

年青人:一項調查報告顯示,有三個重要因素能吸引 18-34歲的美國年青人到教會來:除了吉他及投影機外, 他們較喜歡參加那些經歷迅速變動的教會(十年內人數 增或減10%以上);也喜歡留在有多位全時間領導者的教 會;男性則較喜歡留在女性人數不超過1/4的教會。

<Christianity Today, christianitytoday.com, January 14>

彌賽亞猶太信徒:一份研究報告稱,34%的美國猶太人, 包括極端正統派者,都覺得相信了耶穌為彌賽亞的猶太 人仍是猶太人。此外,94%認為安息日可以工作,64%覺 得可以不信神。然而,彌賽亞猶太信徒佔很少數,他們 仍會守猶太習俗,不公開傳福音,藉此減低猶太人的抗 拒。其中許多也參與猶太人社區活動,甚至已被猶太學 者接納。相信耶穌為彌賽亞已成為一門增長中的學術研 究課題。

<Christianity Today, christianitytoday.com, January 14>

莫桑比克:這是非洲最窮的國家之一。一些差傳機構特 別在西北部鄉村供應所急需的醫療服務,醫師、牙醫及 護士們在醫院及診所中服侍,也會到臥牀或高齡病者家 中應診。此外,又教導當地醫務人員和接受諮詢,也放 映當地語「耶穌傳」電影,收到很好的效果。

< Mission Aviation Fellowship, www.maf.org, 2/4/14>

動亂及逼迫:政權更替,尤其在中東地區,常常由主流 的伊斯蘭政黨上場。急進分子將一切問題歸罪於基督 徒,並嚴厲逼迫他們。但福音卻被傳開。在騷亂不安的 情況中,許多穆斯林質疑他們的信仰,尋求真理及答 案,不少人因夢見耶穌或在異象中見耶穌而歸主。

<e3 Partners, www.e3partners.org, 2/3/14>

埃及:當選的伊斯蘭弟兄會總統被軍方集團廢除後,人 民以極大多數通過新的憲法,帶給基督徒一線希望。新 憲法在某程度上保護民權,也比較接納民主意識。人民 似乎對基督教信仰開放,是長久以來所未見的。一基督 教衛星電視台,正盡力播放基督教觀點的答案,為在混 淆中的觀眾指點迷津,給他們出路。

<Sat-7, www.sat7usa.org, 2/3/14>

烏克蘭:歷時數月的群眾抗議行動日漸強烈,整體國民 的分歧也在教會中反映;年青一代附和抗議,年長的則 主張「順從權柄」。而一般人民卻顯示對福音的渴望, 某機構在一週內,派發了10萬冊烏克蘭文約翰福音,正 籌印更大量的去分發。

< Russian Ministries, russian-ministries.org, 1/28/14>

印度:當地的基督徒,特別在北部,受到穆斯林及印度 教徒嚴厲的逼迫。20年前,本土宣教士可公開在大型 聚會中傳福音,但他們現在要到鄉村生活、工作,藉此 與人建立關係,找機會分享信仰。幫助解決生活需要, 是接觸人的重要途徑,例如幫助開辦育兒中心減低高度 的嬰兒死亡率、開辦識字班等。一間本土機構依循這策 略,10年內在穆斯林地區建立了100個家庭教會。印度有 1億7,600萬穆斯林,大多數住在北部。

<Christian Aid Mission, www.christianaid.org, 1/29/14>

突尼斯:這「阿拉伯之春」的發源地投票通過一項新憲 法,被視為跨向民主的一大步,基督徒對此卻有所保 留。雖然伊斯蘭法不再是主要的法律依據,卻指定伊斯 蘭教為國教,政府是「宗教的護衛者」及「敬虔的守望 者」。這種含糊不明確的字句,讓人可隨意詮釋,對人 權及自由措施帶來威脅。現時,基督徒已面對溫和伊斯 蘭政權及激進分子的逼迫。

< Open Doors USA, www.opendoorsusa.org, 1/28/14>

聖經翻譯:一套最先進的器材,包括小型手提電腦、衛 星接收器、太陽能晶片板、電池及能源供應器,能夠幫 助在缺乏穩定電源及/或互聯網聯繫地區的聖經翻譯者。 估計使用這些器材可減少聖經翻譯時間約三年,也幫助 聖經翻譯能達到預定的目標:在2025年之前開始為數千 種需要的母語聖經翻譯。

< Wycliffe Associates, www.wycliffe.org, 2/5/14>

尼日利亞:在北部的穆斯蘭恐怖組織已殺害了數以千計 的基督徒。日前有報導說,兩名該組織的成員通過接觸 錄音帶聖經,歸信了耶穌。他們所表現出對基督的熱 忱,一如他們過去對伊斯蘭信仰般熱烈。

< World Mission, www.worldmission.org, 2/6/14>



Millennials: A recent report shows three strong factors for American churches to attract young adults (ages between 18 and 34): beyond the electric guitars and projectors, they are more likely to go to the churches experiencing rapid growth or decline (more than 10% change for the past decade); more likely to stay at those with multiple full-time leaders; and men are more likely to remain in the ones where 1/4 or less are

Christianity Today, christianitytoday.com, January 14>

Messianic Jews: A recent study shows 34% of American Jews including the ultra-orthodox Jews think believing Jesus is the Messiah is compatible with being Jewish. 94% said a person working on the Sabbath and 64% said not believing in God can still be a Jew. Yet, Messianic Jews are a tiny group. Their faithful Jewish living has worn down opposition more than overt evangelism. More of them have participated in the mainstream Jewish community. They are even being accepted in the academy. Messianic Jewish study has become a growing field of scholarly research.

<Christianity Today, christianitytoday.com, January 14>

Mozambique: This is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Some mission agencies are providing the critical needs of health care especially in the small northwest villages. Doctors, dentists and nurses work in hospitals and clinics, and make house call to attend to bedridden and elderly patients. In addition to educate and consulting the local health workers, they also show the Jesus Film in the local languages with great success.

<Mission Aviation Fellowship, www.maf.org, 2/4/14>

Unrest and Persecution: When there is a regime change, especially in the Middle East, it often is replaced by the majority Islamic political faction. The extremists would blame the Christians for things that go wrong and persecute them harshly. Yet, the gospel is spreading. In the turmoil and uncertainty, Many Muslims question their faith and seek truth and solutions. Quite a number turn to Christ through dreams and visions.

<e3 Partners, www.e3partners.org, 2/3/14>

Egypt: After the military deposed the nation's elected president from the Muslim Brotherhood, the overwhelmingly approved new constitution gives Christians some hope. It upholds human rights, to some extent, and a new openness to democracy. People seem to be more open to the Christian faith that has not been seen for a long, long time. A Christian satellite television ministry is striving to provide answers with Christian perspective in these chaotic and uncertain times.

<Sat-7, www.sat7usa.org, 2/3/14>

Ukraine: Months-long massive protest against the government has been going strong. The division of the country is also reflected in the churches. While the young support the protestors, the older ones say "yield to the authority." But the people seem to crave for the gospel. 100,000 copies of the Gospel of John in the Ukrainian language were distributed in one week. Many more copies are scheduled to be printed.

< Russian Ministries, russian-ministries.org, 1/28/14>

India: Violent persecution from Muslims and Hindus against Christians continues to rise, especially, in northern states. Not like 20 years ago when indigenous missionaries could do large scale open-air evangelism, they now live and work in the villages, and build relationships to share the gospel. Meeting physicals needs is another important part of outreach. Help run child development center to combat high infant mortality rates, operate literacy center, etc. A local agency following this pattern has planted 100 house churches in this Muslims-dominated region. Many of the India's 176 million Muslims live in this area.

<Christian Aid Mission, www.christianaid.org, 1/29/14>

Tunisia: At this birthplace of the Arab Spring, a new constitution was adopted by majority vote. This is seen as a major step toward democracy. Christians still have some concerns about it. Though Sharia law was removed from being the main source of legislation, Islam is declared as the official religion of the nation, the government appointed as "the guardian of religion" and "protector of the sacred." Such ambiguous and vague languages can lead to threatening interpretations of citizenship and freedom. Today, Christians face persecution from the moderately-Islamic government and extremist groups.

< Open Doors USA, www.opendoorsusa.org, 1/28/14>

Bible Translation: A state-of-the-art equipment kit is helping Bible translators working in areas without reliable electricity and/or internet access. This kit contains a small netbook computer, satellite communication terminal, solar panel, battery and power supply. It is estimated that the use of such a kit can reduce the time for translation by some 3 years, and help reach the goal of beginning translation of every one of the thousands languages that still needs it by 2025.

< Wycliffe Associates, www.wycliffe.org, 2/5/14>

Nigeria: The Islamic terrorist group in northern parts of the nation has killed thousands of Christians. It is reported that in Jan 2014 two members of the group came to Christ through audio Bible. They now show the same ardor for Christ as they did for Islam.

<World Mission, www.worldmission.org, 2/6/14>