

World Mission News

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Myanmar: Refugees of Christian tribes Chin and Kachin in India accuse officials in their native Myanmar of religious discrimination and cultural genocide. Among the charges are: Christian children of 5 to 10 years old lured into Buddhist monasteries never to be seen by parents again; mountaintop crosses destroyed; villagers forced to build Buddhist pagodas instead; refusing to grant building permit for Christian churches for the last 10 years.

<Christianity Today, June/04>

USA: Last year was the first time that the Southern Baptist Convention (USA) had to curtail certain mission work. 100 long-term and 200 plus short-term missionaries were delayed reaching the field. This news sparked many SBC churches to sacrificial mission giving of 22% increase over last year so far and possibly reaching its goal for the first time since 1981. Today SBC has 5,411 overseas missionaries, an increase of 1,000 over the last 8 years.

<Christianity Today, June/04>

Nigeria: Renewed attacks in central Nigeria have killed eight pastors and hundreds of Christians and destroyed scores of church buildings by Muslims in recent months. It was rumored that the trouble began when a young Christian destroyed a copy of Qur'an and spoke out against Islam. But an Anglican archbishop said the youth did not have a Qur'an and does not speak the local Hausa language.

<Christianity Today, June/04>

India: Last May's election victory in India of the secularist Congress Party has halted a six-year push by the former Hindu nationalist regime to fashion India into a 'pure' Hindu state partly by limiting the rights of religious minorities and even ignoring acts of persecution. The new regime has begun to revise history textbooks that extol Hindu culture as unique and superior to all others. It also works on a new law to protect religious minority from communal violence in-

stead of the anti-conversion law. But the Hindu extremists are not giving up. They have formed armed militias to prevent conversions to Christianity and to reverse them by force if needed.

<Assist News Service, www.assistnews.net, 7/7/04>

USA: Research shows that USA children are 32% likely to accept faith in Christ between the age of 5 and 13, 4% between 14 and 18, and 6% after growing beyond 18. There are more than 40 million children between 4 and 14 years old and 80% of them do not go to church. A recent conference of leaders from 54 children ministry agencies focused on more effective ways to reach those between 4 and 14 and stressed the importance of equipping and training children to reach their peers.

<Christianity Today, July/04>

Argentina: In Argentina, there are some 6 million Chinese with increasing numbers. 2/3 of them are from mainland China, 1/3 from Taiwan with 99% in the capitol, Buenos Aires, and its satellite cities. Many are in the supermarket business of various sizes, thus relatively well off but tied to pursuit of worldly goods. There are only 7 Chinese churches with total membership of less than 600. 3 years ago a seminary was established. Last March 8 certificates of graduation were given out. They need more faculty, Chinese textbooks and literature.

<China Evangelistic Mission News, www.cemhk.org.hk, 6/04>

Short-term mission: The terrorism threat has an impact on short-term mission. On many college campuses, more students are not choosing dangerous locations. And more parents discourage kids from going. But it has a different effect on some older adults who feel that what they do is worth dying for and make deeper commitment. It also helps in some ways in evangelism. People are more aware of life and death issues which opens door to the gospel.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 7/12/04>

Mideast: SAT-7 satellite broadcast began airing regular Christian children's program in Arabic. In 8 year of broadcasting such program in irregular hours, the station has received thousands of letters from children across the Mideast & North Africa. It now has a wide variety of formats including cartoons, puppet shows, music, films, Bible lessons, science and job talks. It is one hour a day (repeated 3 times due to different time zones).

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 7/12/04>

Seafarers: There are some 1.3 million seafarers from over 150 nations, many from the 10/40 widow and never heard of the gospel. They are lonely and suffer for being away from home for long periods of time. That makes them open to the gospel. Seafarers Ministry is reaching them at the port of Hamburg and many are saved. They are given Bibles, the Jesus Films and a Bible correspondence course. Hundreds complete the course every year.

<FridayFax, 7/2/04>

Latin America: 64% of people in Latin America is less than 34 years old and millions have no religion never reached by traditional churches. 'Amanecer X' (Dawn X), a new movement of evangelical youth, has emerged. Their colored hair and dress match that of this group. They aim to plant churches to disciple and train this generation. The movement is spreading fast with over 300 young church planters trained.

<FridayFax, 7/2/04>

China: Last June 11, Chinese police arrested 100 church leaders in the central city of Wuhan, including one who had been arrested 3 times before. Hundreds of house church leaders have been arrested receiving sentences up to 3 years, since January when the DVD 'The Cross, Jesus in China' became available.

<www.compassdirect.org, 7/9/04>