people receiving Christ do so before they reach age 18. The following data highlights the urgency of our task. Children under 18 in millions in each country. Bangladesh: 62 (45% of the population); Myanmar: 19 (39%); Sri Lanka: 6 (33%); Bhutan: 1 (49%); Nepal: 11 (47%); India: 400 (40%).

<Send!, www.gfa.org, Summer2003>

**Dalits:** India has some 300 million Dalits, the lowest caste, with average illiteracy of 63% and as high as 95% in some areas. For the first time in history, Gospel For Asia has attempted to provide Dalit children a good education with reasonable cost, sometimes their only opportunity. Last academic year, GFA established 92 English Medium Schools and educated 3,400 children. They plan to add 100 schools this year. The schools has been key to unlock the door for the gospel in some villages overcoming their initial resistance.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, Summer2003>

**Haiti:** Catholicism as state religion ended in 1987 in Haiti. Yet 75% of the 8 million population are Catholics, and 75% of Catholics practice voodoo, a mixture of West African spiritism and witchcraft. Haiti is the poorest state in the Western hemisphere. It's major sources of income are remittances from expatriate Haitians and foreign aid. Unemployment is 50-70% and annual income per person is equivalent to only US\$310 (1.2% of USA).

<Operation World, 21st ed>

**North Korea:** Reliable sources speak of 300,000 to 400,000 Christians living in North Korea, their number continually growing. Christians are considered political criminals. They meet in small groups of four or five, hidden behind thick curtains with no singing that is far too dangerous. These house churches sometimes organize themselves in networks to meet in remote caves for worship and training.

<Open Doors, www.offenengrenzen.de/ FridayFax, 9/3/03>