



World Mission News

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Nigeria: Last August, Nigerian police raided shrines of native religion in the southern region. They found 80 skulls and 50 fresh bodies as human sacrifices and a list of 1,258 names of those making such offerings. Local Christians believed the raid was an answer to prayers. They had begun praying and fasting for this since last Easter. The natives hold fetish festivals of sacrifice every February/March for 21 days. During which they ban Christians to hold worship services that deem to be offensive to their gods. Two churches defying the ban were burnt down last year. But many natives turned to Christ during an evangelistic campaign.

<Christianity Today, December/04>

Russia: A Russian woman holding two sons softly sang hymns and prayed for a man nearby holding a gun. Hours later, one of her sons died from a shrapnel to his head. He was one of the 338 deaths last September when Muslim terrorists attacked a school in Beslan. Amidst the outcry for revenge, this evangelical lady and others like her have publicly urged peace and forgiveness believing revenge is in God's hands. They have also mobilized to visit the wounded in hospitals, distributed aid to bereaved families, and launched a trauma-counseling center which will turn into a youth center later.

<Christianity Today, November/04>

China: There has been a great revival in Hainan Island, South China this last decade. In 1993 a Christian leader was used by God to start a training program with 3 house churches totaling less than 100 members on evangelism and spiritual mapping (workers trained and sent to areas with no existing churches). By 1996, there were 100 new churches totaling 16,000 members with at least 2 reproducing churches in each of the 19 counties. The numbers kept growing: 80,000 by 1998, 360,000 (about 5% of island population) by 2000. It doubled about every seven months. This growth was helped

along by a number of house church evangelists from other parts of China and overseas Chinese church planting teams that provided direction and solid foundational teaching. It was not without great sacrifice and commitment.

<Asia Harvest, www.asiaharvest.org, 11/04>

Japan: The population of northern island of Hokkaido, Japan is 5.7 million with only 11,000 Protestant Christians attending 391 churches. However, a Christian radio broadcast averages 57,000 listeners and a Christian TV program has an audience of 170,000.

<East Asia Insight, www.us.ymf.org, Fall/04>

USA: A recent US survey shows that people who claim no religious affiliation has doubled in the last decade to 16%. People in the west lead with 24% vs 14% for the rest of the nation, including 21% in New England. Among men it is 20% vs 13% for women. Yet divorce rate in the so-called Bible belt are the highest (e.g., 12.7 per 1,000 in Arkansas, 11.1 in Mississippi, 10.8 in Kentucky), while it is only 5.7 in Massachusetts. And born-again Christians are just as likely to divorce as the rest of Americans.

<www.crosswalk.com, 11/17/04; Dallas Morning News, 11/20/04>

Latin America: Project 'College Quest' of Global Missions Fellowship aims to mobilize Christian US college students for world mission. In Latin America, for every US student on short-term mission trip, three national believers are energized to take ownership for their countries, step up and become better witness in outreach and plant churches in unreached communities.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/18/04>

Egypt: One day a school janitor in Egypt shared with a teacher the Bible correspondence course created by his uncle, a pastor. The teacher, after taking the third lesson, in-

troduced it to another teacher. Word soon spread and most teachers were taking it. Finally the Principal was so impressed with it that he gathered all the teachers and encouraged them to share it with their families. The school became a distribution center with the janitor as the postman.

<Swiss Mission Church/FridayFax, 10/29/04>

Peru: Invited by hundreds of churches and the government, Luis Palau led a 6-day outreach in Lima, Peru. 650,000 people attended with some 41,000 interested in following Christ. Many politicians clamored to meet Palau to learn about the gospel implication on politics.

<palau.org/FridayFax, 10/29/04>

Local Missionary: Christian Aid, founded in 1953, was the first American mission agency to support local missionaries in the field. Today, they support 90,000 missionaries, train 40,000 workers in hundreds of Bible schools, and plant 52,000 new churches every year (1,000 per week). Another agency, Gospel For Asia, supports 14,000 local missionaries that plant 10 churches every day.

<www.christianaid.org/gfa.org/FridayFax, 11/20, 26/04>

Kazakhstan: Global Advance trained 1,800 pastors and church leaders in Kazakhstan recently. In addition to equipping pastors, it was believed to be the first ever Christian business leader conference in this region where men and women from several nations were equipped, encouraged and challenged to use their business as a platform for the Great Commission. There is a great need to raise up indigenous Christians to witness through commerce and to support the local church in sending out missionaries.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 11/29/04>