



USA: According to a religious news service, 2 people leave the Catholic Church for every one joining, and 3 join evangelical churches for every one leaving. 52% of all people believe abortion is morally wrong, but 73% of evangelicals believe so.

<Christianity Today, May/07>

Vietnam: 6 years ago, hundreds of soldiers and riot police surrounded a village church where 500 Christians were praying. They beat the people, shot at those fleeing, and ordered the villagers to destroy/burn down the church covering it with fresh soil. Later, the government changed its ways in an effort to gain entrance into the WTO. Churches in this same region flourish to 120,000 members in 310 congregations with 226 pastors. In this nation of 84 million people, there are now 1.6 million Protestants (twice the official figure) and as high as 8 million Catholics.

<Christianity Today, May/07>

Vietnam: There are more than 100 people groups ranging in size from over 1 million to a few hundred people. Before the fall of South Vietnam in 1975, missionaries worked among them resulting in many Christians who remain faithful despite years of persecution and hardship. Bibles in their own languages is their greatest need today. As officials relax control recently, Asian Harvest is printing for them the New Testaments in Vietnam. Urgent funding is needed.

<Asia Harvest, www.asiaharvest.org, 4/07>

USA: A survey in 2001 showed that, among 300,000 full-time pastors, 22,000 were under 38 years old. In 2004, the number was 45,000 among 324,000. Many are motivated by seeing people seeking 'meaning of life' in a world of terrorism, war, even global warming.

<Dallas Morning News, 5/12/07>

China: In 1865, Hudson Taylor started Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) in England to bring the gospel to China. Since China opened up in the 80's, they have sent in many people to set up community, health and educational projects that are well received by the Chinese and authorities softening up the gospel soil. But OMF is hard pressed now to exploit the wide-open opportunities to do more not due to lack of funding but lack of suitable people. OMF(UK) has started the "100 for China" movement calling professionals of all nationalities to join their ranks for both short and long-term service. Check details at www.omf.org.uk/100forChina.

<Link, www.cocm.org.uk, Issue 2/07>

Bangladesh: Illiteracy rate is 57% that posed a challenge to any Scripture outreach. But most people have access to a radio. A solid radio Scripture outreach program has led many people to the Lord. Training national "engineers" to produce quality radio programs is essential.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 6/5/07>

internet: To avail of the expertise in using internet and technology of today's young people for missions, TWR has launched a "making Waves" project. They set up a website with some videos showing how from anywhere in the world one may send a life effecting message through radio wave or a computer click that can ripple out into hearts half a world away. TWR tested this at Urbana06 and made 115 solid contacts with a quarter of them following up about an internship. And later they processed more preliminary questionnaires in the past 2 months than they did in the latter half of last year. Students seem to like the idea of using their gifts to start the ripple effect for a lasting difference.

<LCWE Mission Report, www.lcwe.org, May/07>

Malaysia: The highest court has just rejected the request of a Christian convert to change her ID card's religious identity. She made the request 6 years ago in order to marry a Christian man. Christians are concerned that this will hinder their right to practice and share their faith. The nation has been under Islamic influence since 15th century. Some 60% of people are Muslims, the rest mostly Chinese and Indians.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 5/31/07>

Russia: 16 years ago, a Christian agency helped a young pastor plant a church in Ural Mountains. Today they have 8-10,000 baptized believers and have planted 500 churches across the Urals region. They also have a Bible school turning out missionaries to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and even China targeting, particularly, the Muslim regions. Of the 125,000 towns in Russia only 25,000 have an evangelical church. Their goal is to reach the other 100,000.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 5/28/07>

Rwanda: The 1990's genocide left many scars also hardened many hearts. A Christian radio broadcast on the government-owned station is making a difference. The Saturday and Sunday night programs have audience of 2 to 3 millions as most people own no TV and there are only a handful of radio stations. Many have responded, none more impressive than the station's program director. He was an atheist who argued there was no god in view of the genocide. But his wife and children listen every week and dragged him to this prayer meeting. After listening for 3 weeks, he could not help but accepted Christ and is taking a Bible college course. The need now is for the local churches to follow up on the respondents.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 5/28/07>