



North Korea: The United States removed it from the list of state sponsors of terrorism last October. But one Christian agency still lists it as the world's worst religious persecutor. Of the estimated 468,000 Christians there 10,600 are martyred each year. Some observers are doubtful about the effect of pulling the country off the terrorism list, and think that the regime will feel emboldened, more accepted and go further in its abuse of Christians and other dissidents.

<Christianity Today, December/08>

South Korean: In Busan a woman riding in a taxi commented that the song on the radio was "Amazing." The taxi driver quickly responded that the music at his church is similar and invited her to visit his church. For 25 years, The Missionary Taxi Club members now 450 strong have devoted themselves to play FEBC radio broadcast around the clock in their taxi. This has provided an effective way in witnessing to their customers.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.febc.org, 11/7/08>

USA: At least 210 using Greek letter named Christian organizations exist on campuses. They have become more common in recent years for young evangelicals seeking ways to live out their faith, and parents looking for a safe haven from possible drunken daze in college. Accountability groups and Bible study groups minister, as well as working at soup kitchens, the homelessness and the poor in the communities.

<Dallas Morning News, 11/9/08>

China: Of the 6 million populations in Hubei province, 150,000 are Christians. Churches are growing but seriously lack trained ministers especially in the rural areas which making them susceptible to heresies and cults.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.febchk.org, February/08>

Short Term Mission: Some mission agencies especially those in the medical field are raising their standards for participants. The purpose is for them to achieve maximum amount of work in a short period of time and leaving long-term impact.

<CURE International, helpcurenow.org, 11/28/08>

France: The number of Muslims has risen exponentially over the past 30 years which is now peaking at 5-6 million, while evangelical Christians remains around 500,000. Younger generations are beginning to question the traditions of their Muslim parents but have not been introduced to Jesus as an alternative. Mission leaders feel that the field is ready for harvest and ask for more missionaries.

<International Mission Board, imb.org, 11/13/08>

Wall Street: As the financial crisis deepens, the attendance at lunchtime sermons of a church on Wall Street increases, proving the gospel truth that "we cannot put our faith in money." An agency is developing a New Testament containing 30 daily devotionals about money management helping people through biblical principles behind financial responsibility.

<International Mission Board, imb.org, 10/7/08>

Chile: An agency is helping to create jobs for a small village there. Known as the Mapuche Indians, the villagers are poor and assumed by outsiders as unmotivated and unproductive. In fact, they are hard workers simply lacking resources. The agency has helped them to buy sugar and other ingredients to make and sell jam from fruits on existing fruit trees in every household. Prompted by villagers, plans are under way to set up carpentry shops making furniture utilizing the lumber available.

<Bright Hope International, www.brighthouse.org, 11/13/08>

United Nations: Mission groups are concerned about the Anti-Blasphemy resolution calling it to be putting a "chilling effect" on Christian work and outreach around the world. Despite the good intentions, it often emboldens militant Islamists to use it as a club against free religious speech and Christian minority for their perceived offense of "blasphemy."

<Open Doors USA, www.opendoorsusa.org, 10/9/08>

Thailand: An agency has used effectively ads for Bible correspondence courses in newspapers. In 2007, 500 people enrolled resulted in 36 decisions for Christ. As of August 2008, 404 have enrolled with 41 decisions. The political unrest caused more people to seek answers outside of their traditional religions.

<AMG International, www.amginternational.org, 11/18/08>

Russia: An agency was invited by the ministry of social affairs to visit a juvenile rehab center in a predominantly Muslim area just north of the border with Georgia. There they distributed 100 Backpacks of Blessing containing school supplies, personal hygiene items and a Bible. Later, they entered South Ossetia, the area of earlier conflict between the nations, and distributed 1,000 more packs in schools and along the streets.

<Russian Ministries, russian-ministries.org, 10/2/08>

Arabic Bible: An agency is working on CD-ROM for outreach to the 280 million people who use some form of Arabic as their first language. This will be especially useful in Islamic countries where it will be much less conspicuous than carrying a Bible.

<World Bible Translation Center, wbtcc.org, 11/11/08>