



World Mission News

Compiled by Samuel C. Y. Ling

USA: According to a recent survey on the change of religious life from 1990 to 2008, those who had no religion increase from 8.2% to 15% with larger numbers in every state, Vermont being the highest of 34%. Catholics dipped slightly from 26% to 25% shifting from the Northeast to the Southwest. Protestant Christians dropped from 60% to 50%, largely due to the loss in mainline denominations losing over 4% in last 7 years.

<Dallas Morning News, 3/10/09>

Evangelism: Economic recession has caused churches and ministries to switch to low-cost methods, using podcast and e-mail for cutting down on printing cost, turning to volunteers rather than replacing staff members, etc. Yet people are more open to the gospel. Statistics show that the rate of growth of US evangelical churches jumped by 50% during each recession from 1968 to 2004. Uncertainty about the future seemed to enhance people's spiritual quest.

<Christianity Today, March/09>

Eastern Germany: Before 1998, outside of Berlin <70 Chinese lived in the whole region. In the summer of 1998, the first wave of 150 students came followed by many others. Now in the 6 large cities, there are some 2,800 Chinese, 90% of them are students. When evangelistic work began in 2004, there were 3 meeting points in Leipzig, Dresden and Chemitz with a total of <30 people. Now a church was planted in Leipzig (~60 people), plus fellowship groups in Halle (15), Magdeburg (30), and Weimar (~16, including those from Jena and Erfurt). Over the years >150 have come to Christ and 100 have been baptized with the help of short-term mission groups and continuing discipleship ministry.

<China Evangelistic Mission News, www.cemusa.org, Fall/08>

Bhutan: Recently, a Christian agency, after being invited by Education officials to meet with them, was asked to send at least 500 teachers of English, mathematics and science to the country. This is a great gospel opportunity. Those qualified and interested please visit their website.

<Bibles for the World, www.biblesfortheworld.org, 4/2/09>

Bibles: Average US Christian owns 9 bibles while a pastor in Africa may have the only Bible of his church of 35. Christian Resources International started a drive to share excess Bibles and other teaching materials with those in great need around the world. CRI website, cribooks.org, will provide all needed information to join in the effort.

<Mission Network News/ www.mnnonline.org, 4/14/09>

Ship Ministry: Being twice the size it replaced, the newly launched gospel ship, Logos Hope, needs 60 more volunteers. Each has to raise own support, about US\$900/

month including air fare, and make commitment for 2 years. Deckhands, kitchen, housekeeping, engineers, I-T people, etc are all needed. See OM website.

<Operation Mobilization, www.omusa.org, 4/15/09>

One Dollar: The operation cost of SAT-7 TV, beamed to Middle and North Africa, is 10 million dollars/year. With 10 million known Muslims viewers, a donation of one dollar will reach one adult/child for one year with various programs of evangelism, encouragement, teaching, discipleship, worship, etc.

<SAT-7, www.sat7.org, 2/25/09>

India: Despite severe persecution and increasing pressure from anti-conversion state laws, the number of believers has increased to 10 or 11% of the population from 3% in the last 20 years.

<Global Advance, www.globaladvance.org, 4/17/09>

Portugal: Evangelicals is only 1.6% of the population, and 43 cities of 308 have no evangelical church. A missionary couple there since 1991 have switched from Bible teaching to church planting by teaching "Marriage Encounter with Christ" in 2004. As a direct result, their church is planting a new church, the first for the group of churches they work with in 50 years! People learn to improve their relationship with each other as well as with God leading to evangelism.

<Greater Europe Mission, www.gemission.org, 4/1/09>

Nigeria: The Muslim Fulani people come to the missionary for her to vaccinate their cattle. Afterwards, they often invite her into their homes. In that culture, it is natural to talk about God, thus she could share her belief in Jesus. Over 20 years, she has become trusted mentor and friend to them and led many to Christ.

<SIM International, www.sim.org, 4/7/09>

Iran: At the time of Iranian revolution in 1979, there were about 500 Christians in the country. Though no exact figures are available today, estimate ranges from 1 million to upwards of 2 million. "Breakthrough, The Return of Hope in the Middle East" is a new book featuring Good News stories from Israel, Syria, Iraq, Iran and other Islamic nations.

<e3 Partners, www.e3partners.org, 4/3/09>

Columbia: An agency conducted survey of belief, morals and behavior of youth in the country, announced the results on TV and offered help. The data such as 71% disregarded the law, 60% cheated in school last month, 70% spent <1 hour/week with parents, etc drew much attention. The officials accepted the offer of help to create and teach value curriculum based on Christian concepts in schools.

<OneHope, www.onehope.net, 3/31/09>