

World Mission News

Compiled by

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Myanmar: In the past decade, Christians has grown from 6% to nearly 9% of the 50 million population. Most of this has been among the minority groups in the nation. <1% of the Buddhist Bama people (70%) know the Lord. In the past, the Myanmar church has been strong in evangelism and caring for the needy, but weak in areas of unity, discipleship and in-depth Bible study. This is changing in recent years along with increase of Bible schools and seminaries.

<East Asia Insight, www.us.omf.org, Autumn/06>

Thailand: Learning Chinese has become very popular. Early last year the Department of Education designated Chinese as primary foreign language and decreed that all schools will offer Chinese classes before 2008. This decision owes no small part to the effort of the 2nd daughter of the King, who began 20 years ago to learn Chinese and is now not only fluent in Mandarin but well versed in Chinese classical literature such as the poetry of the Tong Dynasty. This also creates great demand for people to enter the country as Chinese teachers.

<China Evangelistic Mission News, www.cemhk.org.hk, 7/06>

USA: Early October last year, the pastor of a church near Dallas ended Sunday services half hour early, then asked the 2,345 attendees to go to grocery stores and bring back items for 3 local Christian pantries. It was a fishes-and-loaves success: the church collected 24 tons of requested food. The pastor commented later that this not only met the critical shortage of the pantries, it also helped the congregation focus on the needs of the poor.

<Dallas Morning News, 10/28/06>

China: Churches have been growing rapidly in suburban Dangshan. There are more than 100,000 Christians and 120 unregistered house churches.

<Christianity Today, October/06>

India: For reasons unknown, a group of 10 elephants stampeded a small village. They destroyed everything including an 8-year old church scattering everyone. When the believers returned, they began to share the gospel with their neighbors. Many came to Christ and two new churches began. Native missionaries are helping them to disciple the new believers.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/17/06>

Indonesia: To continue helping Christians in the tsunami-ravaged Aceh province. after the foreign workers leave, an agency has helped construct and develop a radio ministry to provide ongoing encouragement and teaching to the churches. They have a listening base of 50,000 and the sale of advertising covers operational cost. With 18 broadcasters and 4 staff, they present a variety of programs from family subjects to discipleship training.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/12/06>

Uganda: the First Lady and the Minister of Education and Sports have urged that the Bible be read daily to all school children. This is involving well over 8 million students and teachers. They have chosen World Bible Translation Center's Easy-to-Read English Bible for its simplicity in reading and understanding. Anyone wants to help supply Bibles to Uganda may contact www.wbtc.com.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/15/06>

Japan: It is a very needy mission field with only 0.7% of the people Christians. But facing recent tense situation with North Korea, the Japanese have been rather uneasy making them fertile gospel ground. The Jesus Film Project is distributing quite successfully its film on a DVD that is more interactive and also includes black Gospel choirs and singers.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 10/19/06>

Israel: The number of evangelical Christians is quite small. But they are effective in reaching out to the Jews who feel threatened by the problems with Hezbollah in the north and Hamas in the south with a sense of despair and gloom. They are also winning the Muslims to Christ. This year 10 new churches have been started in the West Bank some with over 100 members. In one town they estimate to have 500 turning to Christ.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 10/19/06>

Tibet: With the recent completion of the sky train into Tibet, it makes it much more accessible. However, veteran missionaries warn of the danger of "drive-by evangelism": people going in for very short time and distribute tracts, or preach on the streets, or just act very bold and open before leaving. This often creates aversive reaction leaving consequences for Christians living there full time. They advise people to access first information on Tibetan Buddhist beliefs from places such as www.interserveusa.org in order to share the gospel in culturally sensitive way.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/16/06>

USA: The American Tract Society has come out with a tract of the same name as the new movie 'The Nativity Story.' It has actual scenes from the movie on its cover and scripture references inside. It helps people to find the biblical account of the story before or after seeing the movie and to be interested in the central figure of Christmas.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/30/06>

Mexico: Most Mexican speak Spanish, but over 6 million of them speak 300 languages and dialects that have no scripture in their mother tongue. A team of seminary students, faculty and local pastors is working to remedy this.

<Mission Network News/ www.joelnews.org, 11/16/06>