

MISSION NETWORK

NEWS

MINISTRIES LEND AID TO DISPLACED IRAQI CHRISTIANS

Iraq (MNN) – Four Iraqi churches were damaged in coordinated bomb blasts Jan. 6. Although there were no fatalities, the violence against Christians is having its intended effect.

These ongoing attacks have forced thousands of Christians from their homes. The United Nations estimates roughly 2,000 Christians per day are being displaced by violence in Iraq.

Johan Candelin, executive director of the Religious Liberty Commission with **World Evangelical Alliance**, says Iraqi refugees in Turkey have become his mission.

After traveling to the region during Christmas to visit 2,000 Iraqis, Candelin reports, “They left the country and said, ‘There is no future in Iraq for us any more.’ So unfortunately, the Christian population in Iraq is leaving the country very fast. It is becoming a totally Muslim country.”

OPEN DOORS USA



Iraqi Christians flee the violence in their country.

Another movement of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), considered the “second wave,” were unable to move earlier but now have left everything behind and are living hand to mouth.

Open Doors USA is working closely with local partners to bring in survival supplies for those who have

fled to the North. Carl Moeller with Open Doors says they’re helping preserve a remnant church and Christian identity as relief supplies, housing help and spiritual counseling are provided to Christian IDPs. Open Doors has the opportunity to establish a relationship of trust, which could revive the faith of nominal Christians.

The flood of refugees to the North has increased unemployment and dramatically heightened the cost of living. Pray that the violence would decrease and that there would be physical and spiritual relief.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS IN INDIA AFFECT CHRISTIANS

India (MNN) – India’s Supreme Court has again delayed a ruling on the civil rights of India’s 300 million Dalits. The Court took no action in what appears to be a deliberate attempt to deny the religious rights of Dalits, or “untouchables.”

The case seeks an amendment to an affirmative action program designed to help Dalits climb out of centuries of caste-defined abuse, but those rights are limited to those who follow Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh religions. Christianity and Islam are excluded.

The caste system was officially outlawed in 1950, but its practices are still deeply ingrained in India’s society. Dalits are on the lowest rung of the caste ladder and are considered to be less than human. “Dalit” literally means “broken” or “crushed.”

GOSPEL FOR ASIA



Forced to live in separate settlements, Dalits are considered “untouchable.”

continued on back

CHILDREN HELP SPREAD THE GOSPEL

International (MNN) – Two ministries have seen the zeal that children have to learn and to help others. Students at Northeast Christian Academy in Kingwood, Texas are helping raise funds for Bible translation in South America.

Superintendent of the academy, Earl Garland, says, “The students bring a dollar or more, and that gives them the privilege of being out of school uniform.”

This creative form of fundraising is helping **WordWinds International** complete the translation of God’s Word into the language of the Tembe people of Brazil.

About \$4,000 is needed to see the Tembe project completed, and so far, the student body has raised roughly \$1,500. WordWinds International, also based in Kingwood, Texas, exists to reach people for the Gospel of Christ through supporting the training and sending of national missionaries to translate the Bible into



Students at Denim Days supports Bible translation in Brazil.

languages where none currently exists

On the other side of the world, a church planter, trained through Grand Rapids, Mich.-based **Mission India**, was struggling to launch a Bible-based adult literacy class in India’s Assam State. Elian had tried to generate interest in the class, but most of the adults were tired after a long day in the fields. The response was discouraging.

Instead, he decided to begin a children’s Bible club with village children who were unattended during the day.

He stood at the roadside where he knew the children would pass and began to sing worship songs. Soon a crowd of children gathered. Class was now in session! Elian’s ministry has since grown as the children tell their parents about what they are learning. At least 10 families are now following Jesus as a result.

JANUARY 2008

Mission Network News sent daily to your e-mail address:
mnn-news-subscribe@MNNOnline.org



Support MNN here:
www.MNNOnline.org/support

No permission needed
for reprints.



Greg Yoder, Executive Director
Mission Network News
1159 E Beltline Ave NE | Grand Rapids MI 49525
(800) 284-9361 | (616) 942-1500
Fax: (616) 942-7328 | E-mail: gyoder@MNNOnline.org
Web: www.MNNOnline.org

Contributing Writers
Greg Yoder, Anchor/Executive Director
Ruth Kramer, Producer/Writer
Laura Carlson, Staff Writer
Sharon Felten, Editor

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bibles for the World
P.O. Box 49759
Colorado Springs, CO 80949
Phone: (888) 38-BIBLES
www.biblesfortheworld.org

Gospel for Asia
1800 Golden Trail Court
Carrollton, TX 75010
Phone: (800) 946-2742
www.gfa.org

Mission India
P.O. Box 141312
Grand Rapids, MI 49514
Phone: (616) 453-8855
www.MissionIndia.org

Open Doors with Brother Andrew
P.O. Box 27001
Santa Ana, CA 92799
Phone: (949) 752-6600
www.opendoorsusa.org

WordWinds International
P.O. Box 87223
Baton Rouge, LA 70879
Phone: (832) 628-1016
www.WordWinds.org

World Evangelical Alliance
13351 Commerce Pkwy, Ste. 1153
Richmond, BC V6V 2X7
Phone: (604) 214-8620
www.worldevangelical.org

CONDITIONS IN INDIA *continued*

It is among these oppressed men, women and children—almost 700 million people—that the majority of **Gospel for Asia’s** 16,500 native missionaries are serving.

“I am asking Christians around the world to pray for the outcome of this case,” said K.P. Yohannan, GFA founder and president. “It grieves our hearts to know that these precious people lose their civil rights when they choose to follow Christ. We must intercede on their behalf.”

Christians are also struggling in Manipur, India where a rat infestation has devastated crops, leaving villages with barely enough to survive. Rochunga Pudaite with **Bibles for the World** says, “The most seriously affected right now are 5,800 families who are on the verge of starvation. These are all Christians. When they report to the Hindu government, they simply do not respond because Hindus worship rats as one of their gods.”

The famine-like situation is prompting Bibles for the World to help. Pudaite is praying for 6,000 families to cover the \$45 cost of food each month. Sustaining these believers physically will be an incredible witness for Christ in this predominately-Hindu area.