

Nepal – patience rewarded

A local evangelist writes, “Here is another exciting thing. We have been praying for this lady’s salvation for the last 29 years, now she is 65 years old and God has answered our prayer. Right after a big conference she made her decision to receive Christ. She is the mother of my classmate during our school time many years ago. When I was leading him to Christ and discipling him, his mother used to shout at me, because she was a devotee of Hinduism. Since then we have been praying for her salvation and now God answered our prayer. Glory be to God!”

Bridgeway

Bringing healing in Haiti

Although southern Haiti is largely a gang-riddled anarchy, especially the capital Port-au-Prince, there is good news from northern Haiti. With three significant mountain ranges dividing the country, Christian ministry in the north is not as treacherous as in the south. Missions there conduct, among other things, a clinic for people badly burnt in fires, and supplies can be safely flown in. The ministry is a beacon of hope in a desperately needy country.

Mission Network News

Attacks in northern Cameroon

In the far north of Cameroon, which borders Boko Haram’s base in north-eastern Nigeria, rural Christian communities are regularly subjected to Islamist violence. There were at least six attacks on churches in the region in early 2023, with three Christians confirmed dead. The terrorists also looted and burned houses, causing many to flee.

Cyprus: the stalemate continues

The northern part of Cyprus (about one-third of the island country) has no international recognition since the Turkish invasion of 1974. The government of Turkey, which controls the region, bars many churches from holding more than one service a year and restricts the movement of any who might want to cross the border to worship. Christians in the Muslim north need much wisdom and strength, while those in the Orthodox south need a revitalising of their professed Christianity.

Myanmar’s long night of suffering

Hundreds of thousands of Christians are among an estimated 1.4 million people displaced because of hostilities from Myanmar’s military government – a government at war with its own people and accountable to no one. In majority-Christian Chin State, the authorities have now issued an edict that all churches must seek permission seven days in advance of holding a worship service or any other gathering. In addition, the churches must submit the names of all those planning to attend.

Barnabas Fund

Papua New Guinea

Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea is a leading Bible and theological college, not just for its own country but for many other Pacific Island nations. In a ‘christianised’ region that is being impacted by Western culture, Chinese propaganda, Islamic aggression and resurgent traditional religions, the gospel can unite enemy clans, release people from sorcery and witchcraft, and re-teach biblical values. CLTC was an important influence in the birth of the South Pacific Evangelical Alliance and continues to have a vital role in bringing growth and maturity across the region. Its graduates can be found in many countries.

New Life

Maldives’ Christians

The Maldives consists of 1,192 coral islands spread across an area of approximately 500 square miles in the Indian Ocean. The constitution states that ‘a non-Muslim may not become a citizen of the Maldives.’ The tiny Christian population consists mainly of migrant workers from India and Sri Lanka, as well as a few indigenous converts who must live as secret believers or face reprisals from the state, their family and former friends.

Propagation of any religion other than Islam is a criminal offence, punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years. Maldivian Christians found with a Bible in their home also face imprisonment. All non-Muslim public worship is completely forbidden.

According to Maldivian law, ‘Non-Muslims living in or visiting the country are prohibited from openly expressing their religious beliefs, holding public congregations to conduct religious activities or involving Maldivians in such activities.’ Local Christians, living with uncertainty and often in isolation, need our prayers.

Suffering Church

Church growth in Cambodia

Churches in Cambodia recently celebrated the centenary of the Khmer church. Out of the apparent annihilation of the church by the Khmer Rouge's genocide of the 1970s has emerged a vibrant growing church. Growth since 1990 has been remarkable, with evangelical Christians now accounting for almost 4% of the population. This growth, which began in refugee camps, has come almost entirely through indigenous outreach. The great need today is for a mature leadership, especially for Bible teachers, Bible schools and Bible materials. An overall goal is to see a church in every village and community, but this goal will not be achieved easily, as Cambodia overall is still a land of spiritual darkness.

The national religion, Buddhism, while having no effect on the low standards of public morality, opposes any religious rival. Corruption permeates every aspect of society, prostitution and child labour are boom industries, and farmers lose their land to corrupt officials and developers. Economic pragmatism overrides any ideology or sense of common justice. While vested interests prosper, most people suffer, so that the nation is still one of the poorest in Asia.

FEBE/OW



From a Ugandan evangelist

"This morning I received a call from a brother in Kampala named Andrew who wants to appreciate you about the Bridgeway books he received recently. This young man is taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to a Muslim community in Kampala and sometime goes to the Arab Muslim homes to witness for Christ. These Arabs are leaders in Muslim aggression here. Thank you so much for helping these enthusiastic Ugandan Christians who could not afford to go to theological school but can still study the Bible using your books at home."

Bridgeway

The Tuaregs of West Africa

The semi-nomadic Tuareg people live mainly in the region where the countries of Niger, Mali and Algeria meet. When a Tuareg man in a Niger prison became a believer in Jesus Christ (mainly through practically-minded Christians who brought improvements to the horrific prison conditions), he set about evangelising as soon as he was released. Because of the dominance of senior figures in the tribal culture, it is not surprising that the man's family soon became believers, but this same cultural feature also makes it difficult to get an accurate estimate of the number of converts and churches that have resulted from the man's conversion.

This man and two others set out on a wide-ranging evangelising ministry across the region, where, over the past four years, the work has grown dramatically. The number of converts could be as high as 1,000 and the number of churches as high as 25. While some Tuareg are nomadic, others are more settled in villages, but the overall uncertainty concerning long-term residence makes church growth difficult.

VOM

Reaching the youth of Kazakhstan

In a country where the government has tried to choke a freely functioning church, Christian young people have found a way to reach other young people through social media. During one recent 90-day period the team running the program counted 250,000 views and received thousands of comments and questions about Christian beliefs and practices.

FEBE

Bible availability

There are more than 200 countries in the world, and the Bible is on the banned book list in 52 of them. Many Christians around the world do not own a Bible, in some cases because of a government ban but in many more because they have no money to buy one and cannot access it online.

Open Doors

Pressure on Algeria's churches

In recent times, 41 church buildings in Algeria have been closed by the authorities, leaving only 13 still open. Christians continue to meet in small groups in homes and baptisms take place either in homes or rivers. Pastors and other church leaders need wisdom and courage as they visit homes to pray, teach and encourage small groups. According to some estimates, 160,000 people in Algeria identify as Christians. Some of these are in prison and others are under investigation. But persecution is bringing believers closer to the Lord. One group of congregations has committed to continual prayer and fasting, with various groups taking turns to pray and fast for a day, usually on Saturdays.

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