

From four regions in Nigeria:

1. "We received the Bridgeway books in good order. Some have been placed in the church library where people grab them eagerly and some given to pastors outside this district. We thank God for His special grace to us and we baptized 42 persons recently from different areas of our mission field. We are now about to start three new worship services in three different villages."

2. "The Islamist invaders have taken over 15 villages in our region and have settled there. But government says nothing and does nothing. Other villages the terrorists are targeting are only a few kilometres from mine. We thank God that He will never forsake us. We have taken more Bibles and books to these threatened believers."

3. "God is working especially this season and given us land in a village where a gospel explosion has happened. It would be our good pleasure to receive more of your books for servants of God to minister in this new region. Despite terrorism, we are witnessing the hand of God move mightily in our land."

4. "I don't know how to thank you enough but pray that the lord will bless you all and that we shall see you all in heaven. But there are other pastors who are still without Commentaries and I am praying that you send me another bigger box of your books. Those who benefited from last time are still praising the Lord and giving strong testimonies."

Bridgeway

Pakistan's ongoing injustice

Yet another Christian in Pakistan has been sentenced to death for alleged blasphemy against Islam. Her trial dragged on three years. The conviction will likely be overturned on appeal by superior courts – most cases like hers are, because of scanty evidence.

These intimidation tactics, however, must not be overlooked by the global Church or the international community in general. According to one report, at least 103 new people were accused of blasphemy in the last half of 2024. One observer notes that when there is spiritual growth or an evangelistic revival in a particular locality, it is soon followed by increased persecution.

Mission Network News

Iraq's shrinking church

Poverty, political instability and the fear of persecution are among the reasons why Christians continue to leave their ancestral homelands in Iraq. Before the US-led invasion in 2003 there were around 1.5 million people in Iraq who identified as Christians and lived in relative peace, but after Islamic State seized a third of the country, only 700,000 Christians were left. These were subjected to violence, and many displaced from their homes or forced to leave, so that today only about 200,000 Christians are left. Lift up in prayer our brothers and sisters who have suffered so much.

Barnabas Aid

Religion in Malta

Deeply Catholic Malta is the most religious nation in Europe. Most people regularly attend mass and over 80% feel their religion is important to them. Although few people seem to enjoy a personal walk with the living Lord Jesus, charismatic groups among Catholics have had an impact and many wonderful believers have emerged. Both the Alpha Course and the Jesus film have been key parts of this movement.

Protestant evangelical witness in Malta scarcely existed before independence in 1964. There are now more than 500 evangelical believers in about 15 Protestant congregations and house churches. There is no opposition to Protestant activities, but social pressures on seekers and new converts can be intense. For most people, to be Maltese is to be Catholic.

Operation World

The Christians of North Korea

Authorities in North Korea have launched a crackdown on South Korean and Western cultural influence. It was recently reported that about 30 teenagers were shot for watching South Korean TV shows smuggled into the country.

Christianity is one of many things that North Korea's rulers consider to be a threat. If Christians are discovered, they will either be killed or placed in prisons, often their families with them. There they are singled out for abuse and torture and eventually will die. Our suffering brothers and sisters in North Korea need our prayers.

Barnabas Aid

A violent region of Colombia

Since January there has been increasing conflict in the Catatumbo region of northern Colombia along the Venezuelan border. The fighting, which is mainly for control over drug trafficking routes and territorial dominance, has led to widespread threats, assassinations and mass displacements.

Amid this chaos, the church is calling for peace and protection for the most vulnerable. Drug lords see the church as a threat, not because it has military ambitions, but because it instils principles and values in young people and thereby makes it a competitor for those they want to recruit. The threats of violence are so severe that many fear to attend church, while church leaders are forced to choose between fleeing from death threats or staying to support their communities. Although the future is uncertain, most Christians in Catatumbo are standing firm and praying for peace.

Open Doors

The Christians of Ukraine

Millions of people in Ukraine have seen their lives uprooted by the Russian invasion and tens of thousands Ukrainian lives have been lost. The Trans World Radio team in Ukraine continues to create gospel-centered media programs despite the many operational difficulties. Ukrainian Christians, a strong community within the country, feel betrayed by a Western ally they thought was Christian, but they remain strong and have not lost hope. God is upholding them and is using them to draw others to faith in Christ. Keep praying for the tens of thousands of believers in Christ who live with daily trauma and uncertainty.

China tensions

The Chinese Communist Party wants all of China to align with atheism. To this end it is targeting children, especially those of Muslim and Christian families. The government is enforcing the law that bans anybody under the age of 18 from attending church or any Christian activity. This has caused Christian parents to put more effort into teaching their children about Jesus Christ. They are crying out for suitable materials in an age where children go to digital devices more than to books. But there is no apparent sense of fear or depression among Christians; rather the opposite. In the words of one Christian leader, 'There is a lot of optimism and excitement. God is still moving.'

Mission Network News

Women in the Middle East

Arab Women Today (AWT) is a Middle East ministry that aims at equipping women to take up the weapon of peace. Believing that women can play a pivotal role in modelling and promoting peace in the region, the ministry is reaching women across the Arab world with lessons that model love, respect and forgiveness instead of revenge. Younger women in particular are seeing and hearing something different through Christian input on social media. Pray for Christian minorities in Arab communities to build bridges with their Islamic neighbours.

MNN

A Bible school in Zambia

One Bible school in Zambia currently operates 16 classes across 10 rural areas, serving 366 students, most of whom are local church leaders eager for spiritual growth. The school also fosters practical projects that help local ministries to be self-sustaining. One man who started a fish project now has over 3,000 fish in his ponds, through which he assists local maize farmers and helps feed students at his former Bible school.

One of the Bible school's own farming partnerships involved lending piglets for fattening and then selling the fattened pigs to be processed into pork products and sold. The concept is now being adapted and expanded to include beef, goats, chickens, bananas and vegetables. Through teaching the Bible and partnering with these farming projects, the Bible school is transforming lives, promoting sustainable farming practices and helping its own economic stability.

Samfya

Egypt's churches

Despite the initiative of Egypt's president in allowing the construction and improvement of church buildings, resistance to the church remains strong in some remote regions. Churches have been burnt down and in one town Christian homes were set on fire after rumours spread of plans to build a church. The success of arsonists highlights the limitation of Egypt's legal protections and the failure of local officials to support the national government or protect Christian minorities.

Open Doors