

Growth in Ukraine

Many people in Ukraine seem to be especially open to the gospel. Responses to radio programs are exceptional and Christian ministries to the blind and other disadvantaged people are bearing fruit. A Christian rehabilitation centre in Slavyansk for drug addicts has seen many people freed from their addiction. Many of these have come to know Christ and are now part of local churches. They need special nurturing and discipling. Christians in Eastern Ukraine are still suffering from isolation and the loss of jobs that resulted from the recent war.

FEBC

From Saudi Arabia – of all places!

Saudi Arabia's call to the UN to focus on 'eliminating Islamophobia' by tackling online racism and xenophobia sets a potentially dangerous precedent – at a level of global policy – by attempting to define any criticism of Islam as racial discrimination.

While undoubtedly racism and prejudice can be found on the internet, this demand seems hypocritical coming from a *sharia* country such as Saudi Arabia, which spreads its strict interpretation of Islam worldwide. It even teaches its own school children that Christians and Jews are their enemies, promotes *jihād* as a means of spreading Islam and punishes conversion to Christianity by execution.

Barnabas Fund

Nigeria: Christian crisis in Kaduna

Kaduna State straddles Nigeria's ethnic-religious fault-line. The north is predominantly Hausa-Fulani-Muslim while southern Kaduna is populated by numerous predominantly Christian ethnic groups. Fulani militant attacks on villages in southern Kaduna have escalated markedly. In July alone more than 120 villagers, mostly Christian, were killed – shot, hacked or burnt to death, many in their homes, even in their beds. Hundreds more have been wounded. Thousands of villagers are now being cared for in church-run camps.

Despite the southern parts of Kaduna being under a 24-hour curfew, Fulani militants move freely, murdering, terrorising and 'ethnically cleansing' at will. Nobody is ever arrested. Neither the government nor the security services seem willing or able to provide security.

But the violence is not just in Kaduna; it is everywhere across Nigeria's middle and northern states. Nigerian Christian leaders have called on the International Criminal Court to act urgently against 'the pernicious genocide' in Nigeria. The number of reported deaths mounts day by day, but the toll is likely to be far higher than the reported figures. The frenzy of anti-Christian violence is barely opposed by police or military intervention and is rarely, if ever, reported in Western news media.

Religious Liberty / Barnabas Fund

From a pastor in Tanzania

"Your help to me with books has given me more chance to cogitate about how to do Jesus' work and reach people with the gospel. I have more motive than before, because then I was too busy with family life, thinking about what to eat, medicine, school fees, family expenditure and so on to give proper time to study the Bible. Now I am finding a way to work more vigorously in serving Christ."

Bridgeway

Lebanon – a strategic country in chaos

The devastating explosion in Lebanon has put the country in news bulletins all over the world. Economically and politically, the country was already in a state of near collapse. The Christian schools and churches of Beirut have been prominent in giving food and other aid to hundreds of devastated families and have provided two hundred scholarships for students to return to school.

For the past three thousand years Lebanon has been a scene of conflict and chaos, a country that has been conquered, pillaged, rebuilt, colonised, demolished and rebuilt again. It is the only Arab country that is not officially Muslim, its population being divided between Muslims and Christians. Many of the Christians are nominal, and many have left Lebanon to live elsewhere, so that the Christian portion of the population has reduce from half in 1970 to less than a third today. But religious tolerance is officially maintained and Bible training institutions that are restricted in other countries can operate openly in Lebanon.

Within the identifiably Christian populace are many vibrant Christians, strong churches and innovative evangelistic activities through schools, bookshops, computer centres, the internet and other media. Lebanon remains a strategic country for Christianity in the Arab world.

Bridgeway

An evangelist in Northern Ghana writes:

“Eighty percent of northern Ghana is Muslim and twenty percent Christian, whereas southern Ghana is predominantly Christian. Islamic institutions here provide services to people in their area and build mosques in almost every village and town. They also build hospitals, schools and wells for Muslim communities and organize propaganda events to entice people to Islam. Their wealthy men deceive the Christian girls by saying they can continue their Christian life if they marry them, but when the girls marry they are forced to become Muslim and give birth to many children. That is one of their strategies.”

Macnet / Bridgeway

Clean water around India

In the past twenty years, one mission agency has provided safe drinking water for a staggering 37.5 million people in India, including 30,000 wells and 58,000 BioSand filters. In a country where one in every three people does not have access to safe drinking water, Christian agencies are making a difference. People who have never heard about God’s love are being shown God’s love in action.

Christian Newswire

Pakistan’s blasphemy laws – again!

In July 2009 a Christian grocer in Faisalabad received a life sentence for blasphemy because, when cleaning out his shop and burning off the rubbish, he was accused of burning paper that contained Arabic-language verses from the Quran. The man’s appeal has been postponed almost 70 times over the past eleven years – an example of how Pakistan’s blasphemy laws can be used by spiteful citizens and hostile authorities against Christians.

Religious Liberty

The people of Upper Egypt

Mobile medical clinics in Christian villages in Upper Egypt, while dealing with the sick, train hundreds of local people who can continue to provide at least some ongoing care. These mobile clinics are run by African and overseas Christians, some of whom can be of particular help to Muslim-background believers. These believers face many difficulties, including being disowned by their families and being fired from their jobs. Many suffer poverty as a result of persecution, making medical care unaffordable. The medical personnel who run the mobile clinics are also a source of Christian encouragement.

VOM

Reaching children

The *Bible App For Kids* has been down-loaded to more than 14 million devices this year, a 193% increase on last year. The recent surge in growth brings the number of installs to 50 million since the program’s launch in 2013. The app is designed to help young children learn Bible stories through interactive animations and activities. It is currently available in 58 languages and has been installed in every country in the world.

Premier News

The Muslims of Chicago

More than half a million Muslims live in and around Chicago, often concentrated in neighbourhoods of Middle Easterners, South Asians and a variety of Africans. Some are refugees, others successful businesspeople who own restaurants and shops. Ministries of individuals and churches are reaching out to these people through friendship, hospitality, Bible study groups and church services. New believers in a Muslim environment need special nurture and teaching.

30 Days of Prayer

A Vietnamese example

For years a policeman (who can’t be named for security reasons) had followed orders to infiltrate worship services to obtain evidence for arresting church leaders and shutting down churches. He had reported house churches for being unregistered, accused congregations of undermining cultural unity and arrested evangelists for proclaiming salvation in Christ. But in the process the policeman heard so many sermons that he began to understand the gospel. Eventually he put his faith in Christ and soon was going to those same localities to tell people how God had changed his life. When the authorities heard about this, they sent officials who beat him and slashed his head with a knife. He spent ten days in hospital but said his suffering was worthwhile. He has now seen 88 people come to Christ.

Christian Aid Mission

Iceland’s first Bible preserved

After the invention of the printing press, the first book produced in Iceland was the New Testament. That was in 1540 and it was followed by the complete Bible in 1584. Publishing the Bible for the first time in the heart language of the people was a cause for national celebration at the time and two copies were placed in the national library.

When Iceland had a major volcanic eruption in 2010, the curator took with him one thing – a 1584 Bible. That Bible is now back in the museum. But Iceland today is a secular nation and most people give little thought to Christ. The country needs spiritual renewal.

God Reports