

Mexico initiative

More than a year after being expelled from their village because of their faith, a group of Christians are now sharing the gospel with their new neighbours. While a few families in the original group abandoned their faith for the promise of getting all their possessions back from the villagers, the other families remained strong in faith.

Two families moved into homes provided by a local church, while seven others moved onto property owned by a frontline Christian worker. Several of those families have since moved into permanent housing and opened a small shop to sell groceries. This provides both an income and a means of sharing the gospel in their community. Praise God for those rescued from darkness.

Voice of the Martyrs

From a church elder in Malawi

“I want to tell you about two people who have each received a Bridgeway Bible Dictionary and Commentary. First, after I did an introduction of the books to them, they started using them in Bible studies, teaching and preaching in their different churches. One was not able to stand in front of a group to speak until she got these Bridgeway books. Now that she understands the Scriptures, she is confident to share with her church members. Alleluia!

“Second is a local Christian adult literacy teacher who did not know very much about the Bible. But after a short training on how to use the books he started by teaching stories which attracted many people in his church and even his overseer was very much impressed. In fact, he might soon be appointed as a church elder.”

Bridgeway

Seeking relief in Yemen

It is difficult for people outside Yemen to grasp the political and religious factors behind Yemen’s protracted civil war. While interference from self-serving neighbouring countries keeps the war going, many traumatised citizens seek help through accessing Christian online sites and listening to Christian radio broadcasts.

Internet services indicate that the Bible was downloaded 48,000 times last year and radio programs receive responses from listeners almost daily. Reports from inside Yemen indicate that in the past year hundreds of people professed faith in Jesus Christ and sixty were baptised.

FEBC

Tanzania’s Malila people

Many of the Malila people in Tanzania are coming to faith in Jesus as they hear the Word of God through audio players. A Malila New Testament has also just been published in book form, but for those not able to own or read a Bible, the audio device is reaching people with the Good News. The audio Scriptures are relayed via solar-powered audio players made by MegaVoice.

ASSIST

Iraq’s dwindling Christian presence

It is estimated that about 75% of Iraq’s Christian population (around 1.5 million in 1990) have left the country because of the anti-Christian hostility that began after the 1990-91 Gulf War and intensified after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. Such violence includes murders, kidnappings and attacks on church buildings and Christian-owned businesses.

Islamic State’s 2014 conquest of Mosul and the Plains of Nineveh (the historic centre of Iraqi Christianity) caused huge numbers of Christians to flee. Although Mosul has been ‘liberated’ from IS, Christians who fled are wary of returning and those who remained face an uncertain future. Most former homes of Christians have been occupied, destroyed or fraudulently sold. Even government officials admit that IS’s occupation of Mosul created a new ‘culture of hate’ towards Christians.

Persecuted Church

India: the battle for Himachal Pradesh

Located in the Himalayan mountains is the north Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, its capital, Shimla. Behind the scenic beauty lurks a reality of deep spiritual darkness. While Indian missionaries have done amazing work bringing truth, life and light into the state, still only 0.2 percent of its population is Christian.

The Hindu nationalist-led state government has passed a repressive anti-conversion law that will fuel persecution and drive Christian witness underground. Under this new law, anyone who, in the government’s view, ‘abets or conspires religious conversion’ risks one to five years in prison. Hindu nationalists have even been able to shut down Christian meetings in private homes.. A new era of escalating persecution is beginning.

Religious Liberty

Armenia's sad history continues

The Armenian people embraced Christianity in AD 301 and it has been a vital part of their identity ever since. They have suffered much in history, particularly in the Armenian Genocide of a century ago, and last September endured violence again when Azerbaijan attacked Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in Azerbaijan with an Armenian population. Armenians felt they were again forgotten by the international community in their hour of need and, when a ceasefire was agreed last November, the Azeris kept all the territory they had seized. More than half the population of Nagorno-Karabakh fled to Armenia, where churches helped the refugees with food and clothing, while many Christians opened their homes to accommodate the new arrivals.

Barnabas Fund

Bibles for Africa

A British-based organisation has enabled tens of thousands of Bibles – in Bemba, Swahili, Portuguese, Amharic, Oromo and English – to enter countries such as Zambia, Congo, Mozambique and Ethiopia. There is a desperate need for Bibles all over Africa, where it is estimated that, at best, only one in three Christians owns a Bible. Reasons for the lack are partly a shortage of supply but mainly a shortage of money among Christians.

Opal



No paradise in the Maldives

The Maldivian Islands of the Indian Ocean is advertised to international tourists as a paradise while being anything but paradise to the very small number of local Christians. The country is officially 100% Muslim, without any religious freedom. Corruption, abuse of women and drug abuse are widespread.

After more than 20 years of Bible translation, only a few parts of the Bible are available in the local language. A major difficulty is finding native speakers willing to help with translation and proofreading, because of fear of the authorities and an aversion to a book that is seen as belonging to a religion of apostates.

30 Days of Prayer

Tajikistan: every bit helps

A pastor in Tajikistan received a visit from sympathetic officials to warn him that radical Islamists were planning aggression against churches and church leaders because of the statements about Islamist ideology made by President Macron of France. Local Christians are thankful that at least some Tajik authorities are trying to keep the Christian minority safe.

The Fulani: not all are bad

Fulani Islamists posing as migrating herdsmen have given the Fulani a bad name across West Africa, particularly in Nigeria, but in Burkina Faso many Fulani have become Christians. Not all Fulani are terrorists. Many Fulani Muslims live peaceably alongside their Christian neighbours and an increasing number are turning to Christ. They ask prayer for protection as they are now a target for zealous Muslims who resent this spread of the gospel within their tribe.

Barnabas Fund

Bangladesh's Christians at work

Christians across Bangladesh are playing a big part in the response to COVID-19. There are about 280 Christian doctors and 4,000 Christian nurses currently working in Bangladesh. Churches in Bangladesh currently operate 20 hospitals and run 70 community clinics in rural areas. Christian charities are also at the forefront of the COVID-19 battle. Despite accounting for less than 0.5% in a Muslim-majority population, Christians are demonstrating they are a significant minority.

Premier News

Training in Congo

A local pastor writes: "The method I use for church growing is every year to select men and women among our believers who have received divine vocation to preach the gospel and bringing souls to the kingdom of God. We must train and teach them more strategies of evangelism in a class for one month and then go with them to join in all events of evangelism so that they get more experience. After training I am giving them Bibles, booklets and tracts of evangelism, then sending them in the field for preaching the gospel, doing door-to-door and person-to-person evangelism."

Bridgeway