

Haiti's prolonged emergency

Because of ongoing violence and civil disorder, nearly half the people of Haiti are struggling to feed themselves. Criminal gangs have taken over most of the capital and many surrounding agricultural areas. More than half a million people have been forced from their homes, and on average one person is killed or injured every hour. Pray for all Haitians and in particular our Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering severely from food shortages and the breakdown of law and order.

Life in Afghanistan

Afghanistan's Taliban government recently subjected 63 people to public flogging for various crimes. The floggings underline Afghanistan's return to hardline Islamist rule in the three years since the Taliban returned to power. One report states that women are now forbidden even to speak in public. Only the Lord knows how many Christians remain in Afghanistan, but if they are discovered by the authorities they will face death as apostates from Islam.

Barnabas Aid

Ethiopia: stretched resources

A schools worker writes: "Our schools ministry is beyond our capacity to help all to stay in their academic areas, and there is an increasing number of children on the street. Our method is calling all to one centre in the compound of the church to feed them a lunch and share the good news of Jesus Christ. We have accepted 45 more children for this round. Your Basic Christianity booklets are given free to their families to call them to Christ. We now have these books in Oromo language."

Bridgeway

Vietnam: challenges and opportunities

In Vietnam many Christians, though not all, face difficulties when they are denied basic documents and therefore cannot get healthcare or schooling. Others are kept under surveillance, intimidated, beaten, imprisoned or summoned to 'criticism sessions' where they are criticised publicly to try to make them deny Christ.

However, not all news from Vietnam is negative. Bible teams who minister among persecuted Hmong Christians in isolated mountain areas are helping about 60 communities of poor farming families. They teach the Bible, pray with families, visit the sick, disciple local church leaders, encourage believers in the faith and provide practical assistance. Recent initiatives include providing employment to widows through weaving grass for roofs and baskets and running computing classes to help Christian youth access better job opportunities.

Barnabas Aid

Hong Kong

Despite the Chinese Communist Party's efforts to force Hong Kong into conformity to its policies, churches in Hong Kong continue to uphold the gospel. Radio work also operates reasonably smoothly, and seeks to provide wisdom and ideas for those addressing problems of a financial downturn and increasing unemployment. Children and youth programs aim at reaching the next generation.

FEBC

Jihadists in Congo

The Islamic terrorist network associated with ISIS has been increasing its attacks in northern Congo, resulting in the deaths of more than 80 Christians and the closure of several churches. With more than 100 jihadist rebel groups creating unrest, there is concern that the persecution of Christians will get worse as radical Islam moves further and further south down the continent of Africa.

Changes in Bangladesh

The long-serving prime minister of Bangladesh, recently overthrown in a coup, had pursued a policy of religious tolerance under which the church grew, but under the new regime protestors are targeting religious minorities and those perceived to be supporters of the former prime minister. Many churches and Hindu temples have been destroyed.

Christians in Bangladesh are holding prayer vigils as they seek the good of the nation and pray that fellow citizens may experience the peace of Christ.

Mission Network News

Changing face of Burkina Faso

The West African country of Burkina Faso has a population of about 24 million – 61% Muslim (mostly Sunni), 23% Christian (mostly Catholic) and 15% African Traditional Religions. The country was for many years tolerant of Christian growth, but since 2016 two well-armed militant forces of Islamic extremists have ravaged large areas of the nation, working out of their safe bases in the vast deserts of neighbouring Mali and Niger.

These Islamist groups have taken control of 40% of Burkina Faso, killed more than 10,000 people and forced 1.7 million to flee for refuge in camps for internally displaced people. The vast numbers of refugees include both Muslims and Christians, all of whom benefit from whatever aid local churches and international agencies can provide. One pastor who is heavily involved with the refugees says that because people don't have anything to do, they are content to listen to the Bible and many are giving their lives to Christ.

Voice of the Martyrs



Thailand's hill tribes

Many hill tribe Christians in the northern regions of Thailand suffer discrimination because their faith is viewed as a foreign religion and ethnically they are not seen as 'proper' Thai nationals. Thailand is a largely Buddhist country and in general is tolerant of other religions, but Christians among ethnic minorities face particular challenges. Pastors and other Christian leaders need wisdom and grace as they seek to build up churches and Christians among the hill tribes.

One means of shepherding these Christians is through radio, where Christian broadcasts go out in 19 ethnic languages. Some Christian ministries specifically address the issue of drug addiction, which is a major problem among hill tribe youth. Across Thailand more than 42,000 people are currently doing Bible correspondence courses.

Barnabas Aid / FEBC

No changes in North Korea

North Korea maintains its reputation as the most dangerous place in the world for a Christian to follow Jesus. Many believers have fled North Korea to live in hiding in neighbouring China, where a network of local Christians helps support them. These Christian refugees are fearful that if found and returned to North Korea, they and the next three generations of their family will be sent to lifelong imprisonment in labour camps, from which almost nobody comes out alive.

International agencies use secret networks in China to help support the refugees with crucial food, medicine, clothing supplies and Bibles.

Open Doors

From a Bible distributor, Nigeria

"Since I was born, I have never seen such a happy surprise when we distributed the Agatu language Bibles. When people rushed to collect their copies, there were so many that the village was full of great jubilation. Some Muslim leaders didn't like this and came to see me where I was staying, but in the end they took four Bibles with them. I used the occasion to explain the gospel to them. The church elders present in the house with me were all very happy."

Bridgeway

Romanians helping Ukraine

A church in Romania is running a relief centre for Christians fleeing the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine. Food and hygiene parcels are sustaining 400 Ukrainian families in a time of great financial challenge for the church after authorities were forced to cut funding for relief centres. Support for Ukraine is coming from many Western countries, but Ukrainian Christians give special thanks to God for aid from fellow-believers around the world.

Barnabas Aid

Egypt's pros and cons

While the president of Egypt promotes religious tolerance and encourages the repair, building and registration of churches, extremists in some distant regions maintain their opposition to Christians. In one recent attack, dozens of homes and a new church building were burnt down by militants. Police arrested the arsonists, but the threat of violence still looms.

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