

Uganda: from an evangelist to Muslims

“In one town where I trained church leaders in Muslim evangelism, every evening we went to the place where Muslims spent two weeks abusing and attacking the Christian faith. The Lord gave us boldness to answer publicly most of the false charges against Christianity. On the final Sunday I spoke from 1 Cor 15 about evidences of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. As I waved my hand when leaving, Muslims started cursing me. A young Muslim man even followed me saying that Allah will kill me. I replied with soft voice to leave Allah and me alone.”

Bridgeway

Christians helping Haiti

Haiti has not had a functioning government since the assassination of the President last year. A tragedy is unfolding as lawless gangs take control of parts of the capital and hundreds of people disappear, many having been killed. But the work of God continues. The Christian-run Feminine Training Centre has just graduated 70 women. By learning sewing and cooking skills, these women are now better able to provide for themselves and their families.

Christians helping Ukraine

Christians in Ukraine continue bravely to serve their refugee neighbours by giving out millions of meals and often taking refugees into their homes to live. This sheltering of refugees is practised also beyond Christian families. It is an activity encouraged by a government that tries to avoid building large refugee camps. In parts of Ukraine affected by the war, education is in crisis. The war has displaced 665,000 Ukrainian students and 25,000 teachers. Christian organisations are showing care and stretching their resources by taking refugees into their schools.

Mission Network News

Radio broadcasts from South Korea

Thirteen radio stations in South Korea broadcast the gospel into North Korea, China, Russia, Japan and Mongolia. These broadcasts penetrate countries that, concerning the Christian message, may be closed, antagonistic, indifferent or receptive, but all broadcasts need prayer.

FEBC

China’s increasing government control

Seven state-authorised religious groups have signed a joint statement agreeing to implement government policies for the management of religious organisations’ finances, thereby increasing state control over church revenues, local income, foreign donations and church expenses. (The seven groups are the Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement, the China Christian Council, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, Chinese Catholic Bishops’ Conference, Chinese Buddhist Association, China Taoist Association and China Islamic Association.)

President Xi has renewed his demands to impose Marxism on religion, increase online surveillance and tighten controls on religion – all in the cause of national security and Sinicisation (i.e. making Chinese) of religion. The President explained this as “upholding the principle of developing religions in the Chinese context and providing active guidance for the adaptation of religions to socialist society.”

The seven groups agreed to implement an agenda that includes adherence to religious regulations as well as “maintenance of Chinese characteristics, belief connotations and cultural forms of religious institutes and architecture.”

Barnabas Fund

Burkina Faso

The group that recently seized power in Burkina Faso did so with the stated aim of stopping the spread of Islamic extremism and returning the country to the state of religious tolerance it enjoyed previously. So far that goal has not been reached. The country is officially secular – 61% Muslim (mostly Sunni), 23% Christian (mostly Catholic) and 15% African Traditional Religions.

Religious Liberty

Improvements in Iraq

In some parts of Iraq conditions for Christians .are improving. More than 500 Christians attended one very public service at a rebuilt church in the Nineveh Plains (the historic centre of Iraqi Christianity) and a Christian school has reopened. The region was ruled by Islamic State from 2014 to 2017, but almost half of the Christians who fled from Islamic State have now returned. The local Muslim community has shown considerable goodwill towards the Christians, though animosity elsewhere in Iraq persists. Funds from UNESCO, and even UAE, have helped the rebuilding of two churches in Mosul.

Barnabas Fund

Israel: a Christian school

A Christian school that has operated in Bethlehem for twenty years provides a secure environment in which 650 students, many from poor Christian families, can receive a good education. The school also helps students develop Christian beliefs and values for life in a society where Christians are often a disadvantaged minority.

Barnabas Fund

From a Zambian church conference

“Over the last week we had a provincial General Conference with 16,680 participants. We praise the Lord God Almighty for all the happenings, for the 289 confessions and a similar number baptized on Sunday morning. We met and mingled with many evangelists, teachers and local missionaries within the province and part of DR Congo who reported their ministries and shared their needs.”

Bridgeway

Kenya’s minorities

Nominally, Kenya is predominantly Christian, but several tribal groups in the north remain largely unreached. In one region, 90% of the population is ethnically Somali and fervently Muslim. Christian preachers from other parts of Kenya and converts from Islam are often attacked and killed. But amid the dangers, Somali and Kenyan Christians are persistent in spreading the gospel and shepherding the small church they have started.

In the predominantly Muslim coastal regions of eastern Kenya, al-Shabaab Islamist groups attack Christians, bombing churches and killing believers. Christian converts, rejected by families and communities, are often forced to move elsewhere. There is an urgency to strengthen and encourage these minority groups of Christians.

Indonesia’s ‘folk Islam’

With a Muslim population of 225 million, Indonesia has the world’s largest number of Muslims. Many of these practise a kind of folk Islam (which has absorbed much animism and superstition) and in general live peaceably with Christians under the government’s policy of tolerance. But there is always the threat of violence from militant Islamic groups. This irrational behaviour has caused many moderate Muslims to question their religion and made them open to the gospel. Christian evangelists report a good response to the gospel, adding to the strong growth of the church across the nation.

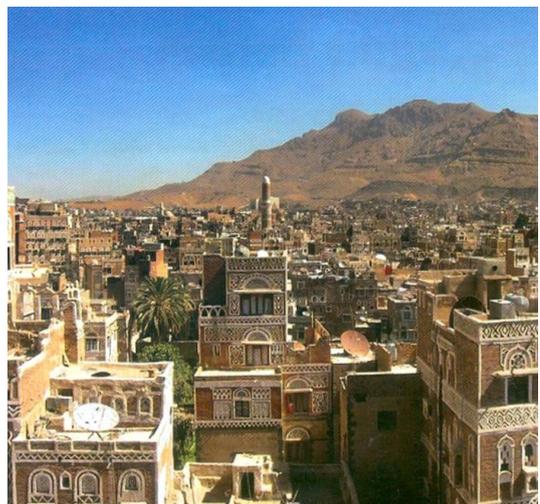
Voice of the Martyrs

Afghanistan’s faithful remnant

Last year when the Taliban seized power in Kabul, Afghanistan’s underground Church was believed to comprise almost 10,000 converts (up from almost zero in 1950). Thousands of Christians fled to neighbouring countries or were evacuated by Christian aid groups. But thousands of Christians stayed, in spite of the government’s ultimatum that Christians had three options: leave the country, convert to Islam, or face death.

Those still in Afghanistan include at least a hundred faithful pastors who chose to remain as ‘light and salt’ in their country. Christians and Muslims alike express gratitude to these pastors who, despite the risk to their own lives, stayed to bring hope and help to others. Pastors and others serving the Afghan Church report an increased openness to the gospel, in spite of the adverse circumstances.

Religious Liberty



Yemen

Listed by Open Doors as the world’s fifth most dangerous country for Christians, Yemen is also torn apart by civil wars – in reality proxy wars fought by neighbouring countries in pursuit of their own interests. The country is facing one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises. Christians are few and isolated, scarcely able to keep in contact with each other because of the country’s fragmentation.

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Books in Burundi

“Bridgeway Bible Commentary in our national language Kirundi is highly appreciated. I cannot imagine how I could teach without it. Since English is now being read more than before, all your English books and any others you can send will be a great help. These are a blessing for different servants of God in their preaching and teaching. We still lack a well equipped library for calm reading. Our wish is that one day we will have such a place.”

Bridgeway