

Along the Amazon's waterways

Reports from Brazil are that a spiritual transformation is occurring in the Amazon region. Communities along the river's complex waterways are witnessing a turning to Christ not seen before. In what was once a predominantly Catholic region, people are responding to the spread of the gospel by local missionaries and finding new life in Christ. After decades of seeing only modest results, these servants of God are now seeing thousands of converts and hundreds of new churches. One group alone reports more than 14,000 new believers baptized so far this year.

Mixed blessings in Rwanda

In recent years the government of Rwanda, a nominally Christian country, has introduced laws that it hopes will improve the appearance and function of churches. These laws largely concern two main issues. First is the tightening of building requirements regarding such things as appearance, building standards, noise and hygiene. The other aims at improving preaching and organisation through requiring all church leaders to have formal theological qualifications.

As a result of these requirements, hundreds of churches have been forced to close and tens of thousands of believers have nowhere to worship regularly. Various Christian ministries inside and outside the country are doing their best to meet these demands, but the regulations have had a devastating effect, especially in the country's poorer rural regions.

New Life

Moldova's apprehension

The eastern European country of Moldova sees itself as next on the list after Ukraine as Russia keeps pressing towards the reclamation of territories it lost after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Moldova is an unstable country, both politically and morally, where unscrupulous business practices are rife and young girls are particularly vulnerable to forced labour or sexual slavery.

Pray for local churches and international Christian ministries as they seek to make an impact through the gospel. As radio broadcasts share the Good News of Jesus Christ in seven of Moldova's cities, the prayer is that increasing numbers of people will hear and respond to the Christian message.

FEBC

Congo: new growth amid terrorism

In the rainforests of Congo (the DRC) lie hundreds of abandoned homes and entire villages whose former occupants have been forced to flee. This is because of attacks from the more than 100 armed militant groups that have terrorised the region for decades.

Nominally, the DRC is predominantly Christian, though Islam is a growing influence and some of the militant groups are Islamic. One such group is the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which is active in northeastern Congo. The ADF has openly stated its intention to eradicate Christianity and establish Islamic law throughout the region. But Christian leaders respond by saying the country's youthful population, with a median age of about 16, is fertile soil for the advance of the gospel.

In one mountain village where ADF militants set fire to dozens of homes; destroyed a school, a church and a hospital; and murdered 182 people, villagers who had fled years earlier are now returning to rebuild their lives. They have restored the church building, where frontline workers distributed Bibles and ministered to the villagers' spiritual and emotional needs. Officials commented on what a difference Christians made because they knew how to forgive their enemies.

Voice of the Martyrs

Pakistan's minority Christians

Physical good health is a luxury beyond the reach of many Christians in Pakistan. They are part of a minority that is despised by the majority, though Christian medical centres and mobile health clinics are bringing services and hope to 40,000 Christians each year.

Iranians in Turkey

Many Iranian Christians have fled to Turkey to escape pressures and persecution in their homeland, only to find themselves now detained in prison camps. Pray that they will not become downcast, embittered, or afraid and that their time in prison will be fruitful for the Lord. Their prayer is that they will be released but not deported back to Iran, where government action against them will be severe.

Barnabas Aid

From a Ghanaian evangelist

“For Anthony, the Talking Bible [or audio Bible] gave him a new desire to learn and a new way to learn. Through one of our listening groups, he heard about the teaching and miracles that Jesus did in the Bible and came to believe that Jesus could do much more in his own life. He said, ‘The Talking Bible has helped me much. It has moved me from darkness to believing in Jesus, and now I understand many new things.’

“Anthony’s influence soon spread and the hearts and minds of others were opened through the Word of God. His brother stopped using drugs, and a man once ruled by alcohol was freed from addiction. They are now being taught the Word of God and encouraged to stand firm and proclaim the gospel to others, using their own testimonies and the Talking Bible.”

Macedonian Call



Initiatives in Taiwan

Taiwan is the only major Han Chinese populace in the world that has not had a significant gospel breakthrough. Christian visitors from mainland China often comment on Taiwan’s spiritual darkness and the people’s hardness of heart. An amalgam of Buddhism, Confucianism and traditional Chinese folk religion in a largely affluent and materialistic society makes people indifferent to the gospel. But the church is making some progress, and a number of talented young Christians are making inroads through radio broadcasts, social media, podcasts and other online initiatives.

OW/FEBC

From a Bible college in Nigeria

“I am a Bible college principal and honestly I cannot tell you how grateful I am to have your books. I am also a friend to many responsible preachers and pastors and when I see the condition of some of them, not having good study materials, I feel for them. When your gifts come my way I have a sigh of relief that I can help these gospel workers.”

Bridgeway

The plight of Yemen

Yemen, bordering the Red Sea, is an Islamic country torn by civil war between Iran-backed and Saudi-backed militias. It is one of the world’s most anti-Christian countries, where converts from Islam may be hunted down and killed.

Christians, who are few in number and isolated, look for opportunities to meet occasionally and listen secretly to testimonies of local believers on radio. These believers come mainly from the Muhammashen, or ‘untouchables’ of Yemeni society. They ask particular prayer for their children, especially the boys, who are vulnerable to being kidnapped and forced to serve as soldiers.

About two-thirds of all Yemenis suffer from food shortages and severe malnutrition. Christians share in this suffering but they also pray for the time when their country ‘will have peace and people will know more about Jesus and receive Him.’

Bibles in Malawi

A pastor writes, “We thank God for the wonderful gift of money you gave us to buy Chichewa Bibles for the converts who were in need. Some people come to church only to sing and listen, which is why many Malawian Christians are dull in things of God. They spend much time on things that can destroy their spiritual lives like Internet, watching football and other things. Now we are happy because you have done the most beautiful job to the converts. They are doing better things because they have Bibles, and are busy having Bible studies in their homes with their families and friends.”

Bridgeway

The Christians of Syria

Syria continues in the turmoil of civil war and deprivation caused by international sanctions. Humanitarian needs are huge. In the past Syria’s Christians lived with more freedom than those of other Middle Eastern countries, but many have left Syria, saying they have no more hope of peace, security or resources to live. The survival of the once-strong church in Syria is under threat.

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