



Mekong River: The people in the 5 nations around the river are mostly Buddhists (ranging from 52% in Vietnam to 95% in Cambodia) and young people. Their populations, median ages and % of Protestant Christians in millions, years and % are: Myanmar (47, 27.4, 3), Laos (6.5, 19, 1.3), Thailand (65, 32.4, 0.7), Cambodia (14, 21.3, 1-2), and Vietnam (85, 26.4, 1.2). Young people are very eager to learn English, Chinese, computer and other technical skills. Persons with these skills as well as social, youth and Children's workers are needed and welcome to the region.

<China Evangelistic Mission News, www.cemhk.org.hk, Spring 07>

China: With official Chinese approval a seminary in Dallas offers online courses to train pastors. The courses are regular courses videotaped with Chinese subtitles. Last fall, 30 students in China and others in Taiwan, Malaysia and Ukraine enrolled. Students who complete a program of 20 courses will get a Certificate of Graduate Studies and can apply to pursue a master degree by studying on campus or an extension site in US.

<Dallas Morning News, 11/24/07>

Middle East: Some estimate that there are 10-15 million Christians among the 293 million people. But this number has been in decline for decades, in some areas by 75%, and will continue the downward spiral for the next 50 years. 50 years ago, Lebanon had a Christian majority. It has dwindled from 58% in 1914 to 39% today. In Bethlehem, it shrunk from 85% in 1948 to 15% today. There were 1.2 million Christians in Iraq before the war. Now tens of thousands are now refugees. Despite large number (10%+) Christians in Egypt, they suffer hard restrictions and persecution prompting many to leave the nation.

<Christianity Today, December/07>

Iraq: Stable due to a strong, secular government and a homogeneous population, Kurdistan in North Iraq allows Christian groups to operate. Not only many Christians from the south have moved there, the Kurds are spreading the gospel among themselves. One agency has seen 1,000+ Kurds coming to Christ. But religious rights are tenuous and Christians are discriminated with property confiscated.

<Christianity Today, December/07>

Kazakhstan: The leader of 350 Korean churches and de-facto leader of Protestants in that nation is charged with high treason along with one other pastor and 2 members. He faces sentences up to 10-15 years. Authorities view members of minority religions increasingly as unpatriotic. Traditionally Kazakhs (60%) are expected to be nominal Muslims, Slavs (35%) Orthodox. Yet some believe Kazakhstan is more receptive than ever to the gospel.

<Christianity Today, November/07>

Afghanistan: Last July, radical Islamic insurgents in kidnapped 23 members of a Korean medical team. During 40+ days they were beaten, endured forced labor, and 2 male members were murdered. After direct negotiations with the Korean government the rest were released with the conditions of banning future Korean missionaries to that nation and \$20 million ransom (as claimed by the Taliban). In Korea, the blame fell on the released missionaries and the sending church. They felt pressured to issue a public apology for embarrassing the nation. Mission experts say other missionaries around the world now are more at risk of being kidnapped for ransom and any government telling them where they can or cannot go is a huge problem.

<Christianity Today, November/07>

Jesus Film: The chaplain group in Washington, DC has shown the film in the chapels of both of their international airports 24 hours a day. The 93 million passengers yearly including many foreigners passing by can see it through the glass window. One Muslim man came in and was loaned a copy in his own language. Months later he made a decision for Christ. Most affected are the 38,000 employees who will watch and ask questions. The chaplains follow up with Bible studies reaching some 3,200 of them.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 12/5/07>

Filipinos: For economic reasons, 2,000 leave the country for work overseas every day. Churches have developed programs to give some basic mission training to Christians among them before they go. They make good tent makers, as they can get into nations in Asia and the Middle East that refuse missionaries, adjust more easily in these nations than westerners and are better accepted.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 10/5/07>

Senegal: A Bible translator one day took a walk in the marketplace that led to reading the scriptures to stall holders. As he started the women vendors came and listened intently, probably at the novelty of a foreigner speaking their language. Afterwards, they retold the stories accurately and one woman asked what they have to do to believe. Later he passed 5 young men who had heard the reading earlier asking him questions also. In both cases he was able to share the gospel.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 10/3/07>

China: According to official data, at the end of 2006, the population in Fujian is 35.6 million, and 650,000 Christians (others estimate one million plus).

<Far East Broadcasting, www.liangyou.net, 10/07>

