



World Mission News

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China: On August 6, just 2 days before the Olympics started, a pastor was arrested along with his wife and a coworker. 2 agencies started a petition drive to free them and to let the authorities know that people around the world were concerned. Some 50,000 signed the petition and the arrested were released on August 29, well treated while in custody. This pastor was known as Pastor Bike because he has traveled over 10,000 miles on bicycle to share the gospel leading thousands to Christ.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 9/1/08>

China: When asked how the Olympics had affected their situation, the house church leaders replied “normal,” adding of course many of us were brought in for questioning, in hiding, or even under arrest, but all of these are normal.” Despite facing hardships, they are powerful testimony to Christian joy and perseverance. And they request much prayer.

<Open Doors USA, opendoorsusa.org, 9/8/08>

Africa: The need for Bibles in the growing churches far outstrips the available supply. In many of the small churches there may be only one Bible and they do not have any other Christian material either. The need is urgent, especially in Nigeria, as militants from the north are pushing for Sharia law.

<Bible Pathway Ministries, www.biblepathway.org, 9/23/08>

Iran: Parliament overwhelmingly passed a bill mandating death penalty for apostasy on September 9. It has to be voted on again for it to become a law. Currently, apostasy is a capital offense, but judges are free to mete out the penalty. The last death execution of a Christian charged for leaving Islam was August 21, 2008. Though no deadline is set for voting, chances of reversing the bill are slim.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 9/22/08>

Marketplace Evangelism: For the last 2 to 3 decades, God has raised up people for with great success. A recent survey in Dallas-Ft. Worth area in US showed that the average church budget costs US\$25,000 per conversion, while the average full-time workplace chaplain costs just US\$1,700 per conversion. The average chaplain led 28 people to Christ per year, while some churches have no baptism in some years. One part-time chaplain led 750 people to Christ over 15 years.

<LCWE Mission Report, www.lcwe.org, September/08>

Thailand: A successful evangelism strategy used in India and Argentina is making a start in. An agency supplies copies of The Godman, a 3D animated film on life of Christ, to churches to show in each home they visit. Then they go back over the next few weeks to ask what they think of the film. Quickly, the children become involved also starting a relationship. With less than 1% Christian Thailand is a hard soil.

<Book of Hope International, www.bookofhope.net, 5/26/08>

South Africa: An evangelist traveled to speak at a conference. A high school student known of the evangelist’s marathon training arranged for him to run at the school’s track and also asked him to talk to students before running. Eventually he spoke to all 2,500 students and led some to Christ.

<Sammy Tippit Ministries, www.sammytippit.org, 9/8/08>

Europe: Many call it the new “Dark Continent.” Statistics show that of 800 million Europeans only 2% are evangelical believers. An agency has opened ministry in 3 major cities: Berlin, Paris and Rome, also have teams in 30 other cities and plan to build that to 50 cities next 10 years.

<Evangelical Free Church of America, www.efca.org, 9/12/08>

JESUS film: The most-watched film in the world has been shown to over 6 billion people obviously some more than once. And nearly 226 million have indicated some kind of decision for Christ afterwards. The film has now been translated into 1,059 languages and there are officially 2,864 JESUS Film Project teams working in 103 countries.

<JESUS Film Project, www.jesusteam.org, 9/3/08>

Bolivia: The efforts by president to take more control of the country and to rewrite the constitution have met staunch opposition. Riots and strikes erupted after a national referendum and the president’s demand for another vote in December. He has taken steps to nationalize many companies dealing with resources and threatened to kick all of the missionaries out of the country.

<Bright Hope International, www.brighthope.org, 9/10/08>

India: After weeks of violence against Christians in Orissa State, churches have reopened, though thousands are still sheltering under police guard in makeshift camps on church grounds, school campuses and police stations. At last count, 53 people had been murdered, and 60,000 fled to the camps and forests following the August 23 murder of a popular Hindu leader. Christian schools seem to enjoy a unique protection, because many Hindus send children to them as they recognize the value of these schools. (Note: The persecution is continued. More than 100 thousand Christians left their home.)

<Worldwide Christian Schools, www.wwcs.org, 9/12/08>

China: Of the 93 million population of Shandong province 1.2 million (1.3%) are Christians. Many people there listen to gospel broadcast according to FEBC. The responses they receive from them rank second among all provinces.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.liangyou.net, June/08>