

World Mission News

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Philippines: A church planting ministry is, at least, partially responsible for causing communists rebels to leave an area in the Philippines. The rebels used a house to promote their cause at night while a pastor used the same house to conduct Bible studies in daytime. Both groups would leave literature for the other to read. People from the rebel meeting began coming to the Bible study. Over a period of time, many received Christ. Unable to find new members, the rebels are now gone and a new church has been established.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 7/8/03>

Iraq: "Hundreds of US soldiers turned to Christ and were baptized during the Iraq war," reports Charisma Magazine. "When soldiers see friends die in battle, they are confronted with their own mortality," say US chaplains, "and then start to ask about God. In the trenches, there are no atheists..."

<Charisma/ FridayFax, 7/4/03>

Romania: Romania has the third-highest percentage of evangelical Christians in Europe with some 5,000 churches. Some of them are banding together for planting new churches and training cross-cultural missionaries. Over 1,500 new churches have been planted as a result of training and support of 150 church planting teams. They aim for 3,650 new churches in the next 4 years and 10,000 new churches as longer-term goal.

<FridayFax, 7/11/03>

India: Of the 24 million people in Punjab State, India, only 1% is Christians. The dominant Sikhs (64%) sought independence in the 80s causing 25,000 deaths. Peace came in 1992. Now there is a new openness to Christianity. People are turning to Christ for the healing of body, mind, and soul, many in the rural areas. Thousand Sikhs have become Christians. Many are waiting baptism. This has aroused fierce opposition. A Law has been proposed to ban religious conversion similar to that adopted in other states in India.

<Christianity Today, 7/03>

USA: Since the start in 1960's of evangelical renewal movement in United Methodist Church in USA, the evangelical influence has grown steadily in the mainline denominations. Now there are 30 plus such groups belonging to a umbrella group with estimated 2.4 million members out of a total of 22 million mainline church membership. While the leadership of these denominations remains theologically liberal and membership still declining, the churches with evangelical pastors are growing and their leadership is younger with more vigor.

<Christianity Today, 8/03>

China: Heilongjiang Province is the coldest and most northeastern part of China. But many of the hearts of its 24 million people are fired up as a revival has swept through the churches over the past decade, surprisingly facing little persecution. In 1990, a city of 1.6 million had only one church of 80 people. Today there are over 2,500 churches with at least 200,000 believers. All told, there are now 2.5 to 3 million Christians in the province. They have spread into neighboring provinces, especially in eastern Inner Mongolia where the revival fire is burning more hotly than anywhere else in China. Many miracles and signs follow them to verify the power of God as they preach the gospel.

<Asia Harvest, www.asiaharvest.org, 4 & 6/03>

Muslim: Ahmed's road to faith started in the Koran where he read that Nabi Isa (Jesus) would return again. He went to a church to learn more and heard that he need not fear God but may have assurance and salvation through faith in the death and resurrection of Isa. In time, he believed and now plans to go to a Bible college.

<East Asia Insight, www.us.omf.org, Spring/03>

Mongolia: April 2002, a missionary led some students from a Bible school in Mongolia into a Gobi desert town and simply walked into the yurts (tent homes) as the locals do. The students led a family of an older and younger couple to Christ who then gave up all their Buddhist idols. A church of 30 grew quickly. On a recent 10-day return trip to encourage the church, the team saw 10 more believers.

<East Asia Insight, www.us.omf.org, Spring/03>

Nepal: For 18 months customs officials had refused to allow any Bible shipment into Nepal. After a few weeks of fervent prayer and fasting by the Nepali Christians, on December 30, 2002, the officials changed their mind and imposed no more restriction of importing much needed Bibles into the country.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, Spring/2003>

Myanmar: A young missionary died of malaria in her native Myanmar at the age of 27 in December 2002. A graduate of Bible school in 1999, she went to a village where Christians had been driven away. In 7 months she led 22 people to Christ in the face of fierce opposition. 3 years later she gladly accepted assignment to go to an area prevalent with malaria but with desperate need for Christian workers.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, Spring/2003>

Hong Kong: According to a 2002 survey of the Hong Kong Association of Christian Missions, a total of 287 missionaries were in the field sent out from Hong Kong. Not counting insufficient data from 25 of them, they found only 8 (3%) under the age of 30. One of the reasons was the requirement of most missions: seminary graduates with 2-year pastoral experience.

<China Evangelistic Mission News, www.cemhk.org.hk, 3/03>

China: According to recent official report, urbanization in China is expected to increase from current 30% to 70% in 2050. Under this plan, 10-12 million people will move from rural areas to cities annually for the next 47 years! Urbanization is seen to be synonymous with modernization. But there are enormous challenges, eg. over-populated cities, imbalance in regional development, social problems, etc.

<MSI Bulletin, www.msiprofessionalservice.org, Spring/03>

Cambodia: Working in a remote area in Cambodia where most of the people are drunkards, gamblers, gangsters, murders, etc and facing strong opposition, EHC workers persevered and won 26 persons to Christ last May including some teachers and one student. Two 'Christ groups' were also formed with worship led by EHC workers.

<Every Home for Christ, Prayer + Praise, 6/11/03>