

Ukrainian Christians

Vasyl Ostryi, pastor of the Irpin Grace Church and professor at Kyiv Theological Seminary, writes: “While the church may not fight like the nation, we still believe we have a role to play in this struggle. We will shelter the weak, serve the suffering, and mend the broken. And as we do, we offer the unshakable hope of Christ and his gospel. While we may feel helpless in the face of such a crisis, we can pray like Esther. Ukraine is not God’s covenant people, but like Israel our hope is that the Lord will remove the danger as he did for his ancient people. And as we stay, we pray the church in Ukraine will faithfully trust the Lord and serve our neighbours.”

Johannes Reimer

Sri Lanka in crisis

The current economic crisis in Sri Lanka shows that the Buddhist nationalist government has not led the country into better days. As for the hardships for Christians, aggressive Buddhists continue to attack churches and Christian institutions. In one region a group of 600 militants, including 60 Buddhist monks, attacked a church and threatened to kill the pastor. At last report there was an uneasy truce.

Barnabas Fund

Energy in Argentina

Argentina continues to have one of the highest rates of church growth in South America. In addition to conducting vigorous outreach evangelism, churches interact with society in general through schools and health services for vulnerable people such as neglected children, the elderly, prisoners and drug addicts. Literature, camps, radio, TV and the Internet are all used to reach the lost, build up believers and plant new churches.

Operation World

Northern Mozambique

Islamic extremists in northern Mozambique continue to make life incredibly dangerous for the people there. Since the insurgency started in 2017, over 3,700 people have been killed and 800,000 displaced. Mozambique’s national army and foreign reinforcements recently made some headway in pushing back the insurgents, but life for most citizens is almost unbearable.

In a region dominated by barbaric terrorist activity, Christians are the most vulnerable. Life is especially risky for Christian organizations that present clearly visible targets, such as Ambassador Aviation (the in-country name of Mission Aviation Fellowship). Besides evacuating hundreds from peril, Ambassador Aviation has delivered planeloads of medicine, food and equipment to hundreds more in camps for the internally displaced.

Mission Network News

Bible camps in Nepal

After the disappointment and limitations of the Covid pandemic, Scripture Union Nepal was glad to have renewed opportunities for people to use their talents, skills and resources in Bible study camps for both adults and children. In four camps in one district they had 33 adults to the first camp, 73 to the second, 15 to the third and 48 to the fourth. All participants engaged in inductive Bible study from the book of Colossians helped by the devotional Bible study book produced by SU Nepal. The participants were very excited as they dug deep into the Word on the subject of the supremacy of Christ. Then in another district there were two similar camps, with 77 adults in the first and 56 in the second. A camp in a third district had 29 adults.

In addition to these adult camps was a Children's Vacation Bible School attended by 115 children and 30 volunteer teachers. These helped the children to study the Word of God as well as in singing, dancing and playing activities. All these camps helped people to know God better and led some to an initial commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour.

SU Nepal



Ongoing violence in Nigeria

On the morning of Palm Sunday a huge force of well armed Fulani Muslims stormed ten mixed but mainly Christian ethnic Berom communities in Plateau State. The attackers arrived on 70 motorcycles, each of which carried a driver and a shooter. Not only were the terrorists armed with sophisticated weapons, but they displayed careful planning. They blocked entry/exit points and destroyed telecommunications masts before unleashing their killing spree, which last until 3 p.m.

The attackers targeted men, leaving women and children alive, albeit traumatised and vulnerable. Most men were shot dead as they attempted to flee; others were killed in their homes. At least 142 men were killed, 156 injured and 70 abducted. Nigerian media reports that more than 5000 residents have been displaced, though 'ethnically cleansed' might be a more accurate description. *Religious Liberty*

Discrimination in Pakistan

Pakistan's National Commission for Human Rights has criticised advertisements for sanitation workers and other low-paid workers for stipulating that applicants must be non-Muslims. Christians long for the day when they will no longer be looked upon as unclean people, fit only for menial jobs, but be accepted as equal and valued members of society.

No change in North Korea

North Korea's reputation as the world's worst persecutor of Christians shows no sign of improving. Christians have been executed for the 'crime' of owning a Bible and many parents even keep their faith from their children for fear of being reported to teachers at school. The likely outcome of that is imprisonment in a labour camp, from which few come out alive.

Senegal: the Word brings light

"It was when I started reading the Bible that I really understood what Jesus did for me and what it is to be a Christian." These are the words of a person in the West African country of Senegal who, along with more than 200 others, completed a Christian-run 14-month program of literacy and numeracy classes for adults. Church leaders also are testifying to the transforming power of God's Word as they see congregations enlivened through Christians being able to read the Word for themselves. *Barnabas Fund*

Radio in Indonesia

For 50 years FEBC has been sharing the Good News in Indonesia through six FM stations, and now network with at least 100 more. This Muslim nation is an open field for radio broadcasts of the gospel.

Kazakhstan initiative

Christians who were once Muslims are recording their testimonies to be broadcast by video and radio in Kazakhstan and other countries of Central Asia. The speakers need wisdom, courage and protection as they face threats from Islamic extremists. But the testimonies carry much weight with enquiring Muslims. *FEBC*

Mauritania

There was a time when Mauritania, in West Africa, was said to be the world's only country with no known indigenous Christians. But Christians from other African countries have been evangelising there, largely unseen, for many years, with the result that small underground churches now function in Mauritania. As Christians demonstrated the love of Christ by helping others during the Covid pandemic, hostility lessened. But the penalty for conversion from Islam is still death. *Barnabas Fund*

China's churches

Religious persecution is worsening across China, as President Xi Jinping's 'sinicization' campaign looks for ways to bring all religions into line with Chinese culture and Communist Party policies. There are about a hundred million Christians in China, a large percentage of whom worship in churches that the government considers illegal.

Unregistered and underground churches are under intense pressure to join the government-approved church, this pressure often coming through millions of facial recognition cameras across the country. The government has also imposed a ban on the online sale of Bibles and has pressured Christian parents by threatening to send their children to state-run re-education camps. Religious freedom in China is under increasing threat. *Christian Post*