

Christian activity in Eswatini

In the southern African country of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), church outreach activity is widespread and fruitful. Scripture Union clubs in schools create a vibrant environment where students engage in Bible reading, prayer sessions and mentoring programs.

These clubs have been so beneficial to older students (clubs now operate in 70% of all high schools), that they have been adapted to run also in primary schools (now in 15% of all primary schools). Public acceptability of this Christian activity is encouraging, and 106 schools have accepted Bibles and Christian books as resource materials.

Camps have always been a fruitful ministry. A recent national youth camp was so successful in attracting 700 students that organisers have established more manageable camps in four regions around the nation. Hundreds of Christian volunteers are trained to lead these and other evangelistic activities, as well as nurture new converts.

Scripture Union

The *Jesus* film in Ghana

Here is a testimony from a Muslim husband, Kasim. He is 41 years old and with his wife they surrendered their lives to Jesus as a result of watching the *Jesus* film in their village.

Kasim said, “Many times I heard about Jesus’ death and resurrection. My friends who received Jesus several years ago have completely changed in their lives and behaviour, so I saw there is something unique in believing in Jesus. I wanted to be in a relationship with Him.”

On that very same day, Kasim’s wife, who is 30 years old, said, “I knew earlier about Jesus being crucified for our sins and I wished to become a Christian and attend the church, but I was afraid to openly proclaim my faith in Jesus in case my husband divorced me and my parents rejected me. I am very happy now, because God has opened my husband’s heart and mine to receive Jesus. Now we can together serve Jesus Christ.”

Macedonian Call

Kazakhstan’s young people

After decades of Soviet rule where the existence of God was denied, people in Kazakhstan have an increasing interest in religion. While many elderly people are returning to their Islamic traditions, many younger people are searching for truth and hearing the gospel. Members of a Christian radio team engage listeners in live talk shows, where interaction ranges from everyday issues to overtly Christian evangelism.

Thousands more are reached through social media, whose mobile phone subscriptions number more than the entire population. Interested people are introduced to Bible studies and some have joined local gatherings of Christians where they can talk about the gospel openly.

Stories of life-changing transformations are encouraging, especially for a younger generation of Christians. Many of these are passionate about reaching the next generation of Kazakhs, even though they sometimes face threats because of their Christian enthusiasm.

FEBC

Dispossessed Armenians

It is now more than a year since almost the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian Christian region within Azerbaijan, fled to Armenia to escape the brutal Azerbaijani invasion of their homeland. An estimated 120,000 became refugees within just 48 hours and will never be able to return to their homes. Most are still struggling to find jobs and are living in poverty, despite the efforts of local Christians to give as much help as possible.

Sri Lanka’s slow recovery

Sri Lanka’s new president is trying to revive the country’s struggling economy, after a devastating economic crash that has seen poverty rates double since 2020. The nominal Christian community, about 8% of the population, includes many of the poorest and most disadvantaged. Anti-Christian Buddhist nationalism is still strong, and authorities show little interest in bringing to justice those responsible for the suicide bombing of Easter 2019 that resulted in the deaths of 250 Christians.

Barnabas Aid

Ongoing chaos in Haiti

Reports from Haiti indicate that foreign troops who have come with the aim of restoring order are on the whole ineffectual, mainly because they are not dealing with the criminal gangs that largely control the country. This is especially the case in the capital city, where kidnappings, blackmail, extortion and murder are widespread. But the gangs are now spreading north. One estimate is that 30% of gang members are children, recruited for combat or housekeeping or worse.

Various Christian ministries seek to bring aid to the needy and to disciple Haitian Christians, especially men, to be strong and pure in behaviour, to be leaders in their families and to endure suffering. They pray for wisdom and protection as they seek to be an influence for good in a chaotic and dangerous society.

Mission Network News

Zambian growth

A recent conference in Mambilima brought together an astonishing 22,719 believers under the unifying theme 'Life of the Church,' inspired by Acts 2:42.

In addition to providing powerful sermons to foster spiritual growth, the conference witnessed a remarkable 262 baptisms, further testament to the conference's transformative effect. This extraordinary gathering celebrated Christian community, faith and teaching, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those who attended.

Samfya

The Christians of Mongolia

People unfamiliar with Mongolia might imagine it as a country of wild expanses and nomadic herders. But urban life is growing, and Mongolia's capital city Ulaanbaatar now has a population of 1.3 million. Reports indicate there is good unity in Mongolia among church denominations and networks, as Christians work together to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, multiply churches and meet community needs.

Nevertheless, over 90% of Mongolians are still considered unreached with the gospel, even though the Mongolian church is growing at a rate three times the world average. A central concern of Christians is to reach their nation for Christ, and to this end prayer is asked, that young leaders will be raised up to go forth in evangelism, plant churches and nurture new believers.

New Life

Christians in Turkiye (Turkey)

A new report shows that anti-Christian hate crimes in Turkiye have doubled since 2021, even though Christians make up less than one percent of the population. The increase in persecution appears to be a response to Christian growth, as the gospel gradually makes inroads across the nation. Pray for Christians facing threats and pray that the gospel will continue to go forth. The eastern half of the country is the least evangelised.

MNN

Pakistan

Praise God for another 100 Christian families released from bonded labour in Pakistan's brick kilns. This is the 23rd phase of an ongoing Christian project to free debt-laden impoverished brick kiln workers who have become trapped as slaves in a brutally unjust system.

BA



Excited receivers

From Malawi: "Without these books you have been sending, we would have nothing to help these people who need teachers and guides when they read the Bible. I am excited, my friend, you really love us. Please continue sending us books for our private and preaching purposes here in Malawi and also in Mozambique, where we have many opportunities for ministry."

From South Sudan: "I praise God and thank you for sending me your books, which caused me to jump in the air when I received them. My wife also began dancing when we received this parcel. I wish you could be here to see how we are praising God. The parcel took one year and six months after coming to us through Uganda."

Bridgeway