



World Mission News

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India: In the last 25 years, two films on the life of Christ, "Jesus" and "Dayasagar" (Ocean of Mercy) have been very effective in India. One or both of them are available in 70 of 407 Indian living languages. 7 million of 19 million Dayasagar audiences have made public Christian commitment since 1979. Campus Crusade says 500 film teams show the "Jesus" film to 100,000 daily. Various mission agencies and churches work together to send teams to all 735,000 villages. So far they have reached 85,000. All this success has aroused reaction from Hindu militants. Film teams have been attacked and members murdered.

<Christianity Today, December/03>

Afghanistan: 85% plus of Afghans have never been to school, UNICEF reports, and only 21% of women and 51% of men can read. 25 years of war and oppressive rulers have turned schools into "centers for ideological extremism fermenting discord and conflict." 40% of college professors are homeless and most without training for 25 years. Answering the call for help from the government, a team of Christian educators has gone to inspire hope in their Afghan colleagues to be agents of healing for their culture and society. They remind them that they are made in the image of God and taught education philosophy, curriculum development, learning styles, the student-centered classroom, and university system of academic credit.

<Christianity Today, December/03>

Egypt: Egyptian Christian converts from Islam are "between the jaws of the constitution and [Islamic] legislation." While the constitution guarantees religious freedom, the Islamic law demands that unrepentant apostates be executed. Many Christian converts tried to avoid persecution and change religious status by bypassing government channels, leaving themselves open to the charge of falsifying official documents. Last October, police arrested and charged just such a couple. They were beaten, denied food, and hung by their arms. 20 others were

also arrested and reportedly beaten, tortured, or raped. Most were out on bail in November but rearrested in December.

<Christianity Today, 1/04 + www.crosswalk.com, 12/30/03>

Sudan: For decades, the Christian and animist Southern Sudan has been at war with the Muslim north and was devastated. Yet an Anglican leader reported growth to 5 million members from 500,000 50 years ago. They had no food and no medicine, but when they gather and pray for the sick, they get healed. They gather under the trees to pray every Sunday, and conduct marriages and funerals in the open air. People turned to Christ including some Muslims even in the North.

<Christianity Today, January/04>

Latin America: More than one million Chinese scattered in the 27 Latin American nations. And there is no Chinese church in seven of them (Bahamas, Colombia, El Salvador, French Guyana, Guyana, Haiti, and Nicaragua). In other places, there is shortage of Christian workers and missionaries. Only three Chinese Bible schools (in Argentine, Brazil, and Panama) are in this vast region.

<Update, Alliance Bible Seminary Center of Canada, 11/03>

Japan: A black gospel choir swaying rhythmically as they belt out gospel songs to an appreciative audience. But neither the choir nor the audience is black -- they are Japanese! Black gospel music and workshops to train people are big in Japan. Churches have caught on to this to share Jesus through gospel singing. Recently a church had 70 people attend a 5-part workshop ending in a packed concert.

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

Tibetan: Of the 5 to 6 million Tibetans worldwide, 80% plus live in Tibet and elsewhere in China, and less than 2,000 are known Christians. Most Tibetans believes in a form of Buddhism (striving for better life in the next reincarnation through good works,

rituals, meditation, etc). A new Bible school opened last summer in North India with 11 young men studying to witness to the 100,000 Tibetans there.

<end!, www.gfa.org, Fall/2003>

Nepal: An estimated 345,000 Maithilis (2 million total, very low literacy) in Nepal listened to a new gospel broadcast started in 2002.

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

Lebanese: For 25 years, Lebanese Christians fought along side Israelis protecting their northern border. And they withdrew with the Israeli army from southern Lebanon in May 2000. They have fallen into hard time. The Arabs in Israel see them as traitors, most Jews distrust them, and the state ignores them. Yet through their suffering many have accepted Jesus as the Savior. Most are nominal Christians with Catholic or Maronitic background. 12 were baptized in the Jordan River recently.

<Philippus-Dienst/ FridayFax, 1/23/04>

Canada: In 1997, Canadian churches at a national conference set themselves the aim of planting 10,000 new churches by 2015. Since then there have been a slow growth of 615 new churches to a total of 9,767 today. While a growing number of Canadians profess evangelical faith, they distance themselves from churches as shown by following data (1993, 2003 in %): Believe in forgiveness through Jesus (61, 66), Given life to Christ (29, 44), Attend church every week (23, 19).

<Vision Canada/ FridayFax, 12/19/03>

USA: New York City has the largest Chinatown in USA with 100,000+ Chinese, not counting at least an equal number of illegal aliens. These aliens toil long hours in sweatshops and restaurants, trying to work off impossible \$50 to 60,000 debt to "Snake Head" smugglers. A team of women from a Brooklyn ministry is reaching out to them visiting homes, praying for needs, distributing food, etc. This results in some 2,000 conversions to Christ annually.

<www.crosswalk.com, 12/30/03>