

World Mission News

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Iraq : Following the bombing of churches in Iraq last August, tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled the country. Four churches in Baghdad were bombed shortly after the start of evening service on Aug. 1 killing 14 and injuring more than 50. The fifth bomb killed one in a Mosul Church while the sixth was disarmed. On Aug. 9 a Christian activity center was bombed. The bombings bore the blueprint of Jordanian terrorist Zarqawi though not suicide bombings. Before this, Christians running liquor stores had been killed, and other storeowners were warned to shut down. There was also a case of two daughters (age 6 and 16) of a prominent Christian shot in cold blood in their home alone. Iraqi Christians are mainly Assyrian Christians who have lived in the ancient land of Nineveh for 2,000 years and speak the language Jesus spoke. Before the systematic persecution of Saddam Hussein (gas holocaust, forced removal, etc), there were 2.5 million of them, now down to 750,000. Even now there are discriminated. They are not represented on the "National Congress" and receive little or no international aid largely distributed by agencies Moslem leaders control.

<Assist News Service 8/24, 9, 17/04, www.assistnews.net>

China : The Chinese government has set a quiet campaign against Christian house-church leaders. Last June 11, about 100 leaders of one group were arrested, and more than 100 of another group in Xinjiang were arrested on July 12. Some of the previously arrested were tortured to confess as cult leaders, "termites to national security" according to authorities.

<Christianity Today, October/04>

Sri Lanka : Last August, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ruled that portions of the "Prohibition of Forcible Conversions of Religions Bill" to be unconstitutional. The bill was challenged by the Christians and observers now viewed the bill to be dead. Some 8% of 20 million people are Christians and they are growing by 11% per year. This sparked violent attacks by militant elements of the dominant Buddhist population who are considering even stronger bill.

<Christianity Today, September, October/04>

Afghanistan : Afghan Christians still have a hard time in the country. There are no churches and they are not free to worship publicly. Outside of capital Kabul which is largely ruled by warlords, Christians are not even safe to be identified. The constitution states that no law can contradict Islam with blasphemy considered as serious crime, and there is no provision for individual religious freedom. Non-Afghan Christians are treated much better except in areas of strong Taliban presence. People are very open and readily discuss religion. In fact, Jesus is a very attractive and compelling person to them.

<Christianity Today, October/04>

US : Four months after being wounded severely by terrorists last March in Iraq, US missionary Niki McDonnall did not regret at all of what she did. In that incident she also lost her husband and three other missionaries. Along with over 20 bullet and shrapnel wounds (left leg, right arm, left elbow, abdomen, face, and head), she lost all but the middle finger and thumb on her left hand. The Baptist missionaries were building a water-purification plant and well received by the people. Niki was mending and willing to go out again as God leads even back to Iraq.

<Dallas Morning News, 7/18/04>

Belgium : There are about 50,000 Chinese in Belgium, some 95% of them operating 6,000 restaurants and carry-outs all over the country. Ten Chinese churches and fellowships all located in the large cities with attendance ranging from a dozen to a hundred. They have only 2 full-time workers and 9 tent-makers. They also need youth workers for the 2nd generation that speak either Dutch or French. Around the renowned Leuven University of 500-year history are over 1,000 Chinese students and their families needing the gospel also.

<Link, www.cocm.org.uk, 7-8/03>

China : FEBC is planning the production of programs targeting the 100 million (8% of total population) migrant workers in China. They are mostly people from the country seeking work in the cities. They are rootless, lonely, without job security or any safety net.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.liangyou.net, 5-6/04>

Ghana : WEC International started its ministry in Ghana 60 years ago. In 1970 the churches organized into a separate group though still dependent on the guidance, administrative and financial assistance from WEC. Over the years they have taken over more of the ministry responsibilities and now have become independent. Missionaries are now under the leadership of the local group assisting them in developing new mission fields and broadening vision in missions.

<WEC International (HK), www.wec-int.org, 7-8/04>

India : In 2002 GFA opened 92 Bridge of Hope primary schools among the Dalits (the 700 million "untouchables") in India to show them the love of Christ. Today nearly 18,000 students enroll in 360 schools. In one region, 50 schools were started in 2003 resulting in 37 new churches one year later.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, Fall/2004>

Internet : It is reported at a recent Internet Evangelism Conference that people are on-line exploring religion. TruthMedia.com says they have 750,000 visitors each month with 1,000 coming to Christ. One billion people are expected on-line by 2005. More internet missionaries are needed to help with programming and real-time evangelism.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 9/24/04>

Bible : Languages written in non-Roman script are causing delays in Bible translation. It is estimated that up to 30% of world's languages are in that category. The difficulty is due to computers not able to support those scripts. After years of effort some progress is being made. Use to be that it was ten times harder. Now it is only a factor of five or three.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 9/6/04>

Thailand : Last May, the first ever missionary strategy congress took place in Thailand. The official result was a commitment by all Christians to plant a new church in each of the nation's 800 districts by 2010, with a "Christian presence" in each of the 8,000 sub-district and a witness in each of the 80,000 villages.

<DAWN/ FridayFax, 8/27/04>