

Displaced Christians in Cameroon

Prolonged Boko Haram attacks in Cameroon's Far North Region continue to displace Christians. Some have fled to safer nearby communities, while others, like the community of Njengui, have created a new settlement far from everything they once knew.

These resilient believers refuse to allow persecution to stop their faithful witness. The church they have established in this barren region receives visits from pastors and teachers from other regions to teach the Word and strengthen their fellowship. Though displaced and without portable water and other necessities, they are not discouraged. "We do not have a church building, but we do service using a shed. When you work for God, you're obliged to work anywhere."

Open Doors

Christians in the villages of Laos

The perception of Christianity as a Western religion persists in Laos, and despite laws to promote religious tolerance, the Christian minority of 150,000 face harassment and hostility from local authorities in rural districts. Christians have the legal right to meet for worship and conduct church activities, but the law is so vaguely worded that local authorities can easily use it to target Christians. Village churches and houses have on occasions been destroyed and Christians driven out of villages.



Lao village Christians

New preaching laws for Kyrgyzstan

Christians in Kyrgyzstan who wish to engage in 'preaching activity' within the country or abroad will now require state registration. This applies not just to preaching in a church building but to other methods of propagating religion such as through the media or on the internet.

Suffering Church

From two men in Nigeria:

"Recently a new church was planted in my area and as I helped the pastor move books to his new office, I saw some books called *The Christian's Faith*, *The Christian's Bible*, *The Christian's God* and others. I read them and saw they were intelligible to unbelievers as well as believers, like translating truth into action. You have no idea how much I've learned and how much I've been encouraged through these books. For many years we did not have resources like these and it seemed like the spiritual sword was knocked from our hands. Please provide us with more, so that we know God's word and do God's work to spread the gospel and make disciples of Jesus."

"Receiving these books reminded me that faith is the substance of things we are hoping for, the assurance and confirmation of what we believe. Through receiving these books, our hopes are fulfilled and our lives move on with God. I feel like shouting Hallelujah! When I understand the Bible, I know how to fight the good fight and keep our faith muscles strong."

Bridgeway

Food aid to Albania

Many Christians in poorer parts of Albania struggle to earn a living and suffer from a severe shortage of food. Christian organisations recently sent in over a thousand large food parcels that were successfully distributed to 3,600 individuals. Albanian Christians are encouraged to know they are being remembered by the wider Body of Christ.

Barnabas Aid

Study Bibles for Sri Lanka

Pastors in Sri Lanka who are without formal training or biblical resources are now receiving Study Bibles from a project designed to equip national Christian workers. The Bibles, provided in Sinhala and Tamil languages, will become lifelong resources for their ministries. Not just in Sri Lanka but in countries around the world, Bibles are in short supply, both for Christian workers and for believers in general.

Barnabas Aid

Iraq in the crossfire

The conflict in the Middle East especially hits Iran's neighbour to the west, Iraq. On Iraq's soil are United States military bases as well as armed groups loyal to Iran, meaning that Iraq is a target for both sides. In chaotic times, the church is called to be a stabilizing force, communicating the hope and peace of Christ. Believers in Iraq have at times had to take shelter during hostilities, but this has given them opportunities to share the hope of the gospel.

Mission Network News

Samoa churches

The Pacific Island nation of Samoa, and smaller American Samoa nearby, share a Polynesian cultural heritage and a long-established nominal Christianity. This has been affected by an unusually large Mormon community, which has an influence on the economic and social climate of both countries. Mainline Protestant churches, while resenting the growing force of Pentecostal/charismatic churches, are being challenged to look afresh at the difference between traditional practice and spiritual life.

Operation World

Ghana and the Audio Bible

Talata first heard the gospel while she was in a shed listening in secret to the Audio Bible in her own language. The more she heard, the more she had inner conflicts because of her Muslim upbringing and her own feelings of hopelessness. She kept crying out to God and listening to the Bible, but when her parents discovered her interest in Christianity they locked her in her house, beat her, starved her and threatened her with honour killing. When they tried to marry her to a Muslim, she ran away.

Through all this, Talata's friends in the Audio Bible listening group supported her and she remained committed to Jesus, no matter what the cost. She is no longer scared of death and longs for the day when she can share the gospel with her parents and see them also become followers of Jesus.

Macedonian Call

Pakistan's 'Bright Home'

Roshan Ghar, meaning Bright Home, is a Christian ministry that brings help to marginalised rural communities. One initiative is to provide free sewing classes that enable women to earn a living. Many are at first hesitant to join, but gradually they overcome their fear and begin to talk. They also learn how to face the challenges of poverty, family violence, health deficiencies and social isolation. The biggest challenge is to accept the salvation Christ offers, because any such move brings fierce, often violent, opposition from family and neighbours.

FEBC

From Zambia:

"With these books I have set up a mini library for others to use, because we have no library in the district. Now more Christians are able to read and discuss the Word of God from the library. One problem is that when I share the books with my fellow pastors and elders, they sometimes keep the books a long time for their daily use, and when others ask me for them I have nothing to share. There are many pastors, elders, evangelists and churches in my district waiting to have a share of the books from me. Please rescue me."

Bridgeway

Christianity in Malaysia

The three major ethnic groups in Malaysia are Malay, Chinese and Indian (Tamil). The Malays are the dominant group and see their ethnicity so intertwined with Islam that to be Malay means to be Muslim. The government upholds this view and forbids evangelisation of the Malays. Malaysia's citizens are free to practise the religion of their choice, provided ethnic Malays do not practise any religion other than Islam. Ethnic Malay Christians can meet only in underground churches and if caught can expect to be sent to camps for re-education. Nevertheless, the church in Malaysia overall is vibrant and outreaching. It is largely Chinese in ethnicity and is strongly mission minded.

VOM



Antigua and Barbuda

The Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda have a long history of Christianity but, as in many islands of the region, the church needs renewal. Society has a reputation for money laundering and other questionable activities, but social complacency is widespread, even among churches.

Operation World