



USA: In 1900, 42% of people were evangelicals, while only 25% claim to be evangelicals today. Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination, has been declining at a rate that half of its 43,000 churches will be closed by 2030. Though officially it claims to have 16.2 million in membership, the average attendance is only 6.2 million.

<Dallas Morning News, 6/1/08>

Prosthetic knee: A prosthetic knee has been developed by a professor and his students from a small evangelical Christian College for under \$50. The knee can be made using basic tools like a table saw and an electric drill with locally available materials in developing countries. They now have transferred the technology and tested the product successfully in several African and Asian countries.

<Dallas Morning News, 7/6/08>

West African: 90% Christians engage in some form of culturally acceptable occult practice. This is especially true in African Initiated Churches where they preach prosperity gospel. They feel they can use whatever powers to get ahead. It seems that only devastating wars can purify the church of such syncretistic behavior as the authentic Christianity solely can survive. This happens in Rwanda, Southern Sudan and Liberia.

<Christianity Today, August/08>

Tibet: China has convicted 42 people for the March riot, 116 awaiting trial and another 953 detained by police. Amidst this turmoil, many Tibetans are looking for hope. Though banned by the authorities, people continue to listen to the good news of the gospel. Last year the station received over 20,000 responses.

<Words of Hope, who.org, 6/18/08>

PEACE plan: Into the 4th year of this worldwide mission of spiritual awakening, Rick Warren is updating his strategy. He spent 2 years on overseas "listening sessions" where local church leaders aired their views. Now "Plant churches" is replaced by "Promote reconciliation," to bridge the gap between God and man, to resolve economic injustice/poverty, and to heal broken families. It calls for new collaboration between government, business and church leaders to improve the lives of ordinary citizens.

<Christianity Today, July/08>

SAT-7 Kids: In 6 months, this first and only Arabic Christian channel exclusively for children, has received enthusiastic response from both kids and adults in Middle East especially in Palestine that overwhelms the station. They air original dramas, educational material, cartoons, music all with biblical and practical information that kids need to succeed in life.

<SAT-7, sat7.org, 6/27/08>

Sweden: A local pub is home of a small church in Varburg. The congregation of 30, mostly immigrants from Iraq, sets up a table outside the pub on Saturday nights between midnight and 3am and offers hot coffee or tea to passerby inviting them to church on Sunday. Impressed by the show of God's love, some have come and become Christians. 97,000 Iraqis immigrated to Sweden in 2006. More than 300,000 Muslims lives there.

<Greater Europe Mission, gemission.org, 6/18/08>

China: The population of Shaanxi Province is almost 40 million. It is estimated that Christians number some 460,000 about 1%. In the 7th century Islam was brought to Xi'an. Today there are many Muslims living in that city and neighboring areas.

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

Japan: So ingrained in Buddhism and Shintoism, ordinary Japanese have difficulty to embrace Christianity. An evangelistic ministry sets up International VIP Clubs in hotel restaurants to meet with Japanese businessmen, and introduce them to Christ. In 10 years there are now 130 such clubs all over the nation. many businessmen as well as politicians have come to Christ even a few Buddhist monks.

<The Mission Society, themissionsociety.org, 6/24/08>

Greece: A missionary charged with proselytism was acquitted this summer 4 years after he was passing out Gospel of Luke in an youth group outreach event. Couple hours after being taken to the police station, he was told to wait for further notice and released. The judge ruled that, though proselytizing in public is illegal, the event was very open and not covert or coercive. The outcome is encouraging for the tiny evangelical church in Greece numbering <0.2% of 11 million population.

<AMG International, amginternational.org, 8/05/08>

India: Though persecuted Christians feel the spiritual climate is ready. This shows up in several ways. One agency's church planter program have 4,000 people on the waiting list due to insufficient resources. It can take up to 2 year to train a planter. And then the rapid growth of the church has prompted anti-conversion laws in seven states. The officials are giving indirect support to militant groups to intimidate planters and believers.

<Mission India, www.missionindia.org, 7/04/08>

Jordan: A Islamic court has annulled the marriage of a Christian convert from Islam because "marriage depends on the creed [religion], and the apostate has no creed."

<Christianity Today, August/08>