

World Mission News

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World's Christians: According to a recent projection, less than a third of the World Christians will live in industrialized nations in 20 years. The number of Christians in millions in year 2000 at various regions compared to the projection for 2025 and the % change are Africa (360, 633, +76%), Asia (313, 460, +47%), Europe (560, 555, -1%), Latin America (480, 540, +12%), North America (260, 300, +15%).

<Dallas Morning News, 5/21/05>

EvangeCube: 2 million, a gospel tool developed 7 years ago, have been distributed worldwide. It is a softball-sized cube with 8 interlocking blocks (a la the Rubik's cube) that flip and fold into the story of Jesus, from his crucifixion to resurrection and personal salvation. Many evangelists have used it successfully in conveying the gospel message effortlessly and simply. For the next 7 years, efforts are underway to deploy the cube to 100 members of 1,000 churches in 100 nations, thus equipping 10 million Christians to reach 1 billion of the 'lost.'

<Dallas Morning News, 5/22/05>

Mission opportunities: The tsunami at the end of 2004 caused nearly 300,000 deaths and millions in grief and homeless. But it also presented Christians with unprecedented mission opportunities. Missionaries and Christians, some with their own grief, who responded to the tragedy with relief and rebuilding efforts have found hearts much more open and receptive, desperately searching for some sense of meaning and purpose in their shattered lives. Villages that resisted these same Christians now extend their welcome and openly ask for help in taking care of thousands of orphaned or displaced children. Mission agencies are doing their best but appeal for support to meet this enormous need.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, 2nd quarter/2005>

India: After last year India's right-wing national Hindu party election loss, they seem to be consolidating power on the state level. And in the states they controlled many cases of persecution against Christians have arisen. These cases involve beating/harassing of Christians, burning of churches, falsely accusing them of proselytizing, forcibly reconverting them to Hinduism, etc. All of these are efforts to create a strictly Hindu nation.

<Christianity Today, May/05>

Nigeria: Since 2001, over 84,000 have died and 173 churches destroyed in the region around Jos of northern Nigeria due to conflict between Muslims and Christians. Last January, German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke upon the invitation from the Christians and with Muslim welcome conducted a five-day evangelistic campaign that attracted about 2 million Christians and Muslims. It marked the first occasion of reconciliation on a large scale.

<Christianity Today, April/05>

PEACE Plan: Rick Warren, author and pastor, unveiled April 17 the PEACE Plan of worldwide spiritual awakening to mobilize 1 billion Christian foot soldiers for missions by the year 2020. His best-selling book, 'The Purpose Driven Life,' and the associated Purpose Driven Movement have transformed millions of lives through tens of thousands of churches in 150 nations and trained over 350,000 pastors and leaders in 120 countries. The movement will try to inspire Christians in small groups to overcome the five 'global giants' of spiritual emptiness, self-serving leadership, poverty, disease and ignorance (or illiteracy) by Planting Churches (P), Equipping Leaders (E), Assisting the Poor (A), Caring for the Sick (C), and Educating the Next Generation (E).

<Assist News Service, www.assistnews.net, 4/17/05>

Zambia: President Mwanawasa was recently baptized to show his faith in Christ publicly. Mwanawasa, a man of extreme honesty ('Mr Integrity' even to his opponents), was elected in 2002. His spiritual life was changed completely since attending a Baptist church in 2003. The Baptist churches are fast growing with 116 new churches last year, bringing the total to 985 plus 124 mission stations.

<International Mission Board, SBC/FridayFax, 4/15/05>

USA: After interviewing more than 3,000 youths, researchers concluded that the youths have mixed Christian concept with postmodernist ideology of individualism into 'Moralistic Therapeutic Deism,' where God is there to solve their problems but stays away when they do not need Him. This concept of a undemanding deity reflects the culture as a whole and poses greater challenge to Christian mission than confronting paganism. Details of study are in a book, 'Soul Searching.'

<www.crosswalk.com, 4/14/05>

Taiwan: A flood of e-mail has come from students in Taiwan in response to the 'Bridge of Friendship Taiwan' program of the ASSIST ministry. Most of them are studying English and seek pen pals in US. Those who wish to be in Asian friendship evangelism without leaving home may enroll at website <www.assistnews.net>.

<Assist News Service, www.assistnews.net>

Internet Evangelism: Online Christian groups launched the first Internet Evangelism (IE) Day April 24 to show how effective Web can be for evangelism. It has such potential as nearly 1 billion people use the Web including 100 million in China, 70 million in Japan, 60 million in India, and 17 million in the Middle East. For detail and resources, visit <www.InternetEvangelismDay.com>.

<Assist News Service, www.assistnews.net>