



World Mission News

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China: Hubei police in Mainland China arrested 63 Christians, including 17 leaders of a large South China house church network, May 27, 2001. The 17 were charged on December 5 with the crimes of "breaking existing law," "inflicting harm intentionally", "rape" etc. Recent letters from jail reported that they were beaten severely while being forced to admit their "crimes". Several were beaten to death and some sisters were poked with electric rods to their breasts and genitals as they refuse to admit being lovers to the leader. The letters asked for urgent intercession.

<China and the Gospel Monthly, www.cmi.org, 1/02>

Indonesia: In the last three years, 10,000 Christians were killed by radical Muslims in Indonesia, mostly in the Maluku Islands and Sulawesi. And more than 240 churches were burnt. Last year, Laskar Jihad, perhaps the largest Muslim extremist group in the world and with ties to al-Qaida, vowed to wipe out the Christians during the Christmas season. The crisis was averted when Christians worldwide were alerted for prayer, appeals to US and Indonesian governments, and subsequent actions taken by the Indonesian government. On December 18, 2001, Christians and Muslims in Central Sulawesi signed a government-backed peace plan. Their counterparts signed a similar agreement last February in the Maluku Islands. But Christians are still leery about the extremists.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 6/02>

Chinese: Last April 19, all 35 top Chinese leaders of a large house church network were suddenly cut off from their cell phones. They were not arrested by the authorities but kidnapped by the Eastern Lightning Cult, one escapee revealed. About a year ago, some Singaporeans gained the trust of a leader of the network pretending to be from a respected Singaporean Bible School. They then offered leadership training by famous teachers from the school. Even as the church leaders carefully split into 6 groups, they were each met at the training sites and their cell phones confiscated on the pretense of safe keeping. They were split up and forced to undergo indoctrination. Only 2 escaped.

<Asia Harvest, www.asiaharvest.org, 5/02>

Senegal: Missionaries from 4 agencies and native believers from a broad range of evangelical churches have formed a music committee to help make the gospel relevant to the Wolof people in Senegal. They listen to songs used during important life events like baby naming and wedding, then compose new Christian songs in the same style and make cassette recordings. These songs are well received by the Wolofs who snap their fingers when hearing them and children sing them while playing.

<Serving In Mission Together, www.SIM.org, #98/02>

Ethiopian: An Ethiopian church planter angrily left the ministry when he heard rumors of false accusations. Later, he realized that he had been serving with wrong attitudes while studying I Corinthians chapter 3 on the foundation of ministry in a Bible school classroom. He repented and went back to the village as evangelist. He met a famous witch doctor who converted upon hearing the gospel. The witch doctor's witness led to hundreds, including nine other witch doctors, coming to Christ throughout the area.

<Serving In Mission Together, www.SIM.org, #98/02>

Kazakhstan: The Constitutional Council of Kazakhstan in April ruled that newly proposed restrictions on religion would violate the nation's constitution. The controversial restrictions, aimed at "nontraditional" religions, would have banned unregistered groups and required missionaries to register with the government. The government will not appeal the council's decision. But Christians believe they have a breather only. In time, the authorities will launch a new campaign against believers.

<Christianity Today, 6/10/02>

Uruguay: To mark 25 years of government recognition, the Uruguay Bible Society gave out 2,000 Bibles and 3,500 scripture portions to the President Jorge Batlle, other government ministers, senators, deputies, police chiefs, judges, and leaders in hospitals, universities, banks and libraries. One senator, a former Tupamaro rebel, said that during his 10-year imprisonment he was allowed only one book - the Bible - which was a great help to him.

<World Pulse, 5/10/02>

Afghan: Ethnic tensions, competing warlords and banditry still trouble Afghan people. But 60,000 refugees have returned since March, and UN expects 800,000 more this year. Moreover, the estimated 400,000 displaced from their homes within the country are going back also. Food is scarce and 3.5 million need care.

<World Pulse, 5/10/02>

Zambia: 6,600 people made decisions for Christ at nine 'Jesus' film rallies held in March in the Gwembe Valley of Zambia. Hundreds of souls now are finding hope each week in this focus area. Every Home for Christ is building a training center to disciple the believers.

<Every Home for Christ, Prayer + Praise, 4/16/02>

France: A large number of Christians will travel on foot and by bicycles to reach every family in rural France this summer. Of 36,652 districts in France, 10,762 have less than 200 people. This is the second EHC "Operation Villages".

<Every Home for Christ, Prayer + Praise, 3/19/02>

Indian: Five years ago, Muslim attackers at an Indian village stabbed one native missionary 6 times and killed his companion. Miraculously recovered from near death a month later, the missionary went back to his village. The widow of the martyred missionary also stayed despite her father's effort to take her and her two small children home. In fact she led him to Christ within two weeks. Today a church exists in that village, and one in each of the four surround villages. And recently 51 Bible school graduates dedicated themselves to reach the 140 million plus Muslims in the nation.

<Send!, 4-6/02>

USA: There are about 30 million Hispanics in the USA. Most of them are Catholics, but majority does not attend Mass regularly. A survey showed that 68% of the adults said they most frequently attended Catholic Church in 1990. Last year that figure dropped to 53%. One reason the Latinos leave for Protestant churches is that they want a pastor that not only speaks their language, but is of their culture also. Only a small percentage of priests are Hispanics.

<Dallas Morning News, 6/13/02>