

Central African Republic

In 2012, a coalition of local and regional Muslim militias known as Seleka overran Central African Republic (CAR, a French-speaking, predominantly Christian nation). In March 2013 Seleka captured the capital, Bangui, resulting in widespread death and destruction. While Bangui and much of the south-west has been liberated and the Seleka coalition has collapsed, 80 percent of the state remains under the control of 14 Muslim militias, most of whose fighters are foreigners. Weapons flood in from Sudan.

While many of the militants are in CAR for diamonds and gold, they come with an Islamic worldview that discounts Christians as infidels. CAR's church is suffering enormously and calls on Christians worldwide to plead for them and their country.

Religious Liberty

Arab Leadership Training

A TEE program (Theological Education by Extension) for Arab church leaders is spreading from its base in Jordan to countries across the globe. Students can study in Arabic, complete the courses and receive their diplomas or degrees without having to leave their communities. They can also learn how to apply their acquired knowledge while still leading congregations within their own language and culture.

Religion News Service

Sanitation

It is estimated that worldwide about 2 billion people have little or no access to toilet facilities. In many countries, local Christian initiatives are helping deal with the problem, often with initiatives that are simple and inexpensive.

GFA

Ethiopia: one happy man

"Yesterday when I went to our church there was a fund raising program after the sermon for the finishing of some parts of our church that's under construction. Every member of our church gave willingly what they've got. I'd a little money in my pocket from my roadside stall, about \$US 4. Guess what I did, I gave all the money in my pocket for the construction of God's house. I went home empty pocket, my wallet empty! Wow, how I loved it when I put the money on the altar! And I went home happy."

Bridgeway

The churches of Denmark

In spite of having the kind of secularisation common to many European countries, Denmark still has a core of Christian traditions. Over 80% of the population remain members of the national church (Lutheran), though half admit to being agnostic or atheistic. Church attendance is only 2%, but organisations promoting renewal within the state church hope that fresh vitality will show the church's relevance in today's society.

One encouraging sign is coming from migrant workers and refugees, many of whom are Christians. Others, who never heard the gospel in their original countries, are open to Christian witness. More than 150 churches of migrants have been established in recent years. Nationwide an estimated one-third of people in church on Sunday are in foreign-run churches.

Operation World

Iran's growing church

The number of new Iranian Christians continues to increase markedly, both in Iran and in other countries. Many new Christians in Iran leave the country after a few months, and the government seems pleased to be rid of them. But there are still an estimated 350,000 Christians in Iran, some paying a price for their faith through harsh penalties and imprisonment for 'acting against national security' by running house churches.

Many leaders of convert groups are young in the faith, and they and the groups they lead need grounding in the faith through properly handling the World of truth.

Afghan Christians

Thousands of Afghan Christians are scattered across northern Europe and North America. Pray that the flame of their faith, which was unquenched by persecution in Afghanistan, will not grow dim now that they live in relative safety. Others in the Afghan diaspora are coming to know Christ as the gospel is shared amongst them. These new Christians need careful nurturing.

Barnabas Fund

Christianity in the Pacific

Countries throughout the Pacific region have a long history of Christianity and well established churches. In some cases these churches are vibrant and growing but in others are nominal and static. As China expands its influence across the region, governments are succumbing to the temptations of material aid, and Christians are often confused by the changing values in society in general.

There are many Bible schools and colleges, one of the largest and most influential being Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea. This college seeks to equip people for church growth and to address spiritual and social issues through theological education that is Bible-based and available in both full-time and part-time courses. These courses range over all academic levels.

New Life



Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali

Despite being majority Muslim, the West African nations of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali all have secular government and religious freedom. They are countries where the church has long been respected for its integrity and the services that benefit people regardless of race or religion.

Today, the tri-border region has become a key focal point for ISGS (Islamic State in the Greater Sahara). Analysts fear that as terror escalates, Niger's overstretched military might opt to withdraw from the remote border regions to concentrate its forces around the more densely populated cities. This is precisely what has happened in Burkina Faso and Mali.

The entire zone is at risk of becoming a no-man's land under the custodianship of a rural, ISGS- backed jihadist insurgency, with residents more or less held hostage. The implications for churches, Bible colleges and long-established missions through the wider region are huge.

Religious Liberty

From Kenya: reaching out

“Our training ministry was founded four years ago to train new believers to read and teach the Bible, and to use the written Word to reach out to the lost, especially our Muslim neighbours. For this next cycle we have thirty-five enrolments but only ten sets of textbooks! We need more, because these books have shaped our school. Each year the students leave the institution changed by the Word and transformed as servants of God.”

Bridgeway

The Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago

Christianity is professed by nearly two-thirds of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, but true disciples of Jesus Christ are not so common. Many people are only nominal Christians and others are polluted by witchcraft, spiritist beliefs and Hindu-coloured worldviews. Family life and morals, even within the Christian sphere, often do not reflect true Christianity. Mainline denominations are in decline, while newer independent groups need better spiritual goals and more enlightened outreach. Some good work, however, is being done among students. The nation has a high proportion of children and youth, who, if disciplined for Jesus Christ, can help build a better future.

Operation World

Rohinga refugees

Among the Muslim Rohingya who fled Myanmar for refuge in Bangladesh were some Christians. Now that a number of Muslims in the camps have become believers in Jesus, Muslim leaders are threatening to drive all Christians out of the camps. These Christians need our prayers.

Barnabas Fund

Literacy for Pakistani women

'Beacon of Light' is a program of Bible-based literacy classes for illiterate women in rural regions of Pakistan. So far it has helped 36,000 women become literate. This year the aim is to set up 350 extra classes and teach 8,000 more women. Without literacy, people remain in a social bondage that keeps them disadvantaged for life.

Bible Society