



USA: Economic downturn has pinched the budgets of mission agencies, though funding remains strong for missionaries who raise their own support. Churches and families in hard times are more likely to cut out a faceless organization than the missionary they know personally. Meanwhile, number of people who want to be missionaries stays steady.

<Christianity Today, September/09>

East Germany: Two decades after the fall of Berlin wall, this region is a majority-atheist society with 70% of people virtually ignorant of Christianity (compared with 30% of West Germans). As the social gospel preached in many churches sounds very much like the Nazi and Soviet propaganda, church leaders rediscover evangelism as the very nature of the church. The use of the Alpha course has led to slow conversions.

<Christianity Today, October/09>

Muslims: An agency has been effective in sharing the gospel with Muslims. The Muslims are taught to believe in three holy books besides the Qur'an. The Qur'an takes precedence because the others have been corrupted/changed. God first sent the Torah, then the Psalms and the Injil (the New Testament). Finally, He sent the Qur'an. If you question if the Qur'an can be changed, the imams will say: "No. God keeps His word." So, you may argue that the Injil cannot be changed since it is also God's word. With this, Muslims usually accept the New Testament and open to dialog.

<Crescent Project, www.crescentproject.org, 8/27/09>

USA: 42% of scientists ages 18-34 say they believe in God, only 28% 65 and older say so. 59% of African-Americans say they are born again, 46% of all Americans make this claim.

<Christianity Today, September/09>

TV Evangelism: Recently Mel Gibson's Passion of the Christ film was shown on national TV in a Muslim country. 65,000 send text messages for more information. They were directed to a website video prompting them to explore their religious faith. Of these, 6,500 were Muslims requesting New Testaments. After receiving the New Testament, 85 responded back saying they have made decisions for Christ, about 30 of these represented a group of people.

<Pioneers, www.pioneers.org, 8/5/09>

Congo-DRC: A team of evangelists from a US agency last summer visited 16 villages to share the gospel and train others in evangelism. 200 church workers were trained and 847 professed faith in Christ. They planned to visit 100 more villages in the last three months of the year.

<Grace Ministries International, www.gracemi.org, 9/2/09>

Kenya: A new Kiswahili Bible was published recently that will benefit 60 million speakers of the language in Kenya and 7 other neighboring nations. It replaces a much older version kind of like the King James Version very difficult to understand.

<International Bible Society, www.ibs.org, 9/7/09>

Logos Hope: After a successful tour of ports in England, the new gospel ship arrived at St Vincent Island. From July 28 to August 11, over a third of the population (~120,000) visited the educational book fair on board. Crewmembers went ashore to the churches, orphanage and prison, and held a conference for pastors on the ship with emphasis on international co-operation and prayer. Over 100 received Christ during this period. The ship will continue its visit to Grenada, Trinidad and Barbados in the Caribbean.

<Operation Mobilization, www.omusa.org, 8/21/09>

Pakistan: At a wedding ceremony, the loudspeaker repeated a broadcast from the local mosque and shouted, Christians tore pages from a Qur'an and compounded the disrespect by walking on the shredded pages. Answering the call to "Defend Islam," a mob rampaged through a Christian section of Gojra on Aug. 1. Eight persons were killed, including women and children. More than 100 homes were burnt. The mob, estimated to be over 20,000, also burnt a church. The authority have now said no Qur'an was desecrated, and promised to help rebuild the homes.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 8/31/09>

Balkans: Doors are opening in this country to impact the government with the hope of the gospel. For their members to learn the international business language, the Parliament has paid a couple missionaries to teach them English. Some times the discussions turn to spiritual and ethical matters. They have had opportunities to talk about the Orthodox Church's emphasis on good works and the power of God to change people. Some 20-40 members have taken these classes.

<Greater Europe Mission, www.gemission.org, 8/18/09>

India: Experts believe 70% of the people are functionally illiterate which contributes to the poverty and mistreatment of women. An agency has developed effective year-long adult literacy program that includes the gospel message. It takes people from zero to 5th grading reading level in one year. Typically, women gain confidence and self-esteem and learn of the love of Christ. Their lives, families and communities are transformed. Even the Hindu village leaders came to the defense of the classes seeing the impact to their communities.

<Mission India, www.missionindia.org, 9/28/09>