

The chaos of Haiti

A surge of coordinated gang violence has plunged Haiti into new depths of chaos. After armed gangs led massive attacks on prisons and set free thousands of prisoners, a variety of gangs took control of many public institutions. The country has fallen into lawlessness, but a deal for a temporary government now awaits ratification from the main parties in conflict.

More than eighty percent of civilians in or around the capital, Port-au-Prince, have been displaced as they run from shootings, sexual violence, gang conscription and other dangers. Christian aid agencies are doing what they can to provide aid and care, and bring a message of hope through the gospel.

Mission Network News

Former Soviet countries

In Russia and some Central Asian countries, local missionary-pastors are still able to visit towns and villages to conduct evangelistic outreaches. This may be through open-air street meetings or through holiday camps. As people respond to the gospel, small local fellowships are formed and in time suitably gifted people are sent to Bible colleges, sometimes outside the country, to equip them for further service. Schools, prisons, drug rehabilitation centres and homes for vulnerable children also help meet specific needs. In most places the growth is steady but not spectacular, and religious freedom is often under threat.

Slavic Gospel Association

Tensions in Cameroon

Cameroon's Christian majority is threatened by Islamist violence in the Far North, which borders Boko Haram bases in north-eastern Nigeria. Thousands have fled attacks on Christian communities, some finding refuge in neighbouring Chad. Cameroon's relative stability has been shaken in recent years by clashes between the majority Francophone region and the smaller Anglophone region. A shortage of resources has been worsened by an influx of refugees fleeing violence in the Central African Republic. Pray that the church will respond to the multiple crises in unity and with a strong witness.

Barnabas Fund

The church in Pakistan

In Pakistan the Christian minority is not growing as fast as the Muslim majority, and therefore the percentage of Christians has dropped below 3%. Christians are easily exploited, especially those impoverished and often forced to become bonded labourers in brick kilns. Christian women in impoverished communities are particularly vulnerable, living in fear of abduction and forced marriages to Muslims, which means also forced conversion to Islam.

But Christian ministries are making a difference. Women who were once victims of forced Islamic marriages are now being helped by ministries that teach them how to sew, read, write and learn about the love of the Lord. Upwards of fifty women from these programs have now become Christians. More than 40 Christian schools are helping more than 2,700 children receive an education that can set them on a path that is free from the cycle of illiteracy and poverty. Testimonies from students show their keenness to learn – firstly learning about Jesus and subsequently expressing interest in being nurses, doctors or others who can bring help to the disadvantaged.

Barnabas Fund / Redeemer Ministries

Indonesia's Papua territory

Papua, the easternmost part of Indonesia, is rich in minerals, biodiversity and sea products. The indigenous people, who as Melanesians are racially and culturally different from Indonesia's Asian majority, are mainly Christians and distinct from Indonesia's majority Muslims. But Papuans have a standard of living that is among the lowest in Indonesia and they suffer from frequent attacks by the Indonesian military.

The government promotes the movement of Muslims from other parts of Indonesia into Papua, thus weakening further the voice of Papuan Christians. While many are strong in faith, their physical needs are great, especially in health care.

Bridgeway

A Malawian back from Mozambique

"I am back from another time in Mozambique. I met a lot of challenges especially transportation, because churches are far apart, 20 to 50 km away from other churches. But in each area they are multiplying. We now have 58 branches in Mozambique compared to 25 branches in Malawi, which is where the work started from! This shows a great hunger for Jesus in Mozambique. But going there is not easy, especially when we use public transport that often only travels once a day and we must sleep beside the road. Hiring a taxi motorbike is too expensive."

Bridgeway

Life in Iran

Iran's 'morality police' are back on patrol as the government announces a new campaign to enforce the wearing of the hijab. Officers are patrolling the streets of Tehran and anxiety is at an all-time high. Women reach out for help to the Christian-run Heart4Iran Centre every day. Pray that in this turbulent country many will find new life and hope through turning to the Prince of Peace.

Mission Network News

An outreaching church in Ethiopia

"We still have big projects helping more than 300 households in this community. As a result of these projects, 10 households came to Christ and took water baptism. Another 30 households are learning doctrine from your Basic Christianity books and 80 children attend Bible study program.

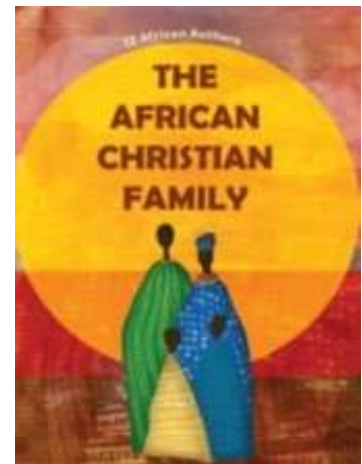
"Also I made a distribution of blankets and bed sheets, and the children we care for are getting supplementary food, quarterly school supplies, daytime clothes, and attend Sunday school. I am so happy about the children's educational support we have given for many years because now I see some of them in high school and some even graduated from university. Equipping the children toward their education is so important in preparing the coming generation and empowering them to live quality of life."

Bridgeway

New book for Africa

Opal is a Western-based ministry aimed at supplying Bibles to poor countries. It also sends selected books and even has produced some books itself. In OPAL's latest book, *The African Christian Family*, twelve African leaders apply biblical teaching and wise pastoral advice to the everyday realities of Christian family life in Africa. They cover areas such as marriage, parenting, responsibilities to extended family, singleness, childlessness, care for children with special needs, and the role of the local church in the care of families. With honesty, courage and sensitivity, the writers promote God-honouring and biblically faithful living and decision-making for African Christians who face the challenges of ancient tradition and modern culture.

OPAL



Armenians from Azerbaijan

Nearly 120,000 Armenians, all nominally Christians, fled their ancient homeland of Nagorno-Karabakh when it was seized by Azerbaijan in 2023. Most of them are now in Armenia, a poor country struggling to meet the needs of the newcomers, who are crowded into the homes of distant relatives or staying in church halls. Christian aid agencies are doing all they can to alleviate severe food shortages among people who now look to start life all over again in what is to them a new country.

Barnabas Fund

Village Christians in Laos

Jai was a member of the council of a village in Laos, but when he and his wife became Christians, Jai was removed from the council. His conversion also increased animosity towards other Christians in the village. As persecution escalated, police stopped children under 18 from attending church and threatened to kill Jai's animals. When Jai refused to renounce his faith, all his animals were killed – 4 pigs, 16 ducks and 20 chickens. The couple have two small children and their loss is financially devastating.

VOM

Minority languages

A free Christian-generated software program called Bloom is available to minority-language communities to create books in their language and translate existing ones, such as the Bible and Christian books. It also enables the recording of audio readings of the books in various digital forms.

The library already hosts 16,500 books in written format. Books can also be made accessible to the deaf, with the option to add sign language videos, and can be put into audio format for readers with impaired vision. Currently, the library has 517 sign language books and 3019 talking books.

Wycliffe