

Argentina’s growing church

About 1,400 people made open declarations to accept Christ as saviour in a recent evangelistic outreach in Argentina. The event brought together 140 churches, trained 2,000 Christians in personal evangelism, took the gospel to more than 19,000 people in person and broadcast to a further 31,000 people online. Participating churches are now following up with a view to discipling all who publicly confessed faith in Christ.

My Christian Daily

Myanmar: Persecution with a Chinese flavour

The United Wa State Army (UWSA), with roots in the China-backed Communist Party of Burma, has 40,000 fighters and is the largest of Myanmar’s ethnic armies. It rules the unrecognised, self-declared autonomous 'Wa State'.

The Myanmar government has no presence in the very Chinese Wa region, and the persecution reflects policies emanating from China – church closures and demolitions, cross removals, mass detentions and moves to bring all religious activity under UWSA control. In recent weeks the UWSA has arrested 92 Christian pastors, forcefully recruited 41 male and female Bible school students and closed more than 50 churches.

Religious Liberty

Reaching the Japanese

After a 2017 cross-cultural outreach effort in Kagoshima, Japan, one local Christian wasn’t ready to stop spreading the gospel. Singlehandedly, she made it her goal to finish distributing 10,000 pieces of gospel literature to people across her area. Though among the world’s most up-to-date tech-savvy nations, Japan is home to the world’s second-largest unreached people group. The example of this woman, and the willingness of local radio stations to air Christian programs, are encouraging signs that the masses can still be reached with the gospel.

TWR

World literacy

Despite more children than ever receiving an education, the latest UNESCO figures show that one in every five children, adolescents and youth worldwide are out of school. The figures also show that at least 750 million adults still lack basic literacy skills.

Inspire

Morocco’s Christians

Officially, Morocco has freedom of religion, and identity cards do not show a person’s religion. Christians may share the gospel one-on-one and on social media. The New Testament is available in Moroccan Arabic and Christian books can be obtained, though not everywhere. Moroccan Christians must always tread carefully, but they are producing their own worship songs, Christian literature and Bible study courses.

OW

Housing for the poor in Burundi

At a cost of only \$200 per house, Bridgeway has now helped thirty-seven poor families in one rural area of Burundi by replacing roofs of grass or leaves with roofs of metal sheeting. A church elder writes:

“These families are very grateful, especially when it rains. One said, ‘We can listen to the song of the rain on our houses instead of being wet.’ Another said, ‘We now have iron roofing. Before when it rained we could not sleep. God is good.’ Another said, ‘When it rained we had to take refuge with our neighbours, now we can stay in our house.’ They are thankful more than words can say.”



Before . . .



. . . and after

Central African Republic

Some positives:

A Nigerian missionary in the troubled country of Central African Republic writes, "These are seasons of unparalleled attempts by Satan to frustrate the preaching of the Good News among the unreached. But they are also seasons of the mighty moving of the Holy Spirit in places and ways we have not seen before." They saw 800 respond to the gospel in villages near the border with the Congo. In other centres, five new people groups were targeted, three home cell groups established and twelve believers baptized. A vacation Bible school attracted over 200 children and a church leadership summit was attended by more than 1200. In the wider field, a 10-nation Prayer and Planning Summit is planned. *Adonai*

Some negatives:

In mid-November Islamic militants rampaged through a south-central town where they destroyed churches and burnt to the ground a camp of 20,000 displaced persons. To date, 48 are confirmed dead. In a north-western town thousands of homes and three refugee camps were also looted and burned, leaving another 27,000 homeless. Terrorist forces are working to destabilise Central African Republic so that they might steal its resources and open the way for radical Islamic rule in the heart of Africa. *Religious Liberty*

The people of Bhutan

The majority of citizens of the Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan (between India and Nepal) are the Drukpa, the royal Bhutanese, who consider themselves to be 'sons of the soil.' The Drukpas look down on the Nepali-speaking minority and consider them of little value, so they do not mind if they convert from Buddhism to Christianity. If, however, a Drukpa does so, he or she is likely to be severely persecuted. There are Christians amongst both the Drukpa-speaking people and the Nepali-speaking people, but overt Christian activity in Bhutan is very restricted. *Barnabas Fund*

Ghanaian enterprise

The extent of student work done by Scripture Union in the West African country of Ghana is staggering. In the first nine months of 2018 they ran a variety of camps attended by almost 15,000 people. At all of these camps participants had various encounters with the gospel of Christ and the demands made on his followers. Over 2,000 Christians attended special training schools to equip them to be leaders in these camps.

The ministry in schools and in camps throughout the nation has brought thousands into the kingdom of God. Hundreds of mature Christians, including full-time staff and dedicated volunteers, work on primary, secondary and tertiary campuses proclaiming the gospel and teaching the Scriptures. *SU Ghana*

Opportunities in Greece

In Greece, where evangelical Christianity struggles in a religious environment of dead Orthodoxy, Christian workers are finding opportunities for the gospel through food distribution, national public celebrations, church meetings and home Bible study groups. Bible colleges are equipping new believers for Christian service, including Muslim converts from countries such as Afghanistan, Gambia and Iran. The Iranian church in Athens is the city's largest. *World Partners*

Kenya: a Muslim convert's testimony

"I am a 20-years old Kenyan girl from a Muslim family, but I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Saviour two years ago after listening to your teaching and preaching through audio tapes and through reading your books. Ever since I became a Christian all my entire Muslim family have rejected me to my fate. My parents chased me away and all my Muslim relatives also chased me away. They want to stop me following Jesus and go back to Islam but I have promised the Lord that, no matter what may come my way, I will continue to serve him until eternity." *Bridgeway*

Assyrian Christians

Like the Kurds, the Assyrians are a people without a homeland. But whereas the Kurds are Muslim the Assyrians are Christian.

For political reasons, Western governments back the Kurds but show no support for the Assyrians, the indigenous people of Iraq. The Assyrian remnant in northern Iraq struggles to survive, as Kurds forcibly take over the Assyrians' lands and try to seize control of their schools and other institutions.

Iraqi Christian leaders fear that if the present trend is allowed to go unchecked, within 20-30 years the region will be empty of Assyrians. *Religious Liberty*