

## The insecurity of Central African Republic

Central African Republic, which is 76 percent 'Christian,' remains divided, with control in the north being largely in the hands of either foreign-backed local troops or foreign-backed Islamic militants. Christians whose towns and villages are in rebel-held territory live with terrible insecurity. Hundreds of thousands are displaced and the front line is perpetually volatile. A few months ago an Islamic militia swept through the mostly Christian village of Ndomete in north-central CAR, killing 19 residents and wounding dozens. The government labelled it a massacre. The next day clashes erupted in nearby Kaga-Bandoro, claiming at least five more lives. UN peacekeepers were deployed to the area and are now maintaining 'peace.' Pray that God will intervene in this forgotten conflict to bring peace and justice.

*Religious Liberty*

## Effects of Serbian emigration

One cause of concern in Serbia, and no doubt other parts of former Yugoslavia, is the number of people who leave the country in search of better work opportunities in other countries of Europe and elsewhere. This is depriving local churches of many who are in their most energetic and active years, especially young people. Camp work, which has been very fruitful in outreach and Christian growth, is among the ministries most affected by this emigration. Meanwhile, work among the local Roma minority ('gypsies'), continues to see growth, with recently born-again Christians having passionate hearts for the lost souls of their own ethnic group.

*Majersky*

## ISIS and Australia

*"Kill them on the streets of Brunswick, Broadmeadows, Bankstown, and Bondi. Kill them at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the Sydney Cricket Ground, the Opera House, and even in their backyards. Stab them, shoot them, poison them, and run them down with your vehicles." This call to violence in Melbourne and Sydney was reported in Rumiya, a new magazine published by Islamic State (ISIS). This call to violence in Australia is in response to the death of a jihadi (who was an Australian national) killed by a coalition airstrike in Syria.*

*Barnabas Fund*

## India's vulnerable children

*An Indian ministry based in Delhi works among young boys who are lured to the city in search of work and end up being abused and into drugs. Some of these boys have made their home under a bridge, where local Christians visit them with food, blankets and clothes, and tell Bible stories that might lead them to Christ and show them how to live a better life. Work among poor and homeless children in other places aims at enabling them to attend school and keep themselves and their surroundings clean. For older ones there are training sessions in sewing, computer and other vocational skills.*

*DBI*

## Nigeria: Boko Haram victims

When the town of Gwoza in northern Nigeria was taken by Boko Haram Islamist militants in 2014, all the church buildings were destroyed and all the Christians fled. Even though the Nigerian army re-took Gwoza, the Christians have been unable to return, because their homes are now occupied by Muslims. The entire Christian community is still displaced.

*BF*

## From an evangelist in Congo

*"Let us tell you that in February we have done evangelism campaign around the Muslim community, and result was 35 Muslims believed Jesus and we have baptised them. Now they become our church members. Now we need the chance to get Swahili Bibles for the new converts."*

## From a publisher in Myanmar

*"By God's grace, the Bridgeway Bible Commentary is the second best seller in Chin State local language. The best seller is Holy Bible. Now we print the Bridgeway Bible Dictionary."*

## From a pastor in Zambia

*"Thank you also for the used books. You can imagine how these older books shook me and opened my eyes over the insight in them written by the old writers of the fifties and sixties. I have really loved all the books. It is my appeal to you servant of God to send me again. Used old books are never accessible here."*

*Bridgeway*

## Storm clouds over Libya

It appears that Libya's Islamic jihadists have united with the aim of capturing lucrative oil fields and launching jihad east into Egypt and west across North Africa. The threat to the remnant Libyan Church is extreme. If the jihadists succeed, the Christian Copts of Egypt and the largely Berber church in Tunisia and Algeria would be gravely imperilled.

*Religious Liberty*

## The church in El Salvador

El Salvador is the smallest of the Central American countries but also the most densely populated. Through the 1980s and into the 1990s, the country suffered from internal warfare in which 75,000 were killed. During the war years, there was an extraordinary response to the gospel and the number of evangelical believers increased dramatically. This growth continued in the nineties, though at a slower rate. Nevertheless, evangelicals now number more than 30% of the population, compared with only 2% in 1960. At times the Christianity seems shallow, and there is need for teaching and discipling believers so that they are effective in witness and motivated for mission.

*Operation World*

## Scripture Union International

In Portugal, children, teenagers and families are learning about Jesus through KidsGames, TeenGames, and FamilyGames.

In South Sudan, 'Reach Clubs' operate in secondary and basic schools, bringing the message of hope to students in challenging circumstances.

In Myanmar, leaders are being trained for Children's Community Clubs.

In Denmark, children are watching one of eleven short videos that present the big picture of 'God's Story.'

In DR Congo, 'Friends of Jesus' clubs are empowering local churches to get children more involved rather than leave them on the fringes of the church.

In Tajikistan, a new campsite is being built.

In Greece, volunteers are providing meals for the poor and homeless in Athens, many from the large numbers of refugees.

## Colombia

With its large Catholic population (82%), Colombia is not commonly associated with religious persecution. Yet many Christians suffer severely because of their faith, especially in areas controlled by lawless armed groups and drug lords. Both far-left and far-right paramilitary groups kill, kidnap, extort money from Christians and greatly inhibit the free expression of their faith. Each year they have been forcibly closing down more than a hundred churches.

*OW*

## Ugandan struggles

*A church leaders writes: "In our local churches we reach out as much as we can but rising costs are making it difficult to meet our expenses. We are trying to encourage people within our churches to help support the work but things are not connecting well on their side either. Sometimes we wonder how long this will come to the end. With disease, war, corruption, etc going on around us, HIV-AIDS infection rate rising again, and now fifteen buses arrived carrying refugees from across the border, and we must try to help them somehow. There are thousands of refugees around here."*

*Bridgeway*

## Life in Aceh, Indonesia

Aceh, in the far west of Indonesia, is the most Islamist part of the vast archipelago. Twelve church buildings were recently torn down as Islamist hardliners pressured the local authorities to close all churches. It is very difficult for Christian congregations in Aceh to obtain permits for a place of worship, as they have to have 60 signatures of approval from local Muslim households as well as various other permits. An estimated 4,500 Christians fled their homes after the destruction of twelve churches.

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## The unreached in Pakistan

Pakistan has more than 350 peoples and castes regarded as unevangelised. Many of these have no churches, no Christians, no evangelists and no witness. Pakistan has the world's second largest Muslim population.

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