

World Mission News

USA: More than 700 Florida churches sponsored Luis Palau's March 22-23 Beachfest at Fort Lauderdale, USA. The event was aimed at the college students on spring break. Besides preaching by Palau, there were bands and adventure sports. A 2-hour live feed was carried by satellite to 20 sites such as Syracuse, Seattle and New York, as well as up to a thousand churches to supplement their own events.

<Christianity Today, 2/03>

India: As part of protest against the new law outlawing religious "conversions" in Tamil Nadu, India, Dalit (untouchables) groups organized a public event to openly convert from Hinduism to Christianity last December 6 in the province's major city Chennai (Madras). Despite police blockades, legal threats, land-lashing rain 2,000 received Christ at the event. Many hundreds stranded outside Chennai refused to go back until Christians promised to go to their village to proclaim the message and conduct baptism.

<Christianity Today, 2/03>

South Korea: Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea is the world's largest church with 700,000 members and 15 satellite congregations. They are working to evangelize their compatriots in the North through a three part strategy: "Good People" program providing corn seeds/fertilizer and corn powder, evangelistic efforts among refugees (more than 100,000 in last 3 year to China), and intercessory prayers. The church has 100 missionaries around the world, part of the 10,000-mission force of South Korea whose 25% population is Christian.

<World Pulse, www.billygrahamcenter.org/emis, 12/30/02>

USA: College students are responding to mission call to serve the urban poor. In the last two summers, 140 students have gone to Calcutta, Mexico City, Nairobi, Bangkok, etc through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's Global Urban Trek, <www.ivcf.org/trek>. The Trek accepts only those willing to consider committing lives to longer term (2-5 years) in the city. Seeing God at work, they expect 1,000 student commitments over the next five years. Some graduates have gone on to long term service.

<World Pulse, www.billygrahamcenter.org/emis, 12/30/02>

Ghana: Most men in a village of Ghana are strong hearted, heavy drunkards, idol worshipers and involved in witchcraft. Recently an evangelist held successful training seminars for women and youth fellowships of three churches in the village. All told 400 women attended and all of them gave their lives to Jesus. Urgent prayers are requested for the men.

<Every Home for Christ, Prayer + Praise, 1/21/03>

Europe: 2003 has been declared "Year of the Bible" in Germany, France and Switzerland as a cooperative effort of Bible Societies, Bible Union, Emmaus Institute, Campus Crusade, etc. In collaboration, EHC of the French speaking Switzerland plans to distribute "A Bible in each Home".

<Every Home for Christ, Prayer + Praise, 1/21/03>

Marshall Islands: Harvest Evangelism has helped set up last January a FM station in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands where US conducted 67 nuclear bomb tests after WWII. An AM station is also in the plans to begin broadcasting this June that will reach millions of people on scattered islands over million square miles in the Pacific as well as those in Indonesia and South East Asia.

<Harvest Evangelism, www.harvestevan.org, 1/03>

Colombia: In 2002 Marxist guerrilla group FARC assassinated at least 35 pastors in Colombia. One of the FARC commanders had declared in 2001 that evangelical ministers would become targets. They seem to believe that the pastors pose great threat to them. Because those accepting the gospel will desert their ranks leaving them without soldiers.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 2/03>

Hong Kong: Following the completion of a million-hour prayer movement lasting 20 months at the end of November, 2002, Jireh Fund and Campus Crusade of Hong Kong are calling for 60 million Christians worldwide each praying at least one minute for a new "Rebuild This City" million-hour prayer movement ending in 14 months. Christians from various professions have responded aided by 12 prayer guides.

<Jireh News, www.jirehfund.org, 2/03>

Niger: Two years ago a missionary got lost in the bush and "stumbled" into Kudu, a bush camp for nomadic Fulani in the north of Niger. The missionary met the chief and told him about Jesus. He told her that he wanted to learn more in order to follow Him. She told him to pray about it. Since then a Niger missionary has been visiting the camp every two week to teach the Bible to about 10 men. Each time the chief asks for someone to stay with them long term. Now his prayer is answered. An SIM missionary couple has gone there to stay.

<Serving in Mission Together, www.sim.org, winter/03>

Ethiopia: Missionaries had won barely a handful of converts in southern Ethiopia among the Wolaitta people group before leaving due to the Italian invasion in WWII. They returned after the war and found no less than 10,000 Wolaitta Christians with accurate knowledge of biblical truth even though they could not read and had no Bible in their own language. >From the beginning, they reach out to others even cross-culturally as they were dispersed by the invading army. A 80-year old man has planted 60+ churches in five different ethnic groups and is sending 32 evangelists to the remaining 7 unreached groups in southwest Ethiopia. Missionaries have helped them now to read and translated the whole Bible to be in print this year.

<Serving in Mission Together, www.sim.org, winter/03>

China: According to listeners' response to FEBC radio broadcast, churches in China have suffered increasing harassment and even violent attacks from Eastern Lightning Cult members. They would visit Christian homes under the guise of salesmen and preach heresy, infiltrate churches to spy and stir up discord, stage healing miracles with feigned patients, kidnap leaders for forced indoctrination, etc.

<Far East Broadcasting Co, www.liangyou.net, 9-10/02>

Argentina: Last November, evangelist Ed Silvano conducted market place evangelism in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina. Trained people reached 2,000 businesses in 3 hours. Many merchants received the Lord and 500+ companies requested follow-up visit.

<Silvano News, 12/6/02>