

World Mission News

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Myanmar: In Myanmar, when a native missionary Mei and his family were not allowed to live in a village, they lived in the jungle for months subsisting on banana tree leaves and stalks. They moved into the village when God healed a young girl after Mei prayed for her. Then Mei's young son died in an outbreak of dysentery. Next day the village chief told Mei that he dreamed of his son carried away by two angels. Sensing God was using his son's death for His glory, Mei shared the gospel with the chief. Within one week, 57 villagers had received Christ as their Savior.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, 3rd quarter/05>

GFA Radio: Started in 1986, GFA Radio now airs gospel program in 92 languages in Southeast Asia aiming for 200. Some 1 million listeners each year respond reporting receiving Christ, asking more material, or sharing their struggles with suicide, addictions, illnesses, relationship, etc. Each of these is acknowledged and possible help rendered. GFA plans to launch gospel TV broadcast this December.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, 3rd quarter/05>

USA: Southern Baptist Convention in the US has more than double of her membership in the last 50 years, from 7.1 million in 1950 to 16.3 million in 2003. But the number of baptisms recorded by SBC churches has remained much the same, just below 380 thousands. A missiologist listed the possible reasons: lack of passion among pastors and leaders, complacency due to affluence, and perhaps many members not actually 'real' Christians. More than 80% SBC churches have no more than 1 baptism per month in 2003.

<Dallas Morning News, 6/17/05>

Ethiopia: In a remote province of northwest Ethiopia, 500 small churches (from just 7 in early 2004) have been built in the last 14 months. This remarkable growth comes from a rare collaboration of government officials, an association of 21 evangelical denominations, and the drive of an 84-year-old retired US pastor. Two years ago he was challenged by the president of the province, a Christian, to help the evangelicals build 1,000 churches. He promised that the government would donate the land for any church started in the province that reached 25 baptized members. The nation of 67.8 million is seeing church growth annually of 6%, 13%+ by independent churches. Th-US pastor is raising money to build a hospital also.

<Christianity Today, June/05>

China: A woman factory owner from southern China attended a conference on Marketplace Evangelism in 2002. This year she reported seeing 4,000 workers in her factory coming to Christ. She was encouraged to start a church at the factory during the lunch hour, she is determined to do so and urged other Christian factory owners in the region to do the same.

<Silvoso News, www.harvestevan.org, May-June/05>

Iran: Founded in 2002 by Muslim converts to Christianity in the US, a mission agency has sent satellite broadcasts to millions of Iranians resulting in thousands of new converts to Christ. The agency also plants churches, trains Iranian-speaking leaders for ministry, develops evangelistic and discipleship materials, and gives humanitarian aid to Iranians worldwide.

<Assist News Service, www.assistnews.net, 6/13/05>

Germany: There are at least 1,100 foreign-language evangelical churches with 80,000 members in Germany. They average 60 members but some range up to several hundreds. While only 4% of Protestants and 12% of Catholics in Germany worship regularly, the evangelical fervor of these churches is a prime example of the reverse mission of Asian and African Christians evangelizing a secularized Europe.

<Assist News Service, www.assistnews.net, 6/17/05>

Ireland: 25 years ago, there were only 25 evangelical churches in Ireland. Now there are 130+ with some 13-thousand members in capital Dublin area alone. Much of the growth comes from former Catholics looking for deeper spirituality. While they still number less than 1% of the population, they have a sense of mission to carry the gospel to the entire nation.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 6/23/05>

India: Recent survey shows that new churches have been planted in almost 50% of villages in Punjab, a northern state in India. It is part of the aim of REACH PUNJAB 2007 to plant a new church in every Punjab village by 2007. There is a church-planting initiative around 50 of the New Delhi's neighborhoods. One network of 48 newly planted churches totaling 600 baptized believers is led by 20 people, who are training 30 new leaders. In a district of another province, a young man began training a few others. Now over 30 house churches are planted, and a network of 18 churches are united in the vision to plant new churches in all of the district's 2,000 villages.

<Operation Agape Newsletter/ FridayFax, 6/24/05>