



**2008 Games:** Only officially approved Chinese Christian chaplains are allowed to enter the Olympic Village in Beijing. Some agencies are encouraging Christian athletes to minister to other athletes personally and to interact with university students who are quite open to speak to foreigners. They are also told to use resources in the local bookstores that are stocked with Bibles and evangelistic material. It is hoped that the games will help open China up as it did to Mexico and Spain.

<Christianity Today, May/08>

**Hispanic:** About 38% of the estimated 82 million Catholics in the US are Hispanic, with nearly half less than 30 years old. Though the number of Hispanic in the country is growing, number of Hispanic adults who identify themselves as Catholic is falling—68% in 2006, down from 75% in 1990.

<Dallas Morning News, 2/16/08>

**Senegal:** In capital Dakar, there are at least 7,600 child beggars mostly boys. They collect on average 72 cents a day each and net their keepers \$2 million a year. 90% of them are brought here under the guise of Islam with their families' blessing to learn Islam's holy book. They spent 2 hours a day memorizing verses from Quran and over 9 hours begging. Worldwide there are 1.2 million children trafficked to work for the benefit of others.

<Dallas Morning News, 4/27/08>

**USA:** Last April tornado ripped through one storehouse, leaving thousands of wearable shoes in dented boxes unsellable. They were given to an agency that distributes them to orphans overseas. The president of Ethiopia told the agency that the show of their genuine love earns them the right to share the gospel with the children.

<Buckner International, www.buckner.org, 5/23/08>

**Turkey:** While lives of Christians there are still very difficult, Bible correspondence courses continue to be very successful, and the internet increases their impact. In 2007, one agency made contact with 20,000 people through newspaper and internet, and a record 450,000 different people visited its course website who can also chat one-on-one with an operator about the gospel. Over 2,000 chat conversations took place in 2007.

<AMG International, www.amginternational.org, 5/29/08>

**China:** One-child policy has exacerbated grief in the wake of deadly earthquake. Families of dead children feel not only the loss of a child but their future, becoming hopeless and inconsolable. One agency is providing a disaster journal to help people walk through the grieving. They are working in conjunction with local churches to give hope and comfort through God's Word.

<International Bible Society, www.ibs.org, 5/21/08>

**Central African Republic:** Witchcraft is common, where 25% of the people is Protestant and 25% Catholic but heavily influenced by animistic religion. A JESUS film team responded to an epidemic of witchcraft by showing the film from village to village. When the witches saw the film and heard the gospel in native language, many were convicted by the Holy Spirit and turned their lives to Christ. This led in 18 new churches planted. Locals now call it "The Miracle Film."

<JESUS Film Project, www.jesusfilm.org, 5/21/08>

**Malawi:** An agency that began in 2000 to plant and cultivate there is seeing the harvest now. They started with preaching points, then a training center for elders. Now there are about 75 preaching centers/churches.

<Grace Ministries International, www.gracemi.org, 5/26/08>

**Iran:** Severe crackdown to enforce Sharia law that arrested thousands of women and youth plus weary of the economy, government and religious system, have led people to seek real spiritual answers especially among the young. With help of a number of radio and satellite TV gospel programs in native tongue launched in the last 5 years, the local churches are doubling in size every 6 months.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 5/25/08>

**Nigeria:** In northern, Islamic militant groups are kidnapping Christian teenage girls, forcing them to convert to Islam and marrying older Muslim men. The girls then disappear from sight. After recent rescue of 2 girls by the police and their returned to the parents, militant groups went on a rampage and destroyed 6 churches.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.net, 5/22/08>

**Egypt:** A dominantly Muslim nation with radical elements that kill anyone becoming Christian, is also where technology is changing the youths who prefer not to read but to go online, send text messages, watch movies, and they think of the world much differently than their elders. Mission groups and churches are planing ways to reach the youths with the gospel in competition with many other interest groups. One idea is to include personal touch in their approach.

<Book of Hope International, www.bookofhope.net, 5/26/08>

**India:** Children's Bible clubs will reach 4.5 million this summer. It is hard for radicals to oppose, since in addition to teaching the Bible, the clubs also teach hygienic practices that benefit the children. Recently, they reported 170,000 decisions for Christ, more than half of them parents. In the past years, thousands of churches started through the clubs.

<Mission India, www.missionindia.org, 5/15/08>